



Chesapeake Bay Program
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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December 12, 2013

RE: STAC 2013 EC Report

Vincent C. Gray, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council
District of Columbia
Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Honorable Members of the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council,

Your independent Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee is committed to providing you with scientific guidance in your efforts to restore and sustain the water quality and living resources of the Chesapeake Bay. With our 35 independent scientists from over a dozen universities, scientific organizations, and agencies, we welcome the opportunity to provide our technical expertise and to connect you to the best available information in the scientific community. To that point we offer the following assessment of critical emerging issues needing your attention. STAC members recommend that the new Bay Agreement include:

1. Clear goal and outcome statements that can be reasonably connected to real world observations and performance criteria. This is the information necessary for accountability to the public.
2. Explicit recognition of the need for sustained physical, chemical, and biological monitoring to track progress toward identified critical water quality and living resource goals and to improve our understanding of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and estuarine system to allow refinement of model predictions. Careful analysis of this monitoring data is the only way to provide the information necessary for you and the public to evaluate progress toward the desired condition.
3. Clear statements of the management actions that will be undertaken to achieve the goals including detailed plans for the management, design, and on-going support of monitoring activities. This is the information necessary to determine if the management actions you are requiring or funding are being properly implemented.

STAC is presently undertaking an assessment of the draft Chesapeake Bay agreement goals to determine the scientific and technical validity of the proposed outcomes and management

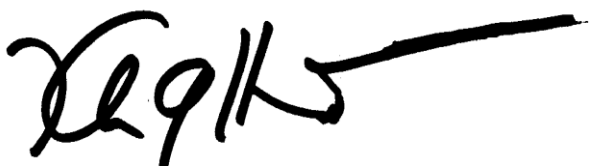
actions, including their underlying assumptions. Support for monitoring must be inextricably linked to implementation to provide the scientific basis to establish the efficacy of action and provide public accountability. The public as well as private entities are spending 100s of millions of dollars on actions thought to be helpful in the restoration of the Bay but only about 1% of that to determine whether those actions are actually working. Implementation without effective and sustained monitoring leaves policy makers and the public “flying blind” and puts the restoration at risk. To sustain the Bay restoration effort, specific monitoring must be developed and implemented for every major action taken by the Partnership.

I would also like to reiterate the importance of implementing a multiple model strategy, which STAC believes can provide the most efficient strategy to characterize uncertainty in the model predictions, and ultimately, to refine our scientific understanding. STAC believes this strategy, coupled with monitoring data to inform the modeling efforts, will help build understanding and confidence in our decision tools among scientists, managers, and stakeholders, thereby increasing the level of confidence regarding restoration actions and funds spent on implementing load reduction techniques. We offer to work with the program office on efficient approaches to enable this strategy, given limited resources.

In conclusion, STAC is available to review your questions and address your requests, should you have specific Chesapeake Bay scientific or technical questions. In addition, STAC members are ready to respond to any requests to brief you and your staff on important and emerging issues and would be interested in formalizing periodic briefing meetings either by teleconference or in person at your office, possibly coordinated with preparation for the quarterly Principal Staff Committee meetings.

We look forward to continued service in providing you and the citizens of the region with independent, objective, scientific and technical guidance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Havens', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Havens
Chair, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee