



A diverse array of biochars are available (photo credit Sanjai Parikh)

## *Existing Protocol Review & Group Discussion*



# OBJECTIVES



## Key Themes:

- How does the BMP Protocol Process work?
- What options exist for biochar?
- Pitfalls and how to avoid them

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?



# THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BMP

- The Bay Program tracks nutrient and sediment reductions due to changes in management actions
  - Land use changes
  - BMP “efficiencies”
  - Reduced input loads
- Each BMP must be reviewed and approved by partners
  - Scientific, modeling, practical/policy
- The protocol document is long (26 pages!!) and the time to develop and approve recommendations is even longer

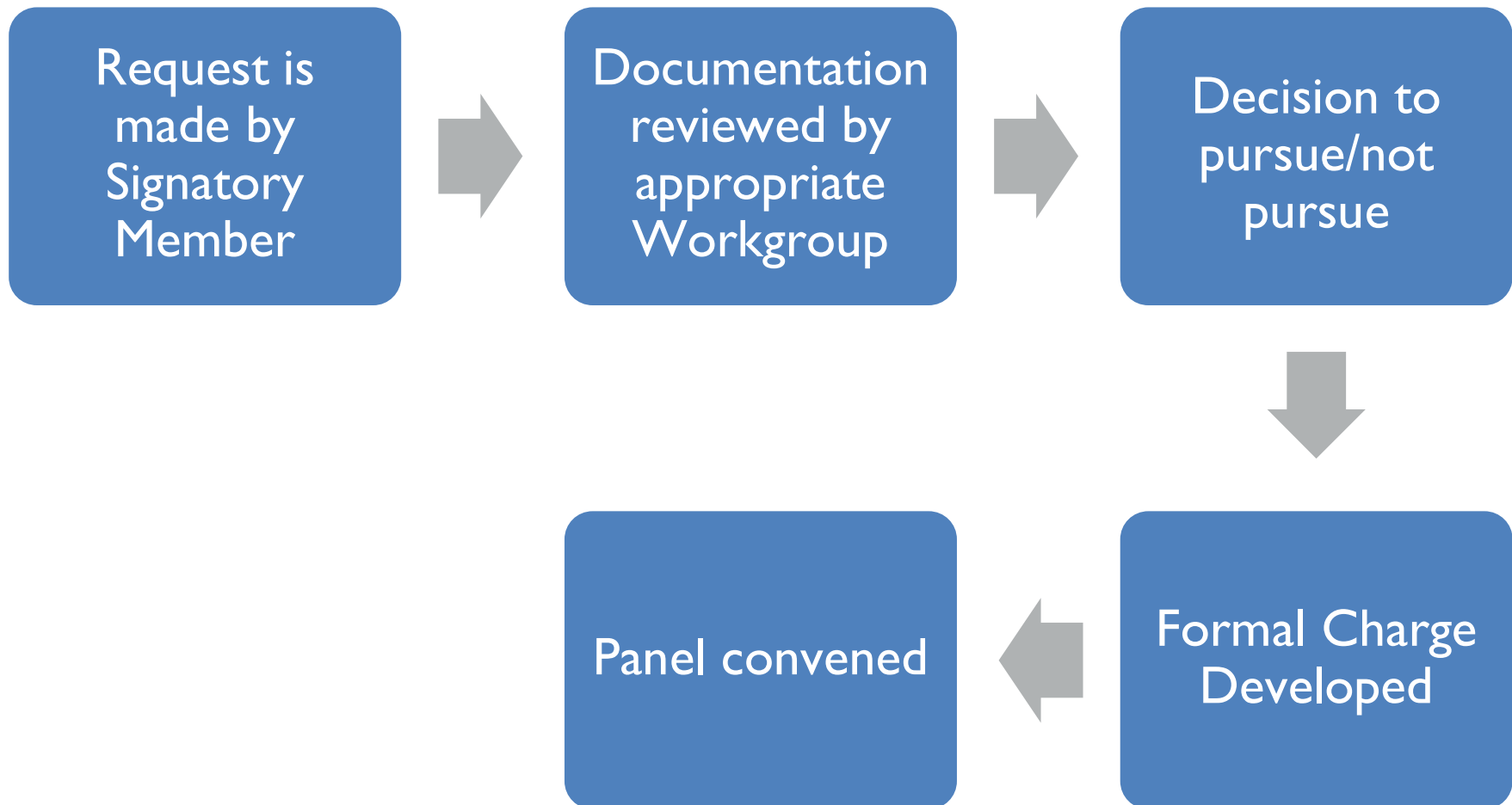
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

