

From: Emma Giese [<mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net>]

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 9:23 AM

To:

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Cc: Frank Coale; Mark Dubin; Dana York

Subject: Proposed agriculture outcome for new Chesapeake Bay Agreement

Sent on behalf of Mark Dubin, AgWG Coordinator:

Agriculture Workgroup State Agency Representatives,

During the July 11th meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG), a discussion was held regarding the current state of the new draft Chesapeake Bay Agreement that is currently open for public comment. If you may recall, the AgWG had previously responded to a request from the Management Board concerning the proposal to incorporate an agricultural outcome under the water quality section of the draft agreement. The decision of the AgWG that was communicated to the Management Board was to recommend that the agricultural outcome be removed due to concerns that 1.) the outcome was based on a previous federal commitment by USDA who is not a direct signatory of the agreement, 2.) that including the outcome gave the appearance that agriculture was being singled out as no similar outcomes had been included for non-agricultural sectors, and 3.) that the jurisdictional Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) provided a adaptable alternative to addressing agricultural conservation goals.

The decision of the AgWG on July 11th in light of the retention of the above mentioned agricultural outcome in the draft Chesapeake Bay Agreement list of additional considerations, was for Dana York and myself to review the current status of the draft agricultural outcome language, and to consult with the jurisdictional members of the AgWG in determining if a second recommendation should be provided during the public comment period.

Dana and I met earlier this week, and as a result, we have enclosed for your review and comment a new draft agricultural outcome proposal that we believe may provide a reasonable compromise between the differing partnership views on this matter. We believe the new draft language properly identifies the source and primary responsibility of the outcome, and more clearly communicates the relationship of the outcome to the signatory jurisdictions and their WIPs. We have previously been in contact with USDA representatives concerning this matter, and believe that the draft language may provide an acceptable alternative from their perspective.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request for your **review and comments on the attached draft proposal**. We look forward to receiving your responses by **August 1st** so that

we may finalize an approved comment for the Management Board prior to the end of the public comment period. Should you have any questions, please contact either myself (mdubin06@umd.edu) or Dana York (dyork818@yahoo.com) . Thanks!

Mark P. Dubin

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Agricultural Conservation Outcome

Existing Proposed Outcome:

Work with producers to apply new conservation practices on 4 million acres of agricultural working lands in high-priority watersheds by 2025 to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Proposed Outcome:

The Chesapeake Bay Program signatories acknowledge the US Department of Agriculture's commitment to work with producers to apply new conservation practices on 4 million acres of agricultural working lands in high-priority watersheds by 2025 to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and will support the achievement of this outcome through the implementation of the jurisdiction's Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) as appropriate.