

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**  
**WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**  
**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 CONFERENCE CALL**

**Conference Call Phone Number:** 866-299-3188 **Code:** 410-267-5731

**Adobe Connect:** <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/waterqualitygit/>

**ACTION ITEMS AND DECISIONS**

**ACTION:** Larry Merrill will email the WQGIT on 7/17 with additional updates plus any action items/decisions from the 7/16 call.

**ACTION:** Scott Phillips will provide WQGIT with the link to the USGS long-term water quality trends.

**DECISION:** WQGIT membership approved without dissent the formation of the Land Use Workgroup.

**ACTION:** Co-Chairs of Land Use Workgroup: Karl Berger (MWCOC), Jenny Tribo (HRPDC)

**ACTION:** Send LUWG member nominations to [Jeremy Hanson](#) by 7/30/12. Members don't have to be experts in all aspects of land use and land cover; expertise in one area is an asset.

**ACTION:** Sentence on pg. 6 of Decision Framework document ("In addition to the support of management practice implementation...BMP operation and.") will be completed prior to submission to Management Board.

**DECISION:** No objections to Decision Framework document. WQGIT adopts Decision Framework document (w/ p6 sentence completed).

**ACTION:** The Chesapeake Stat link to BMP panel information and contact information for coordinators leading the panels will be sent to the WQGIT.

**ACTION:** If any other individuals are interested in participating in the Face-to-Face Meeting Ad Hoc group, please contact [Molly Harrington](#).

**ACTION:** Larry Merrill will contact EPA colleagues working on trading and offsets and have them follow up with Helen Stewart regarding the need for state trading proposals consistency with EPA technical memorandum.

**ACTION:** Evan Branosky will share final TOWG workplan with WQGIT

**ACTION:** WQGIT members will contact Evan Branosky with additional topics they would like the TOWG to address.

**ACTION:** WQGIT members will send nominations to [Andra Popa](#) for the BMP Verification Review Panel by Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ACTION:** WQGIT charging WTWG with looking at data cleanup issue, rather than charging to Verification Subcommittee.

**MINUTES**

Welcome/Confirm Call Participants and Updates – Larry Merrill, Chair

**ACTION:** Larry Merrill will email the WQGIT on 7/17 with additional updates plus any action items/decisions from the 7/16 call.

- WQGIT Workgroups are meeting per usual schedule.

- 7/9 Executive Council Meeting highlighted much of WQGIT's work.
  - Emphasis on Milestone and Progress reporting to EPA, stakeholders, and jurisdictions' credit.

#### Updates on other CBP Goal Implementation Teams – Larry Merrill

- See [2012 State of the Program Report](#) for summary updates on work conducted by other GITs.
- Note the upcoming Management Board meeting on 8/2.
  - Key presentation by the Sustainable Fisheries GIT will demonstrate cross-GIT collaboration through the example of the Harris Creek, MD oyster restoration pilot project.
    - WQGIT will contribute a few slides regarding the importance of water quality goals to oyster restoration success.
- Other WQGIT member updates:
  - Scott Phillips: USGS report on long-term water quality trends is now available.

**ACTION:** Scott Phillips will provide WQGIT with the link to the USGS long-term water quality trends.

#### Proposal: Formation of a Land Use Workgroup – Larry Merrill and Norm Goulet

- See [Land Use Workgroup Proposal](#).

Norm Goulet – Proposes Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) as an ad hoc workgroup that can be sunsetted when no longer necessary.

- LUWG will support midpoint assessment.
  - Work through persistent issues of:
    - land use categories and characterization in the Model;
    - local governments' concerns regarding high resolution.
  - Determine protocols to generate land use data.
- Pat Buckley – What data will local planners be asked to review?
  - Goulet – Local data will inform land use methodology used by Land Change Model. Would like localities to provide local data.
    - The more eyes on the data and methods, the more accurate it will be.
    - Workgroup will be asked to consider categories of land use (e.g., include more categories of urban land uses as now categories are too broad to be sufficient).
    - These local experts will be asked to be workgroup members and participate in workgroup.
- Buckley – Therefore, local planners will not be asked to review data, but actually provide it to CBP.
  - Goulet – Their participation in the LUWG will be requested.
  - Buckley – Will try to identify someone to participate.
- Merrill – Peter Claggett is supportive of this workgroup.
- Ron Entringer – Land use and land cover are different. Believes Peter Claggett would need land cover information, which local planners may not have.
  - Agrees consideration of other categories of urban land use (e.g., disconnected vs. connected urban lands) could be useful.
  - Skeptical of finding a local expert on both land use and land cover.