**Protocols for the Development, Review, and  
Approval of Loading and Effectiveness Estimates  
for Nutrient and Sediment Controls in the  
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model**

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11/7/2022

# HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?



# THE PANEL BEGINS...

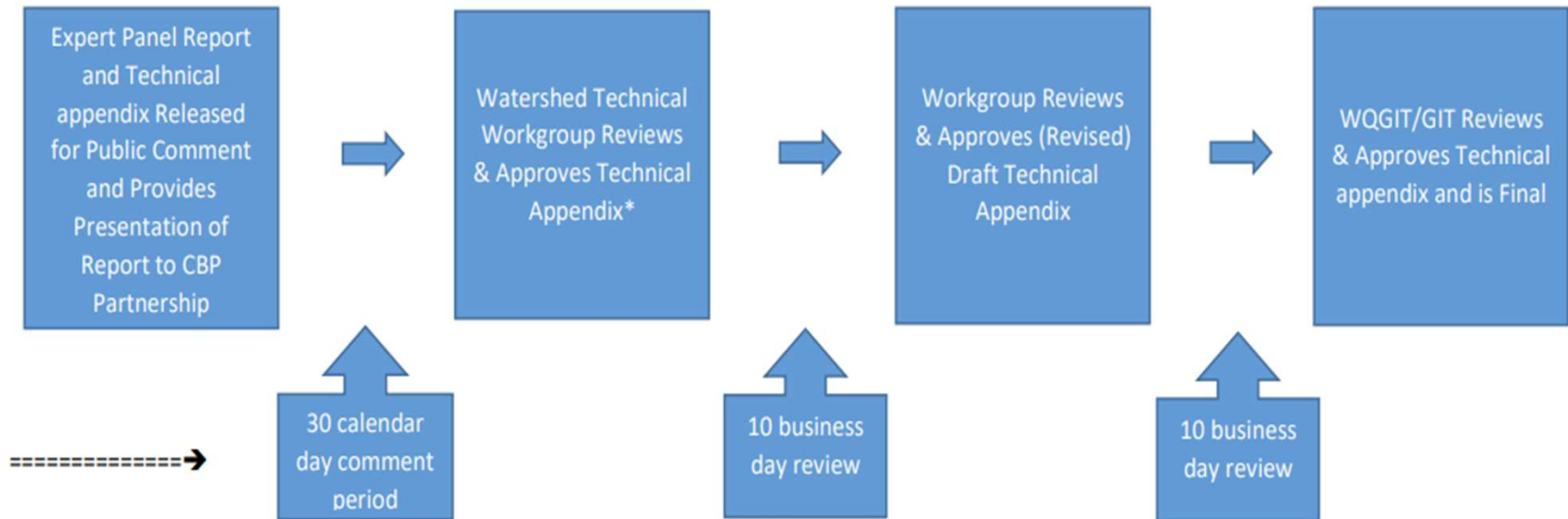
TYPICAL TIMELINE:  
18 MONTH TO 2 YEARS

# Quiet Please...

Important  
Work In  
Progress



## Appendix I: CBP Partnership Review Process for BMP Expert Panel Reports & Technical Appendices



### CBP Partnership has Opportunity to Review and Comments on Draft Technical Appendices during Each Stage of Review Process

To better ensure effective resolution of comments, all interested partners, groups or individuals are encouraged to submit their comments during the first review and comment period. New comments at later stages will be considered, but the Panel can more effectively address substantive comments the earlier they receive them.

\*The Expert Panel and WTWG Chairs and Coordinators are responsible for developing “Response to Comments” documents based on feedback received through partnership review. The “Response to Comments” documents will be appended to final Expert Panel report and the technical appendix. .

# IS THERE ANOTHER WAY?

## The Urban Stormwater Workgroup BMP Interpretation Policy (2016)

The process should clarify and reinforce the existing BMP expert panel protocol and process, and never be used to undercut or re-open an existing urban BMP expert panel.

