**Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership**

**Conference Line**:

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**Principals’ Staff Committee**

**Hall of States, Rooms 383/85**

**444 North Capitol Street, NW**

**Washington, DC 20001**

**October 16, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions** 10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

*Principals’ Staff Committee Chair, Secretary Molly Ward*, will open the meeting and welcome new PSC members.

*Jim Edward, CBPO Deputy Director*, will review the highlights of the Program Update and progress on the June 6, 2015 2014 Principals’ Staff Committee Actions and Decisions.

Materials:

I.a. Actions and Decisions, June PSC meeting

I.b. Program Update

1. **Executive Council Meeting Follow-up**
2. **Letters – Status update of EC letters** (update only) 10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

An update on the status of the Executive Council’s (EC) letter to USDA Secretary Vilsack regarding stream exclusion. An update on the status of letters of support for the Land and Waters Conservation Fund/Rivers of the Chesapeake collaborative proposal.

Presenter: Jim Edward, CBPO Deputy Director

Materials:

II.a. EC letter to Congress regarding “Rivers of the Chesapeake” FY 16 Appropriations

II.b. EC letter to Secretary Vilsack regarding stream exclusion

1. **Resolutions – Review actions and provide status** 10:15 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

An update on planning for the Environmental Finance Symposium pursuant to the EC’s June resolution. And, an update on the status of efforts underway pursuant to the EC’s Forest Buffers resolution and letter.

Presenter: Jim Edward, CBPO Deputy Director

Materials:

II.c. Environmental Finance Symposium – update on planning

II.d. Forest Buffers – Status of EC actions (table)

1. **Status of Advisory Committee recommendations to the EC** 10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

A status update and brief discussion about developing responses to the Advisory Committee recommendations to the Executive Council.

Presenter*:* Jim Edward, CBPO Deputy Director

**Requested Decision**: Agreement on a process for moving forward on the Advisory Committee recommendations to the EC

Materials:

II.e. Table of Advisory Committee recommendations

1. **Water Quality Issues**
2. **Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

A presentation of draft findings from the Water Quality GIT-supported Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) stakeholder assessment involving over 100 interviews with a focus on local partners and stakeholders followed by a discussion of the next steps and partnership application of the assessment’s findings.

Presenter: Frank Dukes, University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation

**Requested Decision**: Principals’ Staff Committee agreement on the recommended process and schedule for review and comments on the draft stakeholder assessment report and acting on the final assessment’s findings. A decision will be requested of the PSC in January 2016 on how the assessment findings should be used to inform the development of the Phase III WIP expectations and local engagement in the development of the Phase III WIPs.

Materials:

III.a. Presentation

III.b. Draft Chesapeake Bay Program Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans Stakeholder Assessment Report

1. **BMP Verification: Findings and Recommendations from the Partnership’s Independent Panel Reviewing Jurisdictions’ BMP Verification Plans**  11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A presentation of the independent Panel’s findings and recommendations after reviewing all seven watershed jurisdictions’ draft BMP verification program plans. These findings and recommendations are the result of the Panel’s review (July 30-31) and subsequent meetings with each of the jurisdictions (August 27-28). The Panel has been focused on ensuring the jurisdictions follow the guidance within the Partnership’s Basin-wide BMP Verification Framework and are working towards the five BMP verification principles agreed to by the PSC.

Presenter: Dana York, Chesapeake Bay Program BMP Verification Review Panel Chair

**Requested Action**: Principals’ Staff Committee’s agreement to act on the Panel’s findings and recommendations.

Materials:

III.c. Presentation

III.d. CBP BMP Verification Review Panel’s Final Recommendations for Strengthening Verification of BMPs Implemented in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed—September 21, 2015

III.e. CBP BMP Verification Review Panel’s Final Feedback on the Jurisdiction’s Draft BMP Verification Program Plans—September 4, 2015

III.f. CBP BMP Verification Review Panel’s Initial Feedback on Jurisdiction’s Draft BMP Verification Program Plans—August 7, 2015

**--------------- LUNCH** (Break and pick up lunch; 12:00 P.m. – 12:30 p.m.) **---------------**

1. **Watershed Agreement Workplans** 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Review the timeline and partner participation in development of Agreement workplans. Discuss the relative priorities for the next two years for PSC time and attention and identify the types of issues on which the PSC would like to stay informed.

Presenter: Greg Barranco, CBPO Team Lead for Partnerships and Russ Baxter, VA Deputy Secretary Natural Resources

**Requested Decision**: Direction to the Management Board on what areas, in the next two years, the PSC would like to show significant progress and an understanding of individual priorities of the signatory representatives.

Materials:

IV. Watershed Agreement Workplan Timeline

1. **Concluding remarks, review of decisions, next meeting**  1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.