



# Data Integrity Workgroup

## Conference Call

January 7, 2015

1 PM – 4PM

Meeting Webpage: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22270/>

### ACTION ITEMS

- If you have any questions or concerns about the newly drafted [DI 2015 Workplan](#) please contact DIWG Leadership, comments to Mary Ellen Ley and Bruce Michael by January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Investigate habitat monitoring programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. (i.e. field ecology group in DE involved in habitat assessments)
- Investigate USGS reference sample methods for sample collection/distribution for the next DIWG Meeting. (Lea)

## MINUTES

### **Welcome, Introductions** (*Bruce Michael – Chair, MDNR*)

Meeting participants made their introductions. See list of meeting participants below.

### **Announcements** (*All Participants*)

- The workgroup formally known as the Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup (AMQAW) will now be called the Data Integrity Workgroup (DIWG). Additionally, the DIWG will have expanded responsibilities based on the science needs of the Bay Program Partnership in response to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- [STAR Business Meeting](#) – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015
  - At this meeting STAR will review all 2015 workplans for STAR Workgroups, which includes the DIWG.
- The **EPA Citizen Science Project Grant** was awarded to the Virginia Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. This project supports the integration of citizen science water quality data into the current

Chesapeake Bay Program monitoring dataset, for different levels of utility. Anna Mathis from the Alliance is the grant manager and will be a member of the DI Workgroup.

- Peter Tango announced the status of funding and monitoring grants for FY15
  - The Bay Program Office will maintain the same level of funding for FY15 as in FY14, which is \$4,827,300 for both tidal and non-tidal water quality monitoring.
  - EPA has asked that all nontidal network monitoring partners transition to 117(e) grants. This means that all EPA funding is subject to a 50% match. Concerns about what is considered as match will be addressed by Peter Tango on an as needed basis.
  - The SRBC monitoring grant functions differently in the respect that competition is not required for 117(e) grants going to the state agencies. To ensure continuity of Susquehanna River sampling, the Bay Program is looking for alternative funding mechanisms to the SRBC.
  - It is important to include the cost of developing QA plans for match programing in grant applications.
- [Mark J. Belton Sworn in as DNR Secretary](#) – March 20, 2015

**Update on MD/PA Nontidal inter-laboratory comparison between PADEP Bureau of Labs and DHMH** (*Bruce Michael – Chair, MDNR & Peter Tango, USGS/CBPO*)

Six sites historically monitored by PADEP will now be monitored by MDNR. EPA has approved a \$9K budget for a comparison study of PADEP and MDNR field and lab methodologies. It has been difficult to get a contract between the PADEP lab and MDNR to pay for the testing. Hopefully it will get resolved.

**Workplan and Priorities for 2015** (*Bruce Michael – Chair, MDNR & Mary Ellen Ley - Coordinator, USGS/CBPO*)

**ACTION:** If you have any questions or concerns about the newly drafted [DI 2015 Workplan](#) please contact DIWG Leadership, comments to Mary Ellen Ley and Bruce Michael by January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**2015 Workplan Discussion:**

- After examining the six PADEP stations soon to be sampled by MDNR, it was made clear that the sampling methodology varies by state. Therefore, the workgroup proposed a formal audit process is needed to ensure conformance with CBP sampling procedures and comparability among sampling groups.
- It was also suggested that once citizen and non-traditional partner groups are brought into the Partnership, they should also be subject to the audits process.

- Due to limited resources, the group agreed that a peer-based process should be instituted. The following members volunteers to assist with the auditing of field methods:
  - Jennie Gunderson
  - Doug Moyer (Nontidal only)
  - Sally Bowen
  - Kristen Hyer
- The Workplan has an additional emphasis on habitat assessment methods, beyond typical water quality, due to the new Watershed Agreement. This is of particular interest to the Chesapeake watershed states (NY, WV, and DE).
  - **ACTION:** Investigate habitat monitoring programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. (i.e. field ecology group in DE involved in habitat assessments)
  - Start working on getting the correct people together to discuss these issues, methods for sampling parameters (i.e. macro invertebrates). Document and assess differences in methods among the major data providers.

#### **Mainstem and Tributary Coordinated Split Sample Program Presentations** *(Mike Mallonee, ICPRB/CBPO)*

- [Mainstem Results](#)
- [Tributary Results](#)
- Contact Mike Mallonee for inquiries about correcting results from the CSSP presentations.

