Chesapeake Bay Program
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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January XX, 2020

RE: STAC 'Contaminants of Concern' Workshop Report

Dana Aunkst, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Management Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109
Annapolis, MD 21403

Cc: CBP Management Board; Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT); Scientific Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR)

Dear Director Aunkst,

Please see the attached report entitled, "*Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings*". This report provides a summary of the proceedings of a STAC-sponsored workshop on contaminants of concern in urban and agricultural settings. This report also outlines specific recommendations identified by participants at the two-day workshop convened May 22-23, 2019.

The workshop's objective was to synthesize current and ongoing research on toxic contaminants related to fish health and fish consumption advisories. Participants discussed opportunities to mitigate effects of chemical contaminants in both urban and agricultural settings by taking advantage of practices implemented for nutrient and sediment reduction, as well as other innovative approaches. The workshop discussions focused on information needed by states and local jurisdictions, who are particularly interested in non-point source practices that can provide multiple benefits for (1) meeting the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nutrients and sediment, (2) reducing toxic contaminants, and (3) improving local waters for fishing and recreation. There were breakout sessions on how selected best management practices (BMPs) and other innovative approaches can collectively reduce the loads of contaminants of concern, nutrients, and sediment to the Chesapeake Bay.

Workshop participants found a significant gap in compiling and communicating potential removal efficiencies (or the range of removal efficiency) for toxic contaminants to jurisdictions and stakeholders implementing BMPs. Continued expansion and compilation of the BMP studies examining both known and emerging toxic contaminants paired with some site-specific details will allow for jurisdictions to capitalize on possible co-benefits when implementing nutrient and sediment BMPs.

BMPs are a necessary investment to reduce toxic contaminant loads and improve water quality. Some associated recommendations included:

1. Continued research investment to understand the co-benefits or negative impacts of nutrient/sediment BMPs on water quality, ensure habitat quality, and preserve aquatic resources.
2. A close working relationship between researchers and the management community is needed to develop tools to identify sensitive areas/populations that would benefit from improved BMP design, implementation, and/or monitoring.

We hope that the Chesapeake Bay Program will find these recommendations useful, and we look forward to your feedback through a written response to the workshop findings and recommendations.

Please direct any questions regarding this report and its recommendations to Annabelle Harvey (harveya@chesapeake.org), Coordinator of the CBP's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, or workshop chair Scott Phillips (swphilli@usgs.gov).
On behalf of the entire STAC, thank you for considering these recommended next steps, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrew Miller
Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee