



**MINUTES**  
**Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)**  
**Teleconference**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

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**Summary of Action and Decision Items**

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the February minutes.

ACTION: Ning will distribute an email with the list of the point source data contacts within each jurisdiction. WWTWG members should review the list and contact Megan Thyngge by March 4<sup>th</sup> if they would like someone other than the contacts provided to serve on the point source data project team.

ACTION: Ning will distribute the link to the Chesapeake Progress website once the 2015 wastewater progress data has been added.

ACTION: Ning will find a QA/QC plan template and distribute it to the WWTWG with the grant guidance documentation.

ACTION: During the April WWTWG call, the workgroup will discuss QA/QC plans and efforts to develop them.

ACTION: Ning will follow up with Brian Baker (NYSDEC) to determine the status of data collection efforts for new wastewater sources.

ACTION: Ning will work with Ron Graber (DE DNREC) to get Delaware's data for rapid infiltration basins, spray irrigation and large monitored onsite systems.

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

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the February minutes.

**Point Source Data Project** – *Megan Thyngge, EPA*

The WQGIT approved the proposed charge for the Point Source Data project on February 8. Megan asked each jurisdiction to confirm their representative who will participate in the project.

**Discussion:**

- Laura Free (EPA) has been moved to other duties at CBPO, so Megan Thyngge (EPA) is taking the lead on the project.
- Thyngge: The WQGIT approved moving forward with the project, but asked that the proposed schedule be adjusted, so I will be working on that in the coming days.
- Ning Zhou (VT, CBPO): We need at least one person from each jurisdiction to help with this project. I know each jurisdiction generally has two staff members assigned to point source data, one to handle significant facilities, and one for non-significant facilities.

- Thyng: Since initial focus is on significant facilities, if staff time becomes a constraint, it would be good to have the staff person with expertise in significant facility data.
- Spano: I recommend that Ning provide a list, via an email, with his recommendations for who should be involved in the project.

ACTION: Ning will distribute an email with the list of the point source data contacts within each jurisdiction. WWTWG members should review the list and contact Megan Thyng by March 4<sup>th</sup> if they would like someone other than the contacts provided to serve on the point source data project team.

### **2015 Progress Summary – Ning Zhou, VT**

Ning provided an overview of the 2015 Progress wastewater data summary. All members were encouraged to bring forward questions and comments about the 2015 Progress modeling assessment.

#### **Discussion:**

- Spano: I would like to present some of this information to the WQGIT at some point. I want to be careful to tout successes but still put everything in context. Do states have questions comments or observations about the data Ning is showing?
- Greg Busch (MDE): I haven't had a chance to go through the data closely. It seems the Blue Plains concentrations decreased a lot this year, and that is driving a lot of the picture. We still don't have upgrades at two of our other big plants.
- Spano: Ning, when presenting this information, please do not use the term "excess capacity". It is not excess, it is either underused, or not currently used. It is how we plan for wastewater treatment. Excess conveys the wrong point.

ACTION: Ning will distribute the link to the Chesapeake Progress website once the 2015 wastewater progress data has been added.

- Zhou: There is still a data quality issue, partially because we receive different formats from each of the jurisdictions. We are hoping the point source data project will help with that. Also, whenever there is a staff change, the data quality tends to vary, so hopefully the tool addresses that as well.
- Zhou: Having data QA/QC plans for wastewater data was a requirement that was added to the grant guidance a few years ago. I think this is a good time, as we develop the point source data tool, to revise the QA plans to adopt the rules and procedures aligned with the tool. About half of the jurisdictions have submitted QA/QC plans for wastewater, but by 2017 we expect all jurisdictions to provide complete QA/QC plans.
  - Spano: I think it is a good idea for QA/QC plan development be considered in coordination with the development of the point source data tool.
  - Andrew Gaul (PA DEP): Is there a template or example for QA/QC plan?

ACTION: Ning will find a QA/QC plan template and distribute it to the WWTWG with the grant guidance documentation.

ACTION: During the April WWTWG call, the workgroup will discuss QA/QC plans and efforts to develop them.

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

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

#### **Discussion:**

- Busch: We are hoping to have everything compiled by middle of March. We are going through spray irrigation data, and compiling it into a monthly format according to the template Ning provided. We are querying our biosolids database to provide annual updates back to 2008 and automate that process for future years. We have county-scale biosolids data annually from 2008-2014. There are 2 or 3 rapid infiltration facilities, and they are included as part of spray irrigation dataset.
- Rashid Ahmed (NYSDEC): I checked with Brian Baker (NYSDEC), who is the lead for this effort. He said there has been progress, but I am not sure how far. Please email him directly to get that information.

ACTION: Ning will follow up with Brian Baker (NYSDEC) to determine the status of data collection efforts for new wastewater sources.

- Gaul: Ron Furlan (PA DEP) is out on leave. We will have to provide an update at a later time.
- Megan Browning (WV DEP): Dave Montali (WV DEP) would have to give our update.
- Dave Schepens (DE DNREC): Brian Churchill (DE DNREC) sent in our biosolids data. We have information on spray irrigation, rapid infiltration basins and large monitored onsite systems. Have you been working with Ron Graver (DE DNREC) to get that information? I don't think we have much on rapid infiltration basins, but we will get what we have to you in addition to the large monitored onsite systems data.
  - Zhou: Yes, he sent your policy on spray irrigation, but no actual data.

ACTION: Ning will work with Dave Graver (DE DNREC) to get Delaware's data for rapid infiltration basins, spray irrigation and large monitored onsite systems.

- Matt Richardson (VA DEQ): For spray irrigation, we are sticking with the one time data evaluation and projecting out from there. Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has the lead on rapid infiltration basins and large monitored onsite systems.
  - Angela Redwine (VDH): We are working on our data.
- Gaul: What about drip irrigation data?
  - Schepens: Drip irrigation is handled through the onsite systems panel, but that is a subsoil technology, as compared to spray irrigation which is sprayed on top of the soil.

#### **Updates and other business**

- Attenuation Panel Update: Effort has been paused as the panel awaits SPARROW model results to enhance their recommendations. Due to resources issue, it has been delayed. The panel is hoping to conclude in April or May.
- Boat discharge and pumpout panel: A contract for this panel issued through Tetra Tech, and the panel is expected to start later this month.
- Biosolids Task Force Update: Task force has another call today (3/1) and is addressing data needs and any modifications to Scenario Builder that could help to better capture biosolids data.

#### **Adjourn**

### List of Call Participants

Name	Affiliation
Tanya Spano (Chair)	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Ning Zhou (Coordinator)	VT, CBPO
David Wood (Staff)	CRC, CBPO
Megan Thyne	EPA
Greg Busch	MDE
Lana Sindler	MWCOG
Nasser Ameen	MWCOG
Rashid Ahmed	NYSDEC
Dharmendra Kumar	PA DEP
Andrew Gaul	PA DEP
Matt Richardson	VA DEQ
Marcia Degen	VDH
Angela Redwine	VDH
Megan