- Goulet – Agrees may be hard to find expert in both, but a land use expert could still support land cover considerations or concerns.
- Buckley – Concerned that there are 43 counties within the watershed; however a planner will only know one county.
  - Goulet – Not expecting to receive information from all counties; intend to utilize sampling techniques to calibrate large land use/land cover data sets.
- Lee Currey – Seeking specific areas of refinement? Would the Workgroup only focus on urban?
  - Goulet – No. Recognize that there are urban issues, but the WG will not limited to urban topics.
    - Not targeting agricultural vs. urban, but a review of methodologies utilized by the Land Change Model.
- James Davis-Martin – Agrees not just urban issue.
  - May impact BMP panels that are considering land use change BMPs.
  - Supports comprehensive process to address issues from all sectors.
- Collin Burrell – Supportive of idea and purpose of LUWG, especially to get better data from urban sector.
  - DC will be using almost exclusively green infrastructure, so supportive of a land use WG that will help these approaches be applied accurately.
  - Will provide a member for the WG.
- Sarah Diebel – Consideration of federal facility roles in this effort?
  - Goulet: Yes. Army Corps has already raised this issue. DOD and other federal facilities need to be involved and provide input.
    - Currently working to get Army Corps presentation scheduled in the near future for WTWG and (if it is formed) LUWG.
- Merrill – Collaborative work key to identifying and resolving land data set issues.
  - May not be a single individual from each jurisdiction. If needed, more members can be recruited.
  - Had considered if an existing workgroup could take on this work; however, limited capacity within existing WGs.
    - Convinced the formation of the LUWG is a necessary, though mindful of number of existing WGs and demands on members.
  - Objections to the formation of the LUWG?
    - Currey: No objections. Very supportive and believes this is a priority as it impacts results of Watershed Model. Very important to local and federal stakeholders.

**DECISION:** WQGIT membership approved without dissent the formation of the Land Use Workgroup.

**ACTION:** Co-Chairs of Land Use Workgroup: Karl Berger (MWCOC), Jenny Tribo (HRPDC)

**ACTION:** Send LUWG member nominations to [Jeremy Hanson](#) by 7/30/12. Members don't have to be experts in all aspects of land use and land cover; expertise in one area is an asset.

Request for Approval: Decision Framework - Adaptive Management Document – Scott Phillips and Greg Allen

- See presentation [WQGIT Decision Framework Revisions](#)

- For additional detail, see full document [Applying the Decision Framework to the Bay TMDL Draft 7.10.12 Updated](#)

Phillips – Presentation purpose: show that all comments were addressed, then, if membership is satisfied with the revised document, vote to adopt the Decision Framework.

- Buckley – Appreciates revision to document in light of her comments.

Greg Allen – These documents will help us to implement logic model that clarifies explanations of actions and purposes across GITs, guide decisions, and track progress.

- Specifically, Chesapeake Stat platform will be used to tell the performance frameworks story. Framework will inform what goes up on Chesapeake Stat.
- As needed, Decision Framework reviewed, adapted, and updated over time (living document).
  - Want to report back to WQGIT on a regular basis on next steps and how using this Decision Framework information.
- Workgroup Decision Frameworks will become more specific, particularly for factors affecting source sectors.
  - Currently, AgWG, USWG, WWTWG have fairly broad draft documents. Working to identify unique factors, specify mid-level strategies and will revise draft documents with more specific approaches.

*Discussion:*

- Merrill – This is a process being implemented throughout all GITs and is a major discussion topic at the Management Board level. From perspective of midpoint assessment as well as WQGIT activity, embodies many the principles and concepts of Decision Framework. Feels that WQGIT already embraces this approach.
  - Any objections regarding the Decision Framework paper?
    - Buckley – No objections, but complete sentence on p6 before sending on to Management Board.

**ACTION:** Sentence on pg. 6 of Decision Framework document (“In addition to the support of management practice implementation...BMP operation and.”) will be completed prior to submission to Management Board.

**DECISION:** No objections to Decision Framework document. WQGIT adopts Decision Framework document (w/ p6 sentence completed).

Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Update – Gary Shenk

- See [Modeling Updates](#)
- Merrill – Per the June WQGIT call and earlier, discussion of fall meeting and requests for input. Hopefully will send specific input requests and key action dates soon.

*Discussion:*

- Entringer – Can NY be a part of the urban fertilizer expert panel?
  - Goulet: Solicited members from each jurisdiction. Contact Tom Schueler and will work to get this member up to speed.
- Currey – Is WWTWG doing a panel on the effect of high flow events on WWTP concentrations and loads?
  - Shenk and Antos – No, next step for this would be for Wastewater Workgroup to propose such a panel.
- Burrell – Can DC participate on the IDDE panel?
  - Shenk – Just started today, so should contact Tom Schueler

**ACTION:** The Chesapeake Stat link to BMP panel information and contact information for coordinators leading the panels will be sent to the WQGIT.

