

2011 PROGRESS ON REDUCING NITROGEN, PHOSPHORUS AND SEDIMENT POLLUTION

BACKGROUND

(DRAFT OUTLINE)

Reducing Pollution – Building on Success and continually improving

- Performance metrics first established in 1987 – long term goal of 40% nutrient reduction by 2010.
 - Were able to measure against them
 - Helped drive priorities
 - Didn't hold current executives responsible for setting goals accountable for meeting the goals
- EC directed partnership to develop short term 2 year milestones in 2008
 - Short term targets improve accountability
 - Provide maximum flexibility of approach by allowing contingencies if original set of practices are not reaching targets
 - Measure success against simulated pounds reduced
- NAS Reviewed the concept of 2 year milestones and found:
 - Concept should work to increase accountability
 - Need consequences if milestone targets are not met
 - Need to be measured against pounds reduced to provide for flexibility of approach
- Midway through 2009-11 milestones, the TMDL was developed
 - New baseline, new target pollution loads, new BMPs, new tracking and accounting systems
 - Incorporated 2 year milestones into the accountability framework (didn't throw the baby out with the bathwater)
 - Includes consequences and ability to measure success through simulated pounds of pollution reduced.
- Ultimate question – are we making appropriate progress in meeting the tidal water quality standards for DO, Clarity, and chlorophyll a?
 - Near term – look at the practices put in place during the original 2009-11 milestone period against the practices planned in 2008 to meet the milestones
 - Near term – 2011 progress (first year of the TMDL) – Are we generally on a straight line trajectory to meet our targets in 2017?
 - Near term – 2012-13 Milestones and 2017 planning targets – do they keep the jurisdictions on a trajectory to meet the 2017 target or is there reasonable

assurance that the programs they are putting in place now will get them on track to meet the 2017 targets?

- Mid term – Monitoring – 20 year record and new monitoring programs to determine whether the actions on the ground are reducing pollutants in the adjacent rivers.
- Long term – Monitoring – Meeting water quality standards for DO, clarity, chlorophyll a
- **Diet analogy**
 - *You don't stand on the scale to see the difference between a Big Mac and a salad, you use a model based on calories that will eventually lead to reduction of weight measured by a scale*
 - *You don't expect the scale to show the weight loss immediately after eating a salad or weight gain immediately after eating a big mac, you estimate this by counting calories.*
 - *In the same way, you don't monitor tidal waters to see the difference between one action/control or another, or expect instantaneous responses after putting a practice in place. You use models to estimate those reductions, estimate the impacts of those reductions on water quality, and use the monitoring of tidal waters as a measure of your long term goal.*
 - *We have something we can do that is in between. We can, and are, setting up monitoring programs in the nontidal portions of rivers and streams that are adjacent to practices so that we can see early responses to the actions we are taking, and can learn and adjust strategies as we go.*

Comment [ST1]: Potential for use as a verbal analogy when sharing background document

2009-11 Milestones– How did we do?

- Factsheets 2009-11 Milestones
- Bottom lines
- Highlights

2011 Progress - Are we on a trajectory to achieve the TMDL?

- Factsheet - 2011 Progress Run
- Bottom Lines

2012-13 Milestones - Are we committing to stay on that trajectory?

- Factsheets - 2012-2013 Milestones
- Why we don't always see a straight line trajectory
- Highlights