The BMP must represent a real change on the ground that occurs in the present day (e.g., no historic BMP discoveries).

The proposed BMP must have verification procedures that are at least as stringent as the "parent" BMP.

The proposed BMP should not create problems when it comes to reporting it in Scenario Builder.

**Date:** February 1, 2016  
**To:** Members, Urban Stormwater Work Group  
**From:** Tom Schueler, CBP Stormwater Coordinator  
**Re:** Process for Handling Urban BMP Decision Requests

**Background.** Over the last year, the USWG has received numerous requests to determine whether certain innovative BMPs could be interpreted or classified in the context of existing expert panel reports. Examples include:

- Retrofit of facility not originally designed for stormwater quality treatment, such as a farm pond, a PL-566 reservoir or a flood control facility.
- Homeowner BMPs
- "Smart BMP" Retrofits
- Combo retrofit and stream restoration
- "Self-converting" wetlands
- Urban agriculture practices
- PEDs for BMPs

The basic idea is to set up a process for making decisions on BMP requests without having to launch a full-blown expert panel. CSN presented a concept for how the process could work in November of 2015. This memo reflects the feedback received on how to proceed.

**Key Elements to Consider.** The process for handling BMP decision request needs to satisfy several potential concerns.

- The process should clarify and reinforce the existing BMP expert panel protocol and process, and never be used to undercut or re-open an existing urban BMP expert panel.
- The proposed BMP should not be a manufactured treatment device or a proprietary practice (The USWG is working on a separate process to handle these requests).



WHAT OPTIONS EXIST FOR BIOCHAR?



# OPTION 1: THE FULL BMP EXPERT PANEL

- Identify a signatory sponsor for the Panel
- Determine the scope
  - Agricultural and urban applications?
  - Other soil health techniques?
  - Use for improving turfgrass conditions vs only within BMPs?
- Considerations:
  - Longer time-frame
  - Is perfect the enemy of the good?
  - Resource availability