#### **Submitting field blank results via DUET: Tidal & Nontidal** *(Mike Mallonee, ICPRB/CBPO)*

##### [DUET Update](#)

Mike recommended that the data providers submit field blanks (FBs) to the DUET WQ\_QA/QC Table with all other QA/QC data records. Currently, FBs are reported with WQ data and adversely affect the DUET QC check against a parameter's historical low range, i.e., the p-01 check. FB data will be copied to the Bias Archive Table and for internal use; it will not be available to the public through the CEDR.

The entire database (i.e. living resources and WQ) is currently undergoing a major upgrade. Therefore expect a 2-week black-out period in late February or early March, with a final roll-out in early March.

#### **USGS Reference Sample Results – Fall 2014** *(Lea Rubin, CRC/CBPO)*

Can be downloaded from the [Meeting Webpage](#).

#### **Discussion:**

- Possible corrected values for Low Concentration Orthophosphate from DCLS.

- An observation about this round of USGS reference samples is that the low concentrations and high concentrations of compounds seem flipped.
  - **ACTION:** Investigate USGS reference sample methods for sample collection/distribution for the next DIWG Meeting. (Lea)
- For analysis, the low concentration samples are diluted (10X) and high concentration samples are analyzed straight from the bottle (no dilution).

**Update on the Conowingo Dam Enhanced Monitoring** (*Bruce Michael – Chair, MDNR*)

Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment (LSRWA) report went out for public comment period. More information can be found on the [project website](#). The Chesapeake Bay Program also released a [Bay 101: Conowingo Dam Video](#) to discuss the issues surrounding the Conowingo Dam.

**Next DIWG Meeting – [April 14, 2015](#)**

Leadership	Affiliation	Email
Bruce Michael (Co-Chair)	MDNR	<a href="mailto:Bruce.Michael@maryland.gov">Bruce.Michael@maryland.gov</a>
Cindy Johnson (Co-Chair)	VA DEQ	<a href="mailto:csjohnson@deq.virginia.gov">csjohnson@deq.virginia.gov</a>
Mary Ellen Ley (Coordinator)	USGS/CBPO	<a href="mailto:mley@chesapeakebay.net">mley@chesapeakebay.net</a>
Lea Rubin (Monitoring Staff)	CRC/CBPO	<a href="mailto:lrubin@chesapeakebay.net">lrubin@chesapeakebay.net</a>

Meeting Participants	Affiliation	Email
Ben Pressly	DNREC	<a href="mailto:ben.pressly@state.de.us">ben.pressly@state.de.us</a>
Betty Neilkirk	VIMS	<a href="mailto:betty@vims.edu">betty@vims.edu</a>
Dongmei Wang	OWML	<a href="mailto:dongmei@vt.edu">dongmei@vt.edu</a>
Doug Moyer	USGS	<a href="mailto:dlmoyer@usgs.gov">dlmoyer@usgs.gov</a>
Heather Wright	ODU	<a href="mailto:hcrow@odu.edu">hcrow@odu.edu</a>
Jay Armstrong	DCLS	<a href="mailto:jay.armstrong@dgs.virginia.gov">jay.armstrong@dgs.virginia.gov</a>
Jennifer Gundersen	EPA/CBPO	<a href="mailto:gundersen.jennifer@epa.gov">gundersen.jennifer@epa.gov</a>
Jerry Frank	CBL	<a href="mailto:frank@cbl.umces.edu">frank@cbl.umces.edu</a>
Kathy Wood	CBL	<a href="mailto:wood@umces.edu">wood@umces.edu</a>
Kevin McGonigal	SRBC	<a href="mailto:kmcgonigal@srbc.net">kmcgonigal@srbc.net</a>
Kevin Minga	ODU	<a href="mailto:KMinga@odu.edu">KMinga@odu.edu</a>
Kristen Heyer	MD DNR	<a href="mailto:Kristen.Heyer@mayland.gov">Kristen.Heyer@mayland.gov</a>
Lori Ann Tew	ODU	<a href="mailto:ldelaros@odu.edu">ldelaros@odu.edu</a>
Marian Norris	NPS	<a href="mailto:Marian_Norris@nps.gov">Marian_Norris@nps.gov</a>
Mike Mallonee	ICPRB/CBPO	<a href="mailto:mmallone@chesapeakebay.net">mmallone@chesapeakebay.net</a>
Peter Tango	USGS	<a href="mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net">ptango@chesapeakebay.net</a>
Sally Bowen	MD DNR	<a href="mailto:sbowen@dnr.state.md.us">sbowen@dnr.state.md.us</a>