

Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive

Discussion of Next Steps

March 21, 2019

Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive

	Directive Commitment	Action Lead (assigned by MB*)
1	<u>Technical Assistance</u> Strive to provide stable and sufficient technical assistance in order to help farmers implement the conservation practices necessary to meet Bay TMDL goals.	Jurisdictions identify TA needs and gaps through WIP Development Ag Workgroup for gaps analysis Ag workgroup to convene USDA, CBC, EPA, and jurisdictions to identify where programs will meet gaps

*CBP Management Board

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2	<p><u>Technical Assistance</u></p> <p>Diversify and expand the network of public, private and nonprofit providers of technical and financial assistance to ensure that on-farm support is available to meet the agricultural sector load reductions.</p>	<p>Ag Workgroup for recommendation.</p> <p><i>Examples of areas to explore include:</i></p> <p>USDA – Contribution Agreements NFWF – Through RFP process for SWG and INSR</p>

SWG = Small Watershed Grant

INSR = Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction

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3	<u>Technical Assistance</u> Expand technical assistance capacity through the use of cooperative agreements and other tools that combine federal, state, local and private resources to target priority agricultural resource concerns.	To Ag Workgroup for recommendations

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4	<p><u>Technical Assistance</u></p> <p>Enhance and coordinate critical agricultural conservation programs to ensure they offer the flexibility and capacity needed to incentivize farmers to install practices, including riparian forest buffers, to help meet the goals of the Bay TMDL.</p>	<p>To Ag Workgroup for recommendations. Example of a potential path forward may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CBP Convene listening sessions with farmers, stakeholders, etc. to determine areas where flexibility and capacity are needed.1. USDA – collect information on what specific needs farmers have through the outreach they are planning under their 3 year plan for the Chesapeake Bay

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5	<p><u>Workforce Development</u></p> <p>Enhance the job climate for government technical assistance professionals by exploring how to make training and certification more streamlined and accessible, along with the development of two-year certification programs, innovative training forums and education loan assistance programs.</p>	<p>Ag Workgroup for recommendations.</p> <p><i>Example of action:</i></p> <p>Convene a meeting with land grant universities to explore what they are doing with certification, identify skills needed for that certification program to be acceptable to the TA providers.</p>

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6	<u>Evaluation</u> Report on progress made toward this directive at the 2019 Chesapeake Executive Council meeting. (August??)	Management Board