

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2012 CONFERENCE CALL

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

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

ACTION ITEMS & DECISIONS

ACTION: Molly Harrington will send updates by 9/11 from the 9/10 conference call, including reservation instructions for the October face-to-face meeting.

DECISION: Approval to share the draft Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles during the September 13th Management Board meeting.

ACTION: Provide any comments on ChesapeakeStat (ChesStat) mockups to Doreen Vetter (Vetter.Doreen@epamail.epa.gov), Katherine Antos (Antos.Katherine@epamail.epa.gov), and Molly Harrington (mharrington@chesapeakebay.net) by COB Monday, 9/17.

ACTION: Doreen Vetter will follow up with Suzanne Trevena and Milestones Workgroup regarding the labeling of the 2013 bar on TMDL information graphics.

ACTION: WQGIT members to provide comments on draft BMP Verification Principles document by Monday, September 24th.

DECISION: Approval to share the draft BMP Verification Principles during the September 13th Management Board meeting.

MINUTES

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

- Next conference call will be held on Monday, September 24th. This additional call is necessary for the development of the October 22-23 face-to-face meeting agenda.
 - Following conference call will occur on Tuesday, October 9th.
- Will send out updates after today's call, including information for making reservations at Liberty Mountain Conference Center.

ACTION: Molly Harrington will send updates by 9/11 from the 9/10 conference call, including reservation instructions for the October face-to-face meeting.

- Please note [CBP Modeling Update](#) document posted to the website.
- Continuing work on the Urban Stormwater Panel Reports
 - Acknowledges PA, VADCR, and WV's review and comments.
 - WV identified an error that has now been corrected.
 - Continuing to work with PA and VA to resolve remaining issues.
 - Hope to bring the modified reports to the 9/24 WQGIT conference call for approval decision.
- WQGIT Ad-Hoc Planning Team will hold conference calls on 9/11 and 9/21 to begin framing an agenda from the received input on midpoint assessment topics.
 - Plan to present a preliminary draft October meeting agenda for the 9/24 call.

Other Member Updates

- **Phillips:** Sent a link to new USGS report on sediment loads from Susquehanna River and influence of Conowingo Reservoir.
 - The report is posted at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5185/>.

Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles – Larry Merrill

- See [Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles Draft \(9 10 12\)](#) document.

- Expect a multi-layer review of the guiding principles with final action item likely occurring at the Winter 2013 Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) meeting.
 - Guiding principles will likely remain as draft through the October WQGIT meeting, but will still aid in framing the agenda and work of the face-to-face meeting.
- Received much valuable feedback on the document from the WQGIT. Input was considered and incorporated into the 9/10 Guiding Principles document.
- Comparison of 8/13 Guiding Principles document to 9/10 iteration.
 - 9/10 Principle 1 reflects combination of 8/13 Principles 1 and 2.
 - 9/10 Principle 2 is derived from language of a commenter and portions of 8/13 Principle 3.
 - 9/10 Principles 3 and 4 remained largely the same as the 8/13 Principles 3 and 4.
 - 9/10 Principle 5 captures adaptive management concepts and provides wrap up.
- Received fair amount of input regarding the need to specify midpoint assessment schedule.
 - Provided concepts on pg 1 of document, but will add more specificity in the future as process is worked through. Possibly address this in greater detail during the October meeting.
- Next Steps:
 - Larry will be presenting these principles to the Management Board this Thursday, September 13th.
 - After that, Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin will likely introduce these principles to the PSC. Objective is to have the PSC finalize this winter.
- Emphasizes that this document will remain draft for some time, so continue to provide comments now and into the future.

Discussion:

- **Buckley:** Concern with language in fourth paragraph on page 1. Partnership didn't endorse accountability framework, including federal actions. Strike either "endorse" or "federal actions."
- **Entringer:** Need to clarify EPA actions. What is EPA going to do to reduce loads?
- **Koon:** WV has expressed concern regarding ensuring equitable methodologies for changes to Phase III Planning Targets. Principle 5 (or elsewhere) should include something about need to revisit allocation methodology.
 - **Merrill:** This could possibly be addressed during determining the specific schedule for the midpoint assessment process.
 - Suggests sending proposed language additions or changes in written form.
- **Keeling:** Principle 1 refers to stability; however, later principles talk about changes. Doesn't this conflict?
 - **Merrill:** No because referring to two different timeframes.
 - Principle 1: Focus on implementation and getting to 2017 through key benchmarks, milestones, and supporting tracking and reporting processes.
 - Later Principles (including 5, where adaptive management featured): Refers to time period after midpoint assessment (e.g., post-2017) to make adjustments, adapt to change, and update tools to reach 2025 goals.
 - **Keeling:** Could we use a word(s) other than "stable"?
- **Keeling:** Is the WQGIT being asked to approve the document as final, or still draft?
 - **Merrill:** Requesting approval to continue moving forward, including sharing with Management Board and planning for WQGIT face-to-face.
- **Raub:** Current Principles document emphasizes the priority of implementation and incorporating new tools. However, does not see language about implementation tools (e.g., new BMPs, other practices).
 - **Merrill:** Agrees with this in principle; this may have been lost while trying to produce a concise document. Will try to state more explicitly.
 - **Keeling:** Possibly add to Principle 4 (e.g., accounting for innovative, new technologies).

