Chesapeake Bay Program
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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The Value of STAC

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) offers independent reviews, expert convenings, and smart recommendations to enhance science-based decision-making and technical advancement based on recognized standards for scientific integrity and rigor. STAC serves as a crucial scientific and technical knowledge hub, complementing existing CBP expertise with STAC's broad, multi-disciplinary membership.

Key Characteristics of STAC:

Wide-Ranging Expertise. STAC's networks provide access to worldwide, comprehensive pools of expertise to provide multidimensional synthesis of relevant topics when scientific consensus is critical.

Informing Science-based Policy: STAC's cross-cutting approach breaks down jurisdictional boundaries, and streamlines the process of integrating science into policy freeing leadership bodies to focus on policy formulation.

Impactful Products. STAC consistently delivers high-quality, relevant products and technical leadership that address critical uncertainties, guiding the Bay community with science for action and solutions that meet the highest standards of credibility and objectivity.

Responsive. STAC's organizational infrastructure allows for rapid, flexible, and effective convening of expertise. This responsiveness enhances CBP's credibility when responding to requests while STAC proactively identifies opportunities and unaddressed barriers.

Trustworthy. STAC's independence, comprehensive representation, and proven track record establish it as a reliable source of advice, even when it's challenging, which enhances the CBP's adaptive approach.

Examples of STAC's Impact and Value

Proactive insights:

- **Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) Report:** STAC provided a shared understanding and language for the "Beyond 2025" program discussion, offering a trusted synthesis of progress over potentially competing assessments.

- **Advanced Biological Treatment for Nitrogen Removal Report:** STAC identified a cost-effective management tool for the partnership, initially deemed to be prohibitive but now is widely adopted.

Responsive reviews:

- **Cumulative Frequency Distribution (CFD) Curve Methodology Review:** STAC quickly convened an independent expert panel, providing a defensible and credible review that met high standards for water quality criteria attainment.

- **Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model Peer Reviews (Phase 5 and Phase 6):** STAC affirmed the scientific credibility of the models used for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), effectively helping to avert an extensive legal case.