

A man wearing a green polo shirt, a dark grey jacket, and a tan baseball cap with a logo is harvesting tomatoes in a field. He is reaching into a dense tomato plant, and several ripe red tomatoes are visible. In the background, another person is also working in the field. A black plastic crate filled with harvested tomatoes is visible in the lower-left corner. The scene is set in a rural area with trees and a fence in the distance.

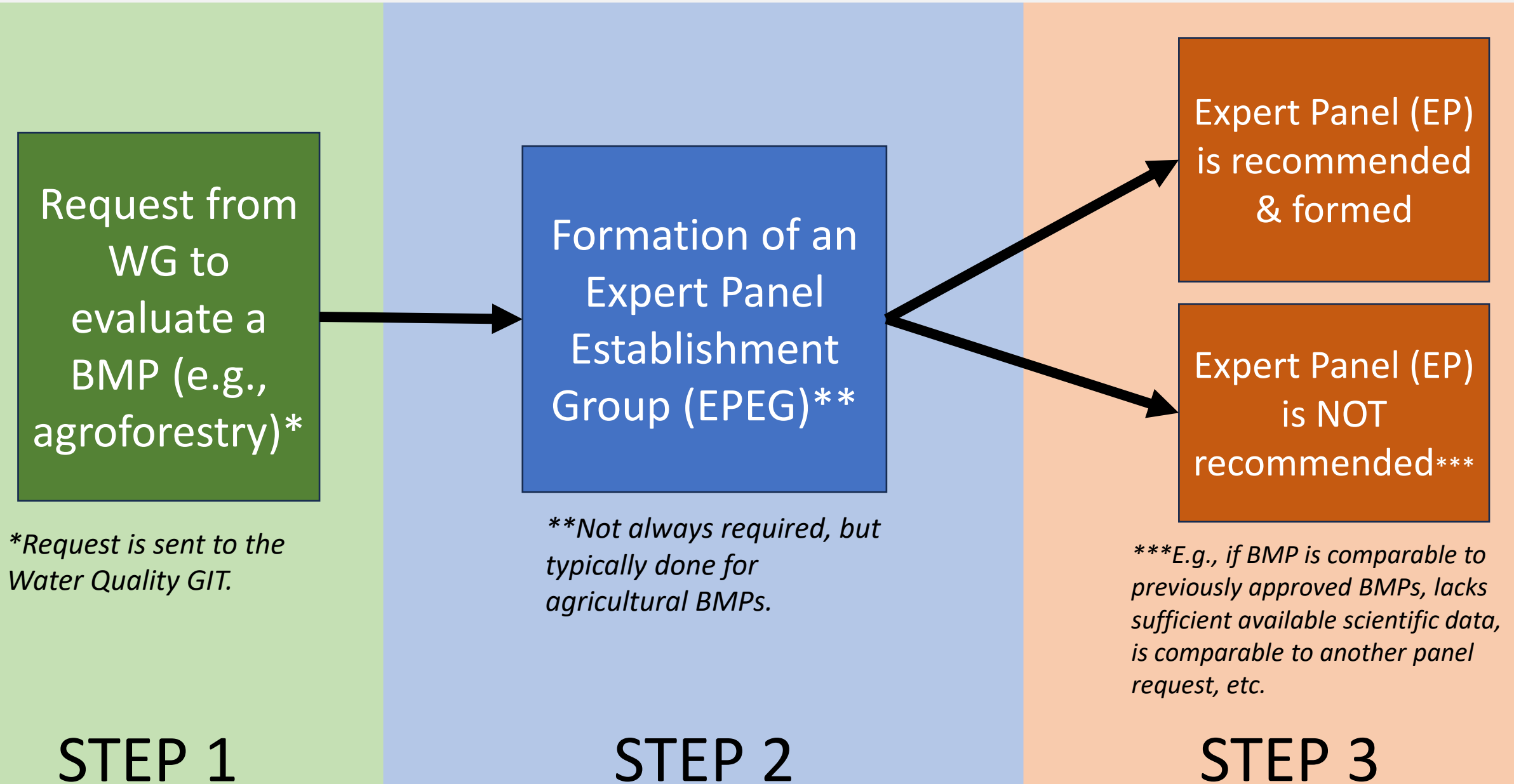
Expert Panel process for crediting practices in the Watershed Model

Agriculture Workgroup

May 2024

Information taken from the CBP-approved BMP Expert Panel Protocols (2022) and adapted from Tom Butler's Feb 2023 presentation to the AgWG.

