



Tidal Monitoring and Analysis Workgroup

Friday, June 14, 2013

Conference Call

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Meeting Calendar:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/19520/>

MEETING MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: To inform the Tidal Monitoring and Analysis Workgroup (TMAW) about the FY13 funding shortfall. TMAW will be asked to develop short-term recommendations at the next TMAW meeting for presentation to STAR.

ACTION ITEMS:

- A written commitment to the data providers that the contract will be renewed and pre-award costs will be covered by EPA funding. (*P. Tango*)
 - Provide updates to the workgroups regularly; keep the community Informed. (*P. Tango*)
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LEADERSHIP:

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PRESENTERS:

Peter Tango	USGS	ptango@chesapeakebay.net
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Welcome, introductions, announcements – W. Boynton, Chair (UMCES-CBL)

- UCAT Session III: Instantaneous Minimum Workshop, October 7, 2013, USGS Baltimore Science Center
- Lessons Learned Brochure – available for Workgroup review
 - Comments can be directed at Christina Lyerly (clyerly@ca.umces.edu) by June 28th.

Monitoring Budget Update – P. Tango (USGS-CBPO)

[Attachment: P. Tango – Monitoring Budget Update](#)

P. Tango highlighted the issues as they relate to short- and long-term budget cuts. The Chesapeake Bay Programs Leadership has challenged STAR's Tidal and Nontidal Workgroups to develop options for temporary adjustments to the monitoring networks to align with the available 2013 funding, which will subsequently be presented to STAR, the WQGIT and MB for final decisions. Currently the workgroups are working off an unknown amount of cuts to the monitoring program, though a \$1.2M reduction is estimated at this point (including tidal, nontidal, SAV aerial survey and BIBI)

Discussion of Program Reprioritization – Facilitated by W. Boynton (UMCES-CBL) and P. Tango (USGS-CBPO)

- How much of the \$1.2M is the tidal monitoring program expected to cut at this time?
 - Approximately \$200K
- One of the greatest challenges to the current monitoring program is the lack of funding to support data analysis, interpretation and synthesis, which directly feed into the Partnership's management needs and objectives (e.g., The Lessons Learned Report)
- The 2013 fiscal year will begin on July 1 – are the monitoring programs able to continue with the commitment of receiving back funds when the funding cuts are resolved?
 - The data providers are instructed to sustain monitoring while decisions are being made.
 - There is pre-award cost coverage for a 90 day window during the transitional period between FY12 and FY13, to maintain the monitoring program while undergoing the budget decision process.

ACTION: A written commitment to the data providers that the contract will be renewed and pre-award costs will be covered by EPA funding. (*P. Tango*)

- The long-term decision process will take about 6-9 months.
- *Concern:* The counties are funding Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) that are very costly. The WIP's are based on the recommendations and guidance from the Chesapeake Bay Program monitoring of tidal and nontidal waters. The monitoring program is being reduced to an almost non-operational level and won't be able to provide the guidance that the CBP Partnership is committed to.
- With reductions of the monitoring programs, there are thresholds at which the program will become unsustainable (i.e., personnel, quality data)
- States are encouraged to explore additional state funding opportunities to help fill budget gap for FY13.
- Moving forward we need to develop an integrated monitoring strategy that addresses the budget issue(s) as a whole.
- **Recommendations from Maryland and Virginia for possible cuts to the network for FY13 will be requested at the July 10th TMAW Meeting.**
- STAR will provide guidance for an integrated funding strategy to maintain operational Tidal and Nontidal Monitoring networks.

STAC's role in the process will be to provide guidance similar to that which was provided during the MRAT process. They will weigh in and assist in the identification of management priorities.

ACTION: Provide updates to the workgroups regularly; keep the community informed. (*P. Tango*)

Recap of 2009 Monitoring Realignment Action Team (MRAT) Efforts and Conclusions – P. Tango (USGS-CBPO)

[Attachment: MRAT Final Report 2009](#)

For a recap of the 2009 MRAT recommendations presented to the Management Board on November 10, 2009, please find background information and supplemental materials, on the Chesapeake Bay Program meeting calendar entry found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/13533/>.