

ATTACHMENT A

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's BMP Verification Review Panel Charge and Membership

FINAL DRAFT

**Revised August 16, 2012
Subject to Further Revision**

Overview

The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has embarked on a precedent-setting process for developing a basinwide BMP verification framework supporting state specific BMP verification programs. In addition to partnership adoption of a set of verification principles and development of sector focused verification protocols, an independent panel of national and regional verification experts will be established. The BMP Verification Review Panel will provide advice, feedback, and recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership as it develops a BMP Verification Program for confirming nutrient and sediment reductions from the full array of best management practices and technologies implemented across all sources (agriculture, urban, on-site treatment systems, wastewater dischargers, etc.) in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Charge

The BMP Verification Review Panel (the Panel) will provide advice, feedback, and recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership as it develops its Verification Program.

The Panel will review and provide feedback on and recommendations for changes to the draft set of BMP verification principles.

Individual panel members will work directly with the appropriate source sector/habitat restoration workgroups, providing advice, feedback, and recommendations during the respective workgroup's development of verification protocol specific to their sector/habitat.

The Panel will use the verification principles as criteria for assessing the strengths and any possible vulnerabilities in the state verification programs, providing written feedback and recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program's BMP Verification Committee on each jurisdiction's program.

The Panel will also evaluate whether the level of verification rigor is consistent across source sectors and across all seven watershed jurisdictions.

Membership

The Panel will be comprised of recognized national and regional verification, certification, and mitigation tracking experts who are independent of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

The panel as a whole will include expertise and proficiencies in as many of the following areas as possible:

- Applied knowledge and experience in developing and managing verification programs.
- Applied knowledge and experience in balancing verification needs with resource/staff needs.
- Knowledge of variety of verification tools (on-the-ground data collection, verification techniques, statistical techniques, survey techniques, etc.) available and their utility and application for verifying practices across a multitude of sources.
- Expertise in the social sciences with regard to understanding how to best structure surveys and other mechanisms for gathering data and verifying actions taken.
- Knowledge of water quality-related nutrient and sediment reduction practices and innovative technologies within various source sectors (agriculture, urban, on-site systems, wastewater, etc.).
- Knowledge of the Chesapeake Bay Program, TMDLs, and concept of reasonable assurance for nonpoint source nutrient/sediment reductions.
- Knowledge and expertise necessary to really work through the entire verification framework coming forth from the work of the partnership.
- Understanding of how practices and technologies and their effectiveness may vary by geographic region in the watershed.
- Balance of membership from government, academic, programmatic, private sector, etc.

Specific members are sought from the following types of members, but there is no requirement for ensuring all of these potential members are included on the panel:

- Members with specific source sector experience in agriculture, stormwater, and on-site treatment systems.
- Member from the prior National Academy of Science/National Research Council's Chesapeake Bay Independent Evaluation Committee (see separate file listing the Committee members).
- Member(s) with recognized national perspective and can provide a larger view than just a regional and local focus.
- Member with from a local government with well recognized hands-on experience with verification at the locality scale.
- Member with demonstrated habitat restoration and mitigation program verification related experience.
- Private sector member with ISO 9000/14000 experience.
- Member with LEED/Green Building Council experience with verification procedures.
- Member(s) from the Chesapeake Bay Commission's Economics of Nutrient Trading Study Advisory Council members (see separate file listing Advisory Council members).
- Members with recognized regional/local expertise so the members come to the table already knowing the Bay watershed states, the issues, and the challenges being faced.

All panelists will be asked to identify any potential financial or other conflicts of interest prior to serving on the Panel. The Panel will have an equitable representation of experts, affiliations, and source sector and geographic knowledge. These conditions will ensure the Panel is not biased toward particular interests or regions.

The Panel may elect to solicit input or presentations from groups that may not qualify as panel participants but may provide valuable insights into the verification issue that will help with its review.

Panel Operations

The Panel will use a combination of face to face meeting, video conferences, and conference calls through which to carry out its charge.

The Panel, or a subset of its members, will participate in the on-going Chesapeake Bay Program verification meetings to build an in-depth working knowledge of verification issues facing each source sector and jurisdiction and provide feedback throughout the process.

The Panel will invite guest experts to its meetings as needed to ensure they have an in-depth understanding of key issues as they review the verification principles and protocols.

The Panel will report back through the CBP's Verification Committee which, in turn, will be responsible for making arrangement for briefings of and presentations to the appropriate Chesapeake Bay Program management committee (e.g., Management Board, Principals' Staff Committee) for partnership decisions.

Panel Formation and Staffing

The Panel's membership will be selected by and the Panel will be formally convened by the Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board with input and nominations from the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams and supporting workgroups and the three advisory committees forwarded to the Management Board from the BMP Verification Committee.

Staff support for the Panel will be provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program Office's internal BMP Verification Team—source sector (agriculture, forestry, stormwater, on-site systems) and habitat restoration (streams, wetlands) workgroup coordinators—led by Rich Batiuk, Associate Director for Science.

Funding for supporting the Panel (e.g., travel, meeting logistics) will be provided by EPA through the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.