- **Baxter:** How will this document be used for governance? How does it affect what WQGIT is going to do?
 - **Merrill:** Similar document in 2008 used to initiate and guide TMDL work. Now that we're moving back into implementation/evaluation mode, would be helpful to have basic, consensus-based points that could guide and direct midpoint assessment process.
 - Document helps to craft and organize feedback on October meeting topics into an agenda.
 - Principles provide a platform of agreed-upon principles for midpoint assessment work.
- **Baxter:** Recommends including language recognizing that change is inevitable and that this document is subject to change accordingly.
- **Merrill:** Following Management Board meeting and Ad-Hoc calls, the WQGIT will be kept informed of changes to the document and comments will still be accepted.

DECISION: Approval to share the draft Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles during the September 13th Management Board meeting.

Midpoint Assessment Feedback – Larry Merrill

- See document: [Draft Summary of Midpoint Assessment Input](#).
- Document summarizes the common themes from the 34 pages of verbatim input received from workgroups and other partners.
 - Ad Hoc members asked for condensed summary of input themes to aid in development of October meeting agenda.
- Organization of WQGIT Workgroups sets us up to handle a lot of this. For example, recent formation of Land Use Workgroup can address and handle land use topics identified.
 - WQGIT Workgroups and Modeling Workgroup have been asked to determine their top priorities by mid-September to continue determining most pertinent topics for October meeting agenda.

Discussion:

- No comments from the WQGIT on the summarized common themes document.

ChesapeakeStat Presentation of Phase II WIP and CBP Model Phase 5.3.2 Information, Load Data Visualized – Doreen Vetter

- See document: [ChesapeakeStat 5.3.2 Mockups](#).

ACTION: Provide any comments on ChesapeakeStat (ChesStat) mockups to Doreen Vetter (Vetter.Doreen@epamail.epa.gov), Katherine Antos (Antos.Katherine@epamail.epa.gov), and Molly Harrington (mharrington@chesapeakebay.net) by COB Monday, 9/17.

- **George:** 2013 bar doesn't represent MD's milestone commitment.
 - Bar shows 2013 projection or scenario; therefore, more discussion needed with Milestone Workgroup for how to evaluate commitments.
 - Milestone Workgroup needs to revisit language and implications (e.g., weather affects WWTP loads so therefore loads may be higher or lower in any given year).
 - **Koon:** WV has similar nuances, though can't remember exactly what they were.
 - **Sylvester:** In Milestone documents, used language "2013 Target" or "2013 Milestone," rather than 2013 Commitment.

ACTION: Doreen Vetter will follow up with Suzanne Trevena and Milestones Workgroup regarding the labeling of the 2013 bar on TMDL information graphics.

- **Spano:** Assumption that BMPs implemented expected to achieve reductions, but how is lag time reflected? Is there a method to explain that water quality results are not instantaneous?
 - **Vetter:** Caveat currently at bottom of the graphics; however, possible to add more information by including a "click to read more" link.