- Marel Raub – Estimates of when final products from the Model Lab Team will be available? And will the final products include a report or recommendation?
  - Shenk – Will be recommendations to the Management Board; timeframe in early 2013.
- Merrill – Information regarding face-to-face meeting:
  - Most likely dates are Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> (starting mid-day) and Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please hold these dates.
  - Location: Asking WQGIT members for suggestions. If no suggestions by COB Tuesday 7/17, will move forward with reservations in the DC, Baltimore area as those are central locations.
  - An ad hoc planning group has been formed to guide and prioritize the modeling and data input refinement requests.

**ACTION:** If any other individuals are interested in participating in the Face-to-Face Meeting Ad Hoc group, please contact [Molly Harrington](#).

Draft Workplan of the Trading and Offsets Workgroup – Evan Branosky

- See [TOWG Presentation](#); for additional details see [TOWG Workplan 05-16-12](#) and [EPA Trading and Offset Workplan 05-15-12](#).
- Recent, significant changes to TOWG workplan in light of discussions w/ EPA, so this presentation is very timely.
- List of key issues developed through partner input, guided workplan structure.
  - Key issues include: stormwater, structure of offset programs, MS4 issues, Appendix X of TMDL; trading ratios.
- EPA internal trading and offset guidelines were developed for compliance and to provide guidance, potentially establish minimum standards for programs.
- 6/25 meeting between TOWG and EPA to better coordinate and support efforts.
  - Revising both workplans based on feedback from this meeting.
  - Role of TOWG changing from providing a forum for information exchange to providing technical feedback on EPA technical memorandums.
  - Proposes establishing subcommittees to focus TOWG-EPA collaboration.

*Discussion:*

- Helen Stewart: What happens if state submits trading proposal that isn't consistent with technical memorandum?

**ACTION:** Larry Merrill will contact EPA colleagues working on trading and offsets and have them follow up with Helen Stewart regarding the need for state trading proposals consistency with EPA technical memorandum.

**ACTION:** Evan Branosky will share final TOWG workplan with WQGIT

**ACTION:** WQGIT members will contact Evan Branosky with additional topics they would like the TOWG to address.

Update on BMP Verification – Rich Batiuk

- See [BMP Verification Update](#).

**ACTION:** WQGIT members will send nominations to [Andra Popa](#) for the BMP Verification Review Panel by Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Two requests for WQGIT input:
  - 1) As historical database clean-up options are outside the original charge of the BMP Verification Committee, is it acceptable to charge this responsibility to the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)?
  - 2) Do WQGIT members feel they have sufficient access to BMP verification processes and progress?

**ACTION:** WQGIT charging WTWG with looking at data cleanup issue, rather than charging to Verification Subcommittee.

- Expanding on question 2, are there other things that the WQGIT needs to see in advance before being presented with the full verification package after the 9/12 Verification meeting?
  - Buckley – Concerned that protocol is draft, but workgroups are using for final direction.
    - Particularly concerned with Principle 2 regarding scientific defensibility of verification methods.
    - Concerned that the Ag WG’s approach for assigning confidence in a collection methodology is not scientific. PA will be asking them to slow down on progressing with finalizing the document until scientifically defensible methods established.
    - Batiuk: Difficult to move all these pieces in tandem, especially because this is a new process. Will proceed with much back and forth interaction between the source sector workgroups and the BMP Verification Committee.
  - Buckley – AgWG needs to be told to slow down on developing verification approaches because level of rigor is not sufficient.
    - Batiuk – Need to continue current pace as many jurisdictions have requested speed in process. However, concerns will be addressed.
  - Buckley – Concerned that Verification and Ag WGs are meeting at the same time, which is also the same time as an EPA CAFO meeting.
    - Batiuk – Workgroup and Subcommittee meetings set some time back.
    - Dubin – AgWG agenda has been revised to allow for members to participate in both meetings.
    - Buckley – States are very concerned about receiving full credit for verification efforts.
  - Davis-Martin – Important to keep Verification Subcommittee activities focused through this multi-step process.
    - Merrill – Ambitious plan of the BMP Verification Committee.
      - Be sure to clarify logistics and discuss concerns at the next committee meeting.
  - Davis-Martin – What is driving the verification time schedule?
    - Batiuk – Time schedule had been even more aggressive. Jurisdictions requesting completion within Milestones schedule, attempting to allow credit for verified non-cost share practices.
  - Merrill – Plan for an August update that will put the Verification Committee’s work in context, discuss workgroup involvement, and address concerns voiced today.

- Davis-Martin – Believes this is an overstep for the deliverables described.
  - Recommends slowing process to ensure progressing towards intended deliverables, rather than a different product.

**Next WQGIT Conference Call:**

Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M

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