Chesapeake Bay Program's BMP Verification Program Update

February 9, 2012 WQGIT Conference Call

Documented the WQGIT's five requested amendments to the proposed BMP verification program process and schedule within the January 9th conference call's summary as follows:

- Review and verification of the extensive sets of data used within the suite of Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's models and supporting tools will be a component of the larger verification program;
- A 'steering committee' will be convened under the WQGIT to help guide the verification program development process all the way up to presentation to the Principals' Staff Committee for final decisions on behalf of the Partnership;
- The proposed BMP Verification Panel will be convened in the spring time (as opposed to the fall as described in the original proposal) in order to work directly with the source sector workgroups during the development of the verification protocols;
- The Partnership retained the option of modifying the proposed schedule as needed to ensure there is sufficient time for development, review and approval of the verification program; and
- The involved Goal Implementation Teams and their respective source sector and habitat workgroups will be asked to nominate members for the BMP Verification Panel.

Starting with the January 9th Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's conference call, the following CBP partnership briefings has been scheduled or accomplished:
- Presented the BMP Verification Program process and schedule to the WQGIT's **Agricultural Workgroup** on January 12, 2012 and challenged them to complete work on their verification protocol development efforts currently underway.
- Presented the BMP Verification Program process and schedule to the WQGIT's **Trading and Offsets Workgroup** on January 18, 2012 and challenged them to address three questions regarding existing verification programs and connections with verifying credits for trading.
- Presented the BMP Verification Program process and schedule to the WQGIT's **Wastewater Treatment Workgroup** on February 7, 2012 and challenged them to develop protocols for verifying nutrient reductions from upgrades at non-significant permitted wastewater discharge facilities, from elimination or reduction of combined sewer overflows, and from on-site treatment systems.
- Presented to the BMP Verification Program process and schedule to the CBP's **Management Board** on February 8, 2012 and asked for: 1) decision to procedure forward on the WQGIT's amended process and schedule; 2) where the MB wanted to weigh in with feedback/decisions during the process; and 3) identify whether the MB or PSC decisions on the BMP Verification Panel members.

- Scheduled to present to the **Principals' Staff Committee** at their February 16, 2012 meeting.
- Scheduled to present to the CBP's **Citizens Advisory Committee** on March 1, 2012.
- Scheduled to present to the CBP's **Local Governments Advisory Committee** on March 1, 2012.
- Scheduled to present to the CBP's **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee** on March 27, 2012.

Upcoming priorities include:
- Schedule briefings for the remaining source sector, habitat, and tracking and accounting workgroups and teams.
- Confirming the membership and then convening the BMP Verification Steering Committee approved by the WQGIT during its January 9th conference call.
- Working through the Steering Committee to prepare working draft set of verification principles (strongly requested by the workgroups as they work on their protocols).
- Compiling recommended expertise and potential members for the BMP Verification Panel.
- Developing and distributing among the source sector and habitat workgroups examples of draft protocols developed to date by individual workgroups.
- Identifying and synthesizing lessons learned from other BMP verification efforts across the country.