



**Minutes
Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)
Teleconference
Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Summary of Action and Decision Items

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the January meeting minutes.

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the draft charge and membership for the proposed Onsite Treatment Systems expert panel part III, which will address peat treatment systems, and low pressure drip dispersal systems.

DECISION: The WWTWG confirmed their membership.

DECISION: The WWTWG confirmed Tanya Spano (MWCOG) as Chair.

ACTION: WWTWG members should contact Tanya by COB Friday, February 5th with any fatal flaw comments on the toxics report that they would like her to raise to the WQGIT on February 8th.

ACTION: WWTWG members should come prepared to the March 1 conference call with additional updates on their data collection efforts.

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements—*Tanya Spano (Chair)*

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the January meeting minutes.

Onsite Treatment Systems Expert Panel Part 3 – Ning Zhou, VT

Vic D'Amato (Tetra Tech) and Ning presented the draft charge and membership for an expert panel to evaluate and determine a nutrient reduction efficiency for peat treatment systems, and a revised nutrient reduction efficiency for low pressure drip dispersal systems. The draft charge and membership were released to the CBP partnership for public comment on November 12, 2015 and no comments were received.

Discussion:

- Tanya Spano (MWCOG): When is the panel expected to be concluded? I would like to see that clarified.
 - Vic D'Amato (Tetra Tech): We are hoping to have the drip dispersal piece wrapped up in the next month or two, and the peat treatment systems after that. I would say the whole panel would be completed within the next 4-6 months.
 - Ning Zhou (VT, CBPO): We are hoping to have the report finished toward the beginning of August, with final partnership approval prior to the end of September.
- No further comments or concerns were raised.

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the draft charge and membership for the proposed Onsite Treatment Systems expert panel part III, which will address peat treatment systems, and low pressure drip dispersal systems.

WWTWG Membership – Tanya Spano, Chair

David Wood (CRC) reviewed the nominees for at-large WWTWG membership. Tanya Spano (MWCOG) was the only nomination received for at-large membership and no nominations were received for a vice-chair.

Discussion:

- Spano: Are there any concerns with only having 1 at-large member?
 - Allan Brockenbrough (VA DEQ): I don't have any problem with that, we can bring others experts in, as necessary.
 - Greg Busch (MDE): I don't have any concerns either.
- Spano: I propose that we make a call for decision on the membership as it stands now, but we can leave it open to other nominations in the future, if folks decide to submit them.
 - There was agreement with the proposed approach.
- Brockenbrough: I would like to ask that Matt Richardson (VA DEQ) be placed as the primary representative for Virginia.

DECISION: The WWTWG confirmed their membership.

DECISION: The WWTWG confirmed Tanya Spano (MWCOG) as Chair.

Toxic Contaminants from Wastewater Sources Memo – Tom Schueler, CSN

Tom presented the recently completed report on toxic contaminants generated from the agricultural and wastewater sectors, and the effect of BMPs and WWTP upgrades implemented for the Bay TMDL in reducing them.

Discussion:

- Spano: This was shared with the WWTWG in the end of December. I'm concerned with folks having enough time for review. What is the schedule for finalizing the report?
 - Schueler: The formal review process took place through the Toxic Contaminants Workgroup and that review period expired on January 29th. We have an informal agreement to present this to the WWTWG, AgWG and WQGIT as well. As folks review it, if there is something that you really object to, please don't hesitate to let me know. I'm not looking for track change comments, but certainly larger issues. By February 19th would be an ideal timeframe to get those in.
- Leif Foles (PA DEP): I notice that there are tables on page 13 of the report discussing data quality. Based on your literature review, do you recommend that more research be done on biogenic hormones and conservation tillage's impact on herbicides? Or do you feel there is sufficient research to make recommendations to farmers on how to apply the herbicides in the most productive way possible? I was hoping to get some information that would allow DEP to make recommendations to the farmers regarding the use of these herbicides.
 - Schueler: This report is not intended to be a policy report, but my recommendation is that we need to begin taking some of these toxins more seriously, rather than just focusing on nitrogen and phosphorus. With regards to conservation tillage, we need more research to look at what is happening with glyphosate in the environment, and its impacts on wildlife. I think the other place where more research is needed is on the impacts of the potential application of municipal biosolids with elevated biogenic hormone levels.

- Spano: One comment I have is that ultimate sources and antibiotic stewardship should have greater prominence in the report. Additionally, I am concerned with how the biosolids piece is presented, because they are inevitable, just like manure is for agriculture. I would like to take more time to review the report and provide feedback. MWCOG will be providing feedback about points that should be better emphasized.
- Schueler: Is the February 19th deadline enough time for feedback?
 - Spano: No, I think we need about another month.
 - Schueler: For this report, I can maybe extend until the end of February, but that would only be done as a courtesy. The contract for this project has concluded, so there would need to be discussions about funding for continued work. When I present to the WQGIT on Monday, I think there should be a discussion about messaging for these reports. I can't make any commitments in terms of extending the review period until I have some more discussions about resources.
- Spano: If folks scan the report, as a WWTWG member and you have any fatal flaws, please let me know by COB Friday so I can raise them at the WQGIT call on Monday.

