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April 23, 2015

Ms. Jennifer Volk
Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
Chesapeake Bay Program

Dear Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Chair,

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) understands that the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) is reviewing the Protocol for the Development, Review, and Approval of Loading and Effectiveness Estimates for Nutrient and Sediment Controls in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. It is also our understanding that changes are being proposed to incorporate new information and/or changes to the review process based on input from the partnership.

Related to this review process, a concern regarding Panel composition has been brought to our attention and discussed by LGAC's Executive Committee. In addition to scientific experts, it is the opinion of the Executive Committee that each Panel should include a local practitioner, who has practical, real-world implementation expertise. We respect that the primary purpose of a Panel is to review scientific literature in order to determine the efficiency of a best management practice (BMP). However, a BMP has no efficiency if it cannot practically be implemented, maintained or verified. For this reason the LGAC Executive Committee recommends that the Panel Composition section be revised to reflect the need for practitioner expertise on all Panels.

A second concern has been raised regarding the process for conducting periodic review of the Protocol. In the future, we request notice should be provided to Chesapeake Bay partners that a review is forthcoming. An announcement at a Management Board meeting, including the proposed schedule for review and comment, could be the communication vehicle. As it happened, the current Protocol review period was not publicized, and the short period allowed for review coincided with the review period for Management Strategies. We understand the WQGIT desires a timely process, but the limitations of resources within the partnership and need to allow participation by local governments must be considered.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact LGAC Coordinator Mary Gattis if you need additional information regarding LGAC's position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Janine F. Burns
Chair, Local Government Advisory Committee

cc: Nick DiPasquale, Charlie Stek, Kirk Havens



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