

Path ahead for Phase 7

A focus on the WQGIT and associated workgroups & decision points needed to meet our timeline for Watershed Model and CAST

Other tasks – optimization, estuarine modeling, Criteria Assessment and 4D interpolator – are not included here

WQGIT

JUNE 23, 2025

Phase 7 Decisions for the WQGIT

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- The WQGIT can take up workgroup decisions if requested, but we cannot repeat all discussions or decisions
- **If the partnership cannot agree on new methods by the deadline(s), then existing Phase 6 methods are carried forward (inputs, BMPs, et al)**
- Overarching land use, scale, or BMP decisions come to the WQGIT, for example:
 - River segmentation
 - Land Use aggregation
 - Phase 7 CAST land uses
 - Agroforestry EPEG recommendations
 - Urban Nutrient Management updates

Phase 7 decisions for workgroups

On track for decisions by existing September 30 deadline unless otherwise indicated

Expected month for decision provided here

NOT LISTED = STAR Workgroups, including Modeling Workgroup and Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup

Purple font = more than one group involved, listed for each group

Phase 7 decisions for Watershed Technical Workgroup

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Construction acres (reconciling reported and mapped acres)- August
- Agroforestry EPEG recommendations- August
- Urban nutrient management updates- September
- Upland reductions for non-exclusion buffers- August
- Phase 7 CAST land uses- September
- Cover Crop Excess Model Process Update- August
- Animal BMP Changes (Tentative)- TBD

Phase 7 decisions for Urban Stormwater Workgroup

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Urban nutrient management - September
- Construction acres (reconciling reported and mapped acres) - August

Already completed: Solar fields, Review of MS4 areas

Phase 7 decisions for Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Exfiltration - July
- SSOs - August
- CSOs - August
- Boat pump outs - August
- Methods to estimate septic counts and population on septic - July
- Map of sewer service areas and methods to estimate population on sewer - July

Already completed: Non-sig facilities

Phase 7 decisions for Land Use Workgroup

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Land use back-cast (1985-2012) methods- June
- Final approval of Land Use/Land Cover aggregation to Phase 7
Land Use- September

Phase 7 decisions for Forestry Workgroup

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Agroforestry EPEG recommendations

Phase 7 decisions for Agriculture Workgroup

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Agroforestry EPEG recommendations- August

Phase 7 decisions for Ag Modeling Team (AMT), ongoing and post-September

- Technical decisions on inputs/methods decided at workgroup level, where the relevant expertise is greatest
- Ongoing deliberations between now and September 30 include:
 - Inorganic Fertilizer- July /September
 - BMP Excess – July
 - Land Use Loading Rate Ratios for Managed Hay and Pasture- July
 - Animal Population Data – September
 - Broiler Nutrient Updates- September
- Items proposed for extension post-September:
 - Layer population data (Hillandale) and incorporation concerns
 - Broiler population, litter tonnage & nutrient concentrations
 - Inorganic fertilizer data

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- Overarching land use, scale, or BMP decisions come to the WQGIT, for example:
 - River segmentation (today)
 - Land Use aggregation (August)
 - Phase 7 CAST land uses (August)
 - Agroforestry EPEG recommendations (August)
 - Urban Nutrient Management updates (September)

Scoping out our calendar (for feedback)

	June	July	August	September	Post-September
<i>Theme...</i>	<i>Mostly updates, discussion and planning</i>	<i>Fill in gaps and set the stage</i>	<i>Decisions, part 1</i> <i>+ office hours?</i>	<i>Decisions, as needed</i> <i>+ office hours?</i> <i>Extended hybrid meeting?</i>	<i>Everything else</i>
<i>Items...</i>	Planning and outlook items Recs to PSC on timeline extension? Decision point: River segmentation	Substantive updates on topics of greatest interest (schedule additional session of “office hours?”)	Decision Points: -Land Use aggregation classes -CAST land uses -AgroForestry EPEG	-Urban nutrient management Reserve for lingering decision points (do we schedule a 2 nd meeting?)	“Year of review”
	<i>Non-model topics, time allowing</i>				
<i>Possible items...</i>		TBD	TBD	Tiered targets? Beyond 2025 updates post-public feedback	Continue tiered targets, Bigger picture topics of interest ¹³

Still TBD post-development

- The “year of review” ...and everything that comes after
- Developing targets or tiered targets

Our current language in the draft Agreement revisions of “by December 2028” and “by December 2030” still provides reasonable time for all our work

Coming soon...

- Soon: Table mapping out workgroups and decisions between now and September 30
- One or more versions of the larger timeline from Phase 7 development through ~2030
- Longer term: retrospective list of decisions with links
- Other requests or suggestions?

Discussion questions for WQGIT

- What causes you the most heartburn? What practical steps would help reduce that?
 - E.g., a second meeting or extended meeting in September? (or August?)
Office hours or pre-briefs on upcoming decision items?
- Did we miss something major?
- Do you see unresolved problems with an extended timeline as currently proposed?
- What, if any, workgroup specific items do you think should also be considered at the WQGIT level? Why?