Chesapeake Bay Program's BMP Verification Program Development Update
April 9, 2012 CBP Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call

Working Up Through the Partnership
All the partnership's policy committees and advisory committees have been fully briefed, and all the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's workgroups have discussed the partnership's BMP verification program at least twice now.

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

Goal Implementation Teams
- **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**: January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9
    - **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, April 3
- **Vital Habitats Goal Implementation Team** (being scheduled)

BMP Verification Steering Committee Established
Under the WQGIT, the BMP Verification Steering Committee has been convened and met via conference call on March 27.

The Steering Committee membership, listed below in alphabetical order, is based on jurisdictional appointments and requests which went out to the WQGIT's workgroups and key involved stakeholders.

- Bill Angstadt, Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
- Russ Baxter, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Evan Branosky, World Resources Institute
- Valerie Frances, USDA Office of Environmental Markets
- Jack Frye, Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Roy Hoagland, Hope Impacts, Inc.

- Susan Marquart, NRCS Pennsylvania State Office
- Beth McGee, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Matt Monroe, West Virginia Department of Agriculture
- George Onyullo, District of Columbia Department of Environment
- John Rhoderick, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Aaron Ristow, Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- Ann Swanson, Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Jennifer Volk, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Andy Zemba, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*
- Hank Zygmunt, Resource Dynamics Inc.

* Pat Buckley, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, alternate

The Steering Committee's priority work tasks include the following:

- Develop the initial draft set of BMP verification principles for moving up through CBP management structure.
- Review, comment on, and modify a working draft charge to the BMP panel along with a proposed panel membership.
- Review, comment on, and modify a working draft approach to addressing double counting developed by USGS working with the six states and NRCS.
- Review, comment on, and modify a working draft approach to cleaning up historical BMP databases developed by CBPO staff.
- Synthesize the various source sector workgroups and accounting workgroups/teams recommend verification protocols, feedback on the principles, etc. into an initial BMP verification framework for presentation to the WQGIT and then the other GITs for initial feedback and direction.
- Take the individual and collective feedback from the six GITs and the three advisory committees and revise the BMP verification framework prior to presentation to the Management Board.
- Take the feedback from the Management Board and work with the appropriate workgroups and GITs to address the concerns and specific direction from the Management Board.
- Let the Management Board know when all the components of the partnership's overall BMP verification framework are ready for presentation to the Principals' Staff Committee for review and adoption.

Chesapeake Bay Program Office **Steering Committee support staff** have been identified:
- Rich Batiuk, EPA, Steering Committee Coordinator
- Mark Dubin, University of Maryland, Agriculture
- Debbie Hopkins, USFWS, Habitat
- Tom Schueler, Chesapeake Stormwater Network, Stormwater
- Kelly Shenk, EPA, Agriculture
- Ning Zhou, VA Tech, Wastewater/On-site Treatment Systems
- Staffer (detail position)

Set of BMP Verification Principles Drafted/Reviewed

The Steering Committee has reviewed and begun commenting on the preliminary draft list of BMP verification principles starting at its March 27 conference call. Based on feedback from that conference call as well as one-on-one phone calls with each Steering Committee member, a revised draft set of BMP principles will be shared with the WQGIT, Vital Habitats GIT and the source sector/habitat workgroups within the next two weeks for their use, review and comment.

BMP Verification Panel Charge/Membership Drafted/Reviewed

The Steering Committee has reviewed and begun commenting on the preliminary draft charge to the BMP Verification Panel and recommended membership starting at its March 27 conference call. Based on feedback from that conference call as well as one-on-one phone calls with each Steering Committee member, a revised draft BMP Verification Panel charge and membership will be shared with the WQGIT, Vital Habitats GIT and their source sector/habitat workgroups within the next two weeks for their use, review, and comment.

BMP Verification Web Page Content Drafted/Reviewed

The Steering Committee has reviewed and begun commenting on the proposed format and content for a BMP verification web page starting at its March 27 conference call. The web page will be posted on the CBP partnership's www.chesapeakebay.net web site. The web page is being designed as an information source for the partners and the growing number of stakeholders involved in the development of the watershed-wide BMP verification program, where one can access the latest briefing materials, links to other verification documentation, and the meetings and conference calls where verification is on the agenda.

Upcoming Priorities and Next Steps

March

- Formalize the WQGIT's BMP Verification Steering Committee membership and convene the Steering Committee via conference call. [COMPLETED]
- Present a preliminary draft BMP Verification Panel charge and membership to the Steering Committee for review and feedback. [COMPLETED]
- Present a working draft set of verification principles to the Steering Committee for review and feedback. [COMPLETED]
- Work through the Agricultural Workgroup to synthesize lessons learned by the states' pilot efforts to track and report non-cost shared practices. [MTG BEING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL]
- Schedule briefings with the Vital Habitat Goal Implementation Team's Stream Habitat Workgroup and the Wetlands Evaluation Workgroup. [WORK UNDERWAY]
- Set up contractual staff support for the source sector workgroups as they develop their detailed verification protocols. [PENDING]

- Reach out to the USDA NRCS six state conservationists. [COMPLETED]
- Set up a BMP verification web page on the CBP Partnership's web site. [DRAFT CONTENT SHARED WITH STEERING COMMITTEE]

April
- Initiate briefings for the other five Goal Implementation Teams. [WORK UNDERWAY]
- Schedule briefings for the Watershed Technical Workgroup, BayTAS Team, and NEIEN Team. [WORK UNDERWAY]
- Continue working with USGS and USDA on addressing the full accounting of federal cost shared practices and preventing double counting. [WORK UNDERWAY]
- 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 BMP protocol concerns and issues to the Steering Committee for discussion, resolution, and direction back to the source sector/habitat workgroups.

May
- Bring forward a draft BMP verification panel charge and proposed membership to the Management Board for review and decisions.
- 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.