ACTION: WWTWG members should contact Tanya by COB Friday, February 5th with any fatal flaw comments on the toxics report that they would like her to raise to the WQGIT on February 8th.

New Source Data Collection and Cleanup Update – Ning Zhou, VT

Jurisdictions were asked to provide updates on their data collection plan and efforts for the new sources, such as spray irrigation, rapid infiltration and large onsite systems.

Discussion:

- Rashid Ahmed (NYSDEC): My supervisor instructed us to provide him with the information. I am not sure if he got the final list that he can provide to you. I will check with him and let you know.
- Busch: We submitted most of our data but we are going through to QA/QC our spray irrigation data and hope to have that out soon. We are working with Karl Berger on biosolids application data. We are investigating some ways to get a real, simplified view of annual biosolids generation to see if that is possible. We only have one facility with monitored data for rapid infiltration, we will just submit that. I haven't investigated if there is any data to justify separating out large monitored onsite systems, though I doubt that there is.
- Zhou: If you do not have practices like the rapid infiltration basins or the large monitored onsite systems, please tell us, or we will keep waiting on the data.
- Angela Redwine (VDH): I will talk with Marcia Degen (VDH) to figure out the plan for getting large monitored onsite systems data. I don't think we have any rapid infiltration basins, but I am not entirely sure.
- Brockenbrough: For spray irrigation, we did that one time evaluation in the last year. We don't have that in a database we can mine, so we don't plan to continue that exercise going forward. We plan to use the loading rates from that one time effort moving forward as a default for the calibration and future progress runs. We feel it is a small load.
- Zhou: I will check with the other states offline, and we will return with a similar round of updates during the next call.

ACTION: WWTWG members should come prepared to the March 1 conference call with additional updates on their data collection efforts.

- Spano: Anything new to report on 2015 progress data collection?

- Zhou: We now have all 2015 data submitted to me on time. I just received Virginia and Blue Plains data on Friday, and I am still working on that. I am trying to get that over to the modelers today.
- Spano: For the Blue Plains data, we sent it to Mary Searing (DOEE), and Marya Levelev (MDE). Who should we send it to for Virginia?
 - Brockenbrough: To myself and Matt Richardson.
 - Busch: Please send it to me as well.
- Spano: The Blue Plains DMR came in late and when we split the allocations for Maryland and Virginia, it is based on flow data from the states. It will be several weeks before we get the flow data validated and can properly allocate the loads to Maryland and Virginia, so that is interim for now.
 - Jeff Sweeney (EPA, CBPO): In a perfect world, we would finish 2015 Progress this Friday, February 5th. Please keep Ning posted if you think it will take much longer than a week or so to finalize that data. Most of the data we received came in on December 1. Blue Plains and Virginia had an extension, but there is a lot that goes into Progress, so we have been working on it for a while and the schedule is tight for finishing up the 2015 Progress.
- Zhou: We are also doing 2017 milestones now, and Pennsylvania and Virginia have not sent any 2017 milestone input decks for the wastewater sector. Those states need to let me know their status.
 - Sweeney: It may just be a matter of telling us if you want to use 2015 milestones info, or 2015 Progress data. We just need to know what you plan to do.
 - Brockenbrough: I will get back to you to confirm.

Updates and other business

- Attenuation Panel Update
 - Waiting for a SPARROW model run to supplement the report. USGS usually runs the SPARROW model but they are booked. We have tried to bring that in house at CBPO, but they are going through a training process. Those results should be available by early March, then hopefully the panel report will be finished by the end of March.
- Boat discharge and pumpout panel
 - The WWTWG requested this as a task force, but the WQGIT asked for a full panel. We now have funding for the panel through Tetra Tech. We will likely convene the panel later this month or early next month.
- Biosolids Task Force Update
 - The membership has been finalized and the first conference call for the task force will be scheduled for week of February 8th.
 - Rashid Ahmed will follow up with a potential New York representative for the task force.

Adjourn

Next conference call:

March 1, 2016

List of Call Participants

Name	Affiliation
Tanya Spano (Chair)	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Ning Zhou (Coordinator)	VT, CBPO
David Wood (Staff)	CRC, CBPO
Tom Schueler	CSN
Adion Chinkuyu	DOEE
Greg Busch	MDE
Lana Sindler	MWCOG
Rashid Ahmed	NYSDEC
John Deihl	PA DEP
Leif Foles	PA DEP
Vic D'Amato	Tetra Tech
Mark Richards	VA DEQ
Allan Brockenbrough	VA DEQ
Marcia Degen	VDH
Angela Redwine	VDH