

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Dear WQGIT Members and Workgroup Chairs,

I am seeking your assistance in the planning for the October WQGIT meeting and the planned 2017 TMDL midpoint assessment which will be an integral part of our meeting. We have raised this subject in past WQGIT calls.

**Background:** The 2010 Chesapeake Bay TMDL calls for a midpoint assessment that will allow Bay Program partners to confirm that practices committed to in the WIPs will result in the necessary pollutant reductions identified in the Bay TMDL to achieve water quality standards. While our mutual focus remains on implementation of restoration practices, we also will continue our evaluation of the tools and programs available to measure the effectiveness of these practices as well as assist the overall implementation effort. The goal of the October meeting will be to discuss recommendations for a process for moving forward with this work. A companion message is being sent to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) to apprise them of the October meeting and to ensure full awareness and involvement by the partnership in the midpoint assessment.

**FEEDBACK REQUESTED:** In preparation for the WQGIT meeting in October, I ask that you:

1. Provide input on subjects that should be included in the midpoint assessment.
2. Compile your jurisdiction's or your workgroup's specific priorities on the current data inputs, decision-support tools including the Chesapeake Bay Program models, and programs that support local WIP implementation and accountability.

**Feedback should be submitted to Larry Merrill ([merrill.larry@epa.gov](mailto:merrill.larry@epa.gov)), Katherine Antos ([antos.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:antos.katherine@epa.gov)), Gary Shenk ([ghenk@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ghenk@chesapeakebay.net)), and Molly Harrington ([mharrington@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mharrington@chesapeakebay.net)) by August 24, 2012** so we can discuss and share this feedback with the entire WQGIT in time for the September 10 WQGIT conference call.

EPA Region III staff and managers are currently drafting a set of proposed guiding principles for the midpoint assessment that we plan to share with the WQGIT for review in preparation for our August 13 WQGIT conference call. Feedback on the principles will be shared with the Management Board and PSC for their use in discussions of the principles in the next several months.

Thank you and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Larry Merrill

Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Goal Implementation Team