Overview of Process



Step 1: Request from the Workgroup to evaluate a BMP: EPEG Charge

Requests are a formal ask that generally contain the following details:

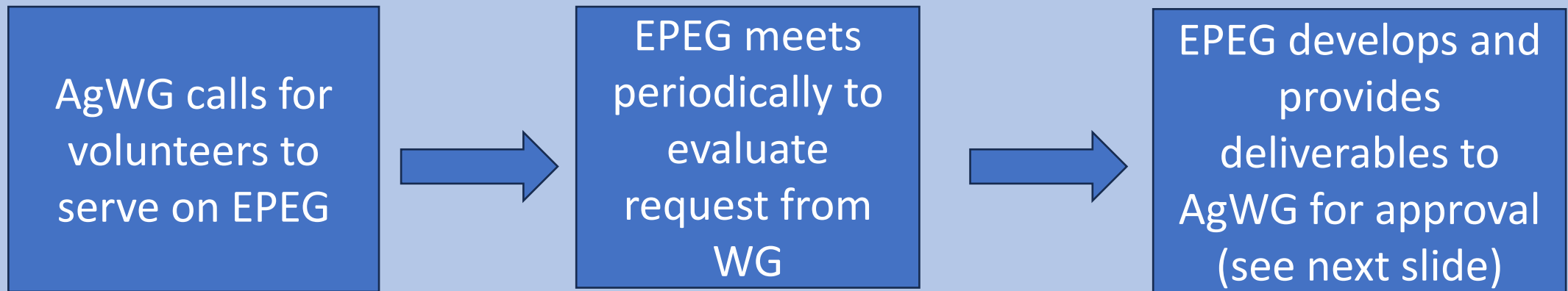
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a clear and concise definition of the practice and why an evaluation is being considered
Current Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• references to available science/data on the on the nutrient and sediment removal efficiencies to support the request
Tracking & Reporting Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• types of data the jurisdiction(s) currently track and report, and how the request could impact these efforts
Support for Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a general description of how the panel will be supported, if convened

Step 2: Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG)

Purpose

Temporary group that determines whether there is a need for an Expert Panel based on an evaluation of existing BMPs and available science, data, tracking/reporting info, etc.

Process



Step 2: Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG)

Deliverables

- Written recommendation for need (or lack thereof) for an expert panel
- If an EP *is* recommended, provide documentation of the following:
 - EP scope of work
 - EP charge
 - Suggested panel member expertise

Recommendations for the Conservation Tillage Phase 6.0 Expert Panel

Prepared for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Agriculture Workgroup by the
Conservation Tillage Phase 6.0 Expert Panel Establishment Group
March 4, 2015

Background

The current version of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) plan (Phase 5.3.2) includes three management levels for crop residue (crop residue) otherwise known as conventional tillage, and low as conservation tillage, are both simulated as land uses and not acreage is eligible for the High Residue, Minimum Soil Disturbance Management BMP, which is defined as "a crop planting and residue management practice in which soil disturbance by plows and implements intended to reduce soil disturbance must leave a minimum of 60% crop residue cover after planting. This annual practice involves all crops in a multi-crop residue cover requirement (including living and dead material) after planting of each crop." The HRTill practice can be combined with applicable BMPs for additional reductions, including nutrient reductions.

The Phase 5.3.2 Conservation Tillage Expert Panel (EP) recognized the potential for including additional management levels for crop residue management in the Phase 6 modeling tools, which have been developed. The Conservation Tillage Ir represent BMPs ve data is cu

other conflicts of interest prior to serving on the Panel. These conditions will minimize the risk that Expert Panels are biased toward particular interests or regions.

The Conservation Tillage EPEG recommends that the Conservation Tillage Phase 6.0 EP should include members with the following areas of expertise:

- Tillage and cropping practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdiction(s). Knowledge of the CTIC National Crop Residue Management Survey.
- Experience with carrying out research projects relating to conservation tillage.
- Expertise in fate and transport of nitrogen, and/or phosphorus, and/or sediment in agricultural systems under various tillage management systems.
- Knowledge of how BMPs are tracked and reported, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's modeling tools.
- Experience with verification of conservation tillage practice implementation.
- Knowledge of, and experience with, USDA-NRCS conservation practice standards and codes.

Staff from the Chesapeake Bay Program and Tetra Tech will provide technical support for the Conservation Tillage Phase 6.0 EP.

Specifically, the Conservation Tillage EPEG recommends the following five charges with associated tasks for the Conservation Tillage Phase 6.0 EP:

1. Evaluate the existing Phase 5.3.2 representation of Conventional Tillage (HiTil) and Conservation Tillage (LoTil) land uses and provide recommendations where scientifically supported to define low residue management systems as BMPs vs. land uses, with associated nutrient and sediment efficiency values, using existing CTIC data as a reference.
2. Consider how to structure the Conservation Tillage BMPs to incorporate the HRTill BMP and determine whether the HRTill BMP will need any adjustments to fit with the management levels proposed for Phase 6.0.