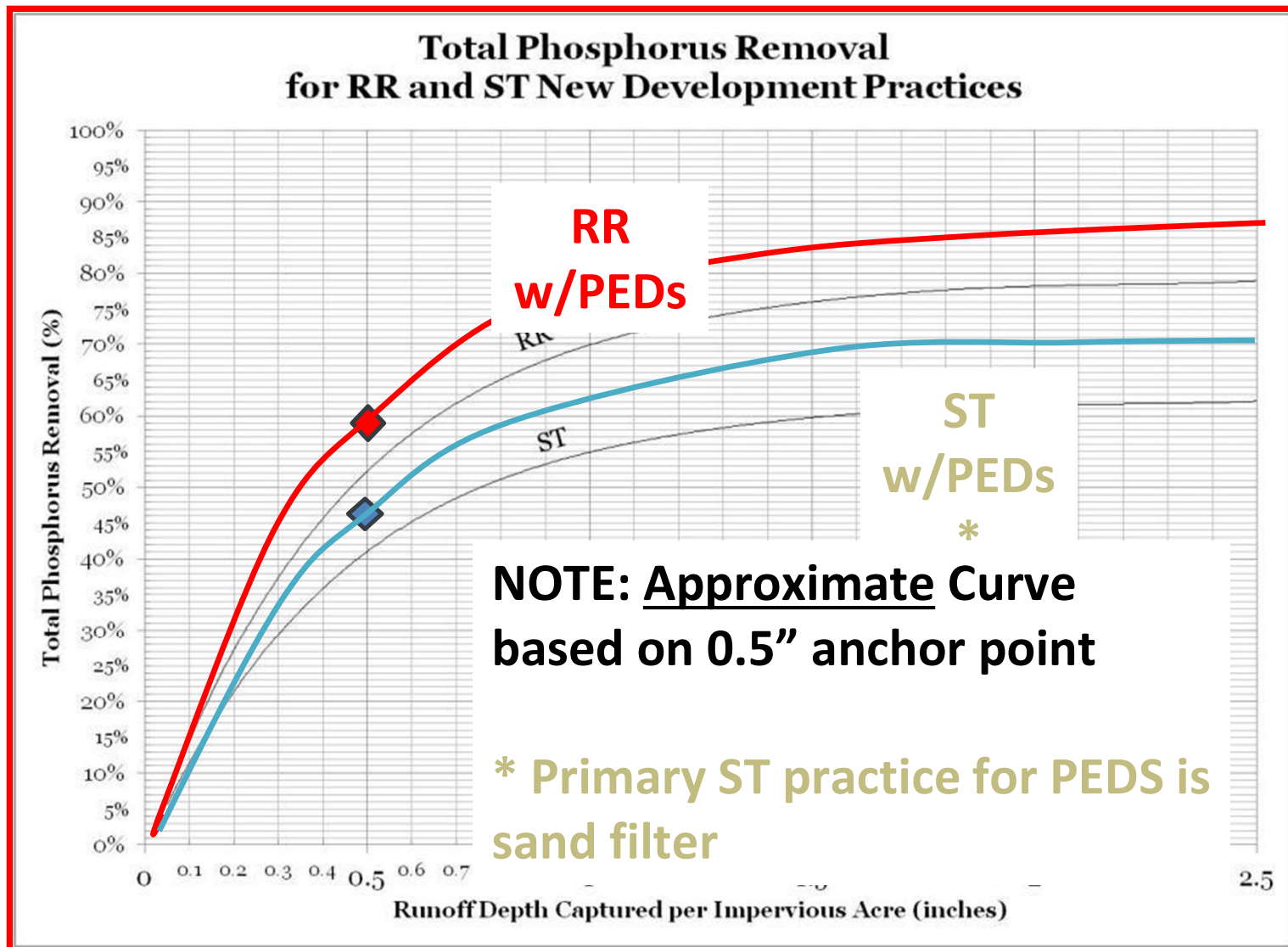
# OPTION 2: BMP INTERPRETATION

- Select an existing BMP that biochar is currently enhancing
- Ensure crediting mechanism and tracking/verification requirements are sufficiently similar
- Develop white paper with recommended path forward and present to USWG for consideration
- Considerations:
  - USWG may insist on full expert panel anyway
  - Shorter timeline
  - More limited scope
  - Process does not currently exist in Ag Workgroup

# BMP INTERPRETATION OPTIONS

- Stormwater Retrofits:
  - Includes common GI practices, stormwater ponds, filtering and infiltration BMPs
  - Uses two curves that can be adapted to account for enhancements
- Impervious Cover Disconnection
  - Involves redirecting IC runoff to amended pervious soils
  - Efficiencies based on RR curves, and filter strips
- Urban Tree Planting
- Stream Restoration Protocol 2

# BMP INTERPRETATION OPTIONS



# WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED?

Practice  
Definition

Qualifying  
Conditions  
and  
Applicability  
Limitations

Scientific  
Justification

BMP  
Efficiencies

Tracking and  
Verification  
Requirements  
+ Credit  
Duration

Consideration  
of Potential  
Unintended  
Consequences

Future  
Research  
Needs

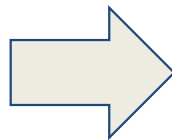
# COMMON PITFALLS

(AND HOW TO AVOID THEM)



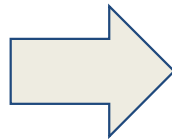
# Pitfalls and Avoiding Them

- Overly technical protocol



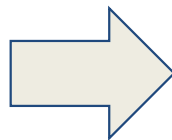
- If the juice isn't worth the squeeze, everyone ends up thirsty

- Too many options



- People will always pick the one with the least amount of work, and/or the most amount of credit

- Scope is too broad

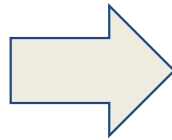


- You need full consensus on the entire document. So keep it tight and justify your decisions



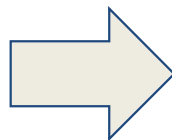
# Pitfalls and Avoiding Them

- Misaligned programs and protocols



- Think about the practitioner and what information they can or will collect that can inform the credit

- Don't get bogged down in the Model – but don't forget about it either



- Think about the credit structure early and justify it scientifically. But make sure it's a fit before going too far down the road. It's hard to backtrack.

# Questions & Discussion

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