

Chesapeake Bay Program's BMP Verification Program Proposed Next Steps and Near-Term Schedule

Updated March 26, 2012

Working Up Through the Partnership

Briefings on and discussions of the partnership's BMP verification program have been held to date with the following workgroups, teams, and committees.

Policy Committees

- **Principals' Staff Committee:** February 16
- **Management Board:** February 8, March 6

CBP Advisory Committees

- **Citizens Advisory Committee:** March 1
- **Local Governments Advisory Committee:** March 1
- **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee:** March 27 (scheduled)

Goal Implementation Teams

- **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team:** January 9, February 13, March 12
 - **Agricultural Workgroup:** January 12, March 8
 - **Forestry Workgroup:** February 1, February 27, March 6
 - **Trading and Offsets Workgroup:** January 18, February 22
 - **Stormwater Workgroup:** February 8, March 20
 - **Wastewater Treatment Workgroup:** February 7
- **Vital Habitats Goal Implementation Team** (being scheduled)

Proposed Upcoming Priorities and Next Steps

March

- Formalize the WQGIT's BMP Verification Steering Committee membership and convene the Steering Committee via conference call.
- Present a preliminary draft BMP Verification Panel charge and membership to the Steering Committee for review and feedback.
- Present a working draft set of verification principles to the Steering Committee for review and feedback.
- Work through the Agricultural Workgroup to synthesize lessons learned by the states' pilot efforts to track and report non-cost shared practices.

- Schedule briefings with the Vital Habitat Goal Implementation Team's Stream Habitat Workgroup and the Wetlands Evaluation Workgroup.
- Set up contractual staff support for the source sector workgroups as they develop their detailed verification protocols.
- Reach out to the USDA NRCS six state conservationists.
- Set up a BMP verification web page on the CBP Partnership's web site.

April

- Initiate briefings for the other five Goal Implementation Teams.
- Schedule briefings for the Watershed Technical Workgroup, BayTAS Team, and NEIEN Team.
- Continue working with USGS and USDA on addressing the full accounting of federal cost shared practices and preventing double counting.
- Synthesize existing draft protocols, principles, and program elements and brief the WQGIT and then the MB on progress to date, issues to be addressed, and next steps.
- Identify and synthesize lessons learned from other BMP verification efforts across the country.
- Bring forward a draft BMP verification panel charge and proposed membership to the Management Board for review and decisions.
- Bring forward BMP protocol concerns and issues to the Steering Committee for discussion, resolution, and direction back to the source sector/habitat workgroups.

May

- Make contact with the proposed BMP verification panel members and seek their commitment to participate on the panel.
- Bring forward approaches to fully accounting of federal cost share practices, protocols for preventing double counting, and plans for cleaning up historical databases to the Steering Committee for discussion, resolution, and direction back to USGS, USDA, and the involved the source sector/habitat workgroups.

June

- Schedule Steering Committee reviews of the source sector/habitat workgroups' draft BMP verification protocols; determine progress to date and time required to further develop these protocols to the point they are ready for review/approval as part of the larger BMP verification framework by MB and PSC.