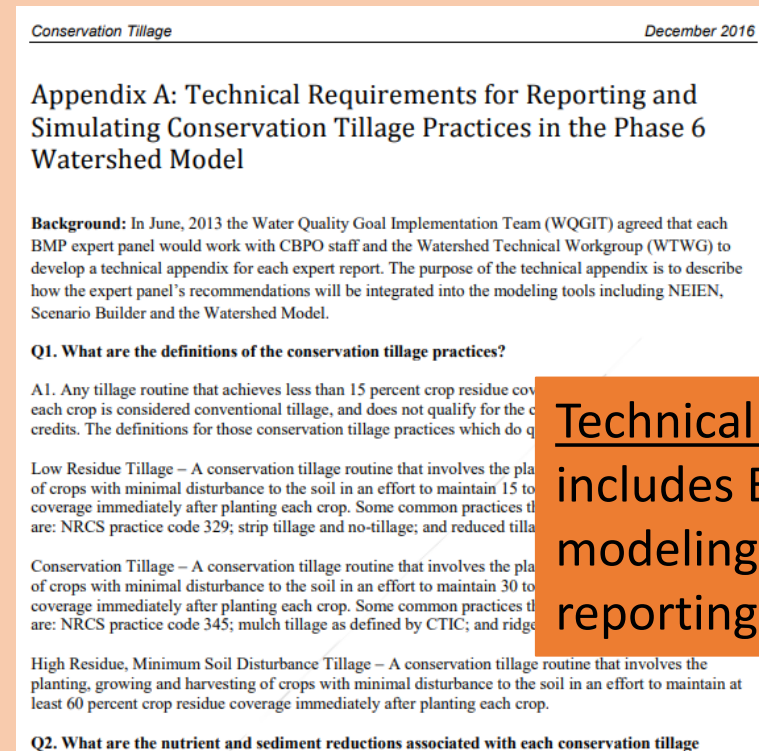
Step 3: Expert Panel (EP)

Purpose

Group of subject matter experts and select CBP representatives that establish pollutant load reduction estimates to an individual practice or groups of practices.

Deliverables

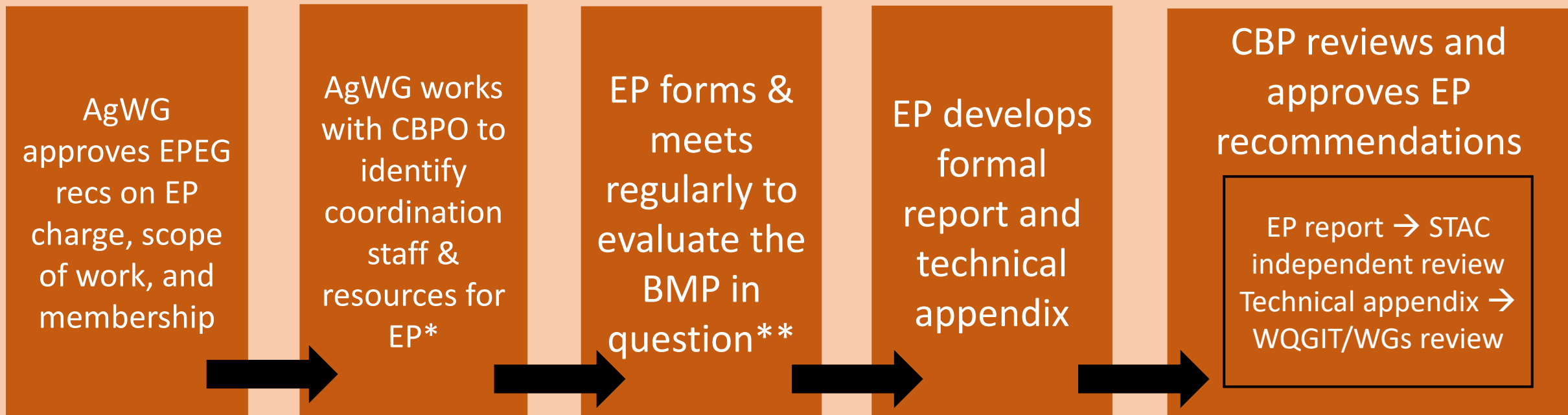
Expert Panel Report:
includes scientific findings, definitions, & pollutant load reduction estimates.



Technical Appendix:
includes BMP modeling and reporting details.