- **Keeling:** If using model outputs, means its BMPs credited rather than BMPs reported. Notes difference between the two.
- **Currey:** Delivered loads are displayed; this should be clarified.
 - 2013 loads are projections based on hydrologic conditions. Explain average hydrologic period for sources other than wastewater to avoid miscommunication.
 - **Keeling:** Agrees. State the 10 year average period.
 - **Spano:** Suggests providing a link to explanation of hydrologic periods.
- **Antos:** Have similar explanations in Reducing Pollution Indicator Analysis and Methods documentation. Will work with Doreen to build this into ChesStat and/or link to the same explanation.
 - **Sylvester:** Will send this information to Doreen.
- **Phillips:** Suggest also using the language from the Decision Framework, which talked about the different ways to track progress (e.g., simulating effect of BMPs vs. flow-adjusted loads).
- **Currey:** What is the distinction between Phase II WIPs and Bay TMDL allocations?
 - **Antos:** Phase II WIP planning targets are based on 1) Ph 5.3.2 rather than Ph 5.3.0; and 2) Phase II WIPs rather than Phase I WIPs.
- **Buckley:** Why display Bay TMDL allocation, given that now working towards Phase II WIP planning targets?
 - **Antos:** Receive many questions from the partners and public regarding the 2010 TMDL numbers and relation to Phase II WIPs
 - BayTAS is tracking TMDL; therefore, need to show the original TMDL allocations. The TMDL has not been revised, so those are the TMDL allocations. However, the Phase II WIP planning targets are now how we are representing that level of effort.
 - **Vetter:** Suggest making the Phase II WIP planning targets the default view instead of the TMDL allocations. Alternatively, could evaluate separating the two views, but would need to think through more carefully where on ChesStat the TMDL Allocation information would reside.
 - **Buckley:** Clearly explain Phase II WIP planning targets are what partners are being evaluated against to reduce confusion.
 - **Vetter:** Include a link or describe below how went from Bay TMDL to Phase II WIP planning targets.
- **Vetter:** Will evaluate how to incorporate comments within timeframe.
 - Objective is to release in early November.

ChesapeakeStat Presentation of Phase II WIP and CBP Model Phase 5.3.2 Information, Facility Mockups and Future Visualizations – Doreen Vetter

- **Buckley:** Has this information/graphic representation been shared with the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)?
 - **Vetter:** No, this has not been shared with Workgroups.
 - **Spano:** Will include in next WWTWG meeting.
- **Spano:** Per WWTWG comments, concern that non-significants listed as a future visualization. Including this and the other NPDES information could be very difficult to incorporate.
 - This may detract from implementation efforts.
 - **Vetter:** Agrees, notes this is just under consideration. Would want to know where does this data come from, what does it represent, how often is this updated.
 - **Spano:** Also, note who is asking for the information.
 - **Buckley:** Concurs with MWCOG's concerns. Significant staff resources would be needed to review this data.
- **Spano:** Language "Permit consistent w/ TMDL" begs the question, what about the permits that are inconsistent with the TMDL? What this means is different across states.

- WWTWG would need to evaluate whether information in BayTAS is consistent with how states are reporting this information.
- **Vetter:** Welcomes comments and suggestions for clarifying language, presentation, and other ideas.
- **Vetter:** Future Data Visualization refers to the fact that right now the TMDL is only going into detail for one sector, but the TMDL addresses many sectors.
 - Requests partners to suggest types of data and information that would be useful to represent.
 - **Buckley:** States should not be required to report anything beyond what is required by regulation.

BMP Verification Review of Draft Principles – Rich Batiuk

- See document: [Revised Draft BMP Verification Principles](#)
 - To view changes from earlier document version, see: [Revised Draft BMP Verification Principles \(illustrating changes made\)](#).
- The BMP Verification Principles will be used to: guide efforts of WQGIT Workgroups and Habitats GIT on verification work; aid states in developing verification programs; and, guide the work of the BMP Verification Review Panel.
- Seeking feedback from WQGIT on this draft and concurrence to share the document with the BMP Review Panel and with the Management Board at its September 13th meeting.
 - The BMP Verification Committee is requesting approval of proposed BMP Review Panel membership during the 9/13 Management Board meeting. Plan to share draft principles document with Panel after convening, likely in October time period.

ACTION: WQGIT members to provide comments to Rich Batiuk on draft BMP Verification Principles document by Monday, September 24th.

- After receiving comments, CBPO staff will revise the draft principles to address the received comments, share the revised draft principles with the BMP Verification Committee, and then with the BMP Review Panel when convened.
 - After the BMP Review Panel's review, the BMP Verification Committee will present the revised verification principles to the WQGIT, the Management Board, and eventually to the PSC in January 2013 for final approval.

DECISION: Approval to share the draft BMP Verification Principles with the Management Board during its September 13th meeting and with the BMP Verification Review Panel when convened in October.

Upcoming WQGIT Schedule Recap – Larry Merrill

- Ad-Hoc Planning Team: 9/11 and 9/21
- WQGIT Conference Call: 9/24, 10/9
- WQGIT Meeting: 10/22-23

Next WQGIT Conference Call:

Monday, September 24th, 2012
1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M

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