Step 3: Expert Panel (EP)

Process



**CBPO has final say on which EP's get created.*

***Brief updates on progress are provided to the AgWG during this time.*

Timeline Overview

~ 2 – 5 months

EPEG is conducted

Request

Formation

Meetings/
Evaluation

Recommendation

~ 12 – 36 months

Expert Panel is conducted

Approval
of Charge
+ Panel

Formation

Meetings/Evaluation

Report +
Technical
Appendix

CBP
Review &
Approvals

Where are we in this Process

Request from WG to evaluate a BMP:

1. Agroforestry EPEG Charge approved by FWG and AgWG (**May-June**)

2. Gather information for BMP evaluation- Agroforestry Info EPEG Inventory (**end of May**)

**Request is sent to the Water Quality GIT*

STEP 1

Formation of an Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG)**

AgWG calls for volunteers to serve on EPEG- **Mid-June**

***Not always required, but typically done for agricultural BMPs.*

STEP 2

Expert Panel (EP) is recommended & formed

Expert Panel (EP) is NOT recommended***

****E.g., if BMP is comparable to previously approved BMPs, lacks sufficient available scientific data, is comparable to another panel request, etc.*

STEP 3

References/Additional Information

- [BMP Expert Panel Protocol](#) (2022).
- [Feb 2023 Presentation to the AgWG on EPEGs](#).
- <https://flic.kr/p/2prSaFq>. Photo by Marielle Scott, CBP.
- <https://flic.kr/p/YCD3Ez>. Photo by Will Parson, CBP.

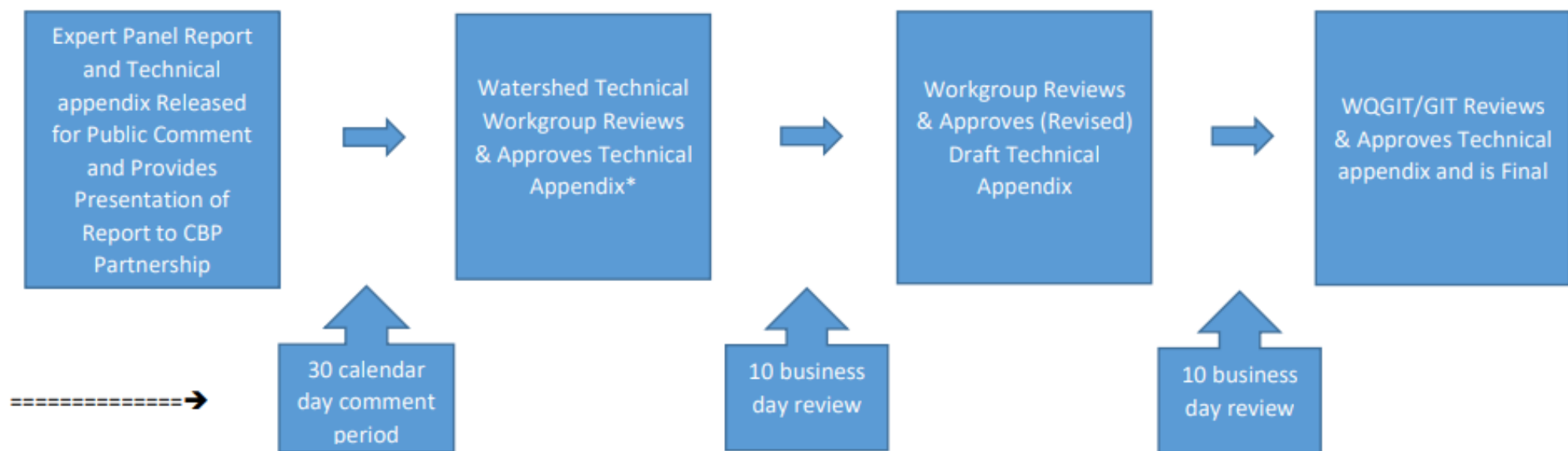
CBP Review & Decision Process for BMP Expert Panel Deliverables

WQGIT Approved Version December 2022

Review and Decision Process for BMPs

	Workgroup	Watershed Technical Workgroup	WQGIT/GIT
New Scientific Findings	<i>Review</i>	<i>Review</i>	<i>Review</i>
Technical Appendix	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Approve</i>
Effectiveness Values in CAST	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Approve</i>
Revisit Existing Scientific Findings	<i>Review</i>	<i>Review</i>	<i>Review</i>

Appendix I: CBP Partnership Review Process for BMP Expert Panel Reports & Technical Appendices



CBP Partnership has Opportunity to Review and Comments on Draft Technical Appendices during Each Stage of Review Process

To better ensure effective resolution of comments, all interested partners, groups or individuals are encouraged to submit their comments during the first review and comment period. New comments at later stages will be considered, but the Panel can more effectively address substantive comments the earlier they receive them.

*The Expert Panel and WTWG Chairs and Coordinators are responsible for developing “Response to Comments” documents based on feedback received through partnership review. The “Response to Comments” documents will be appended to final Expert Panel report and the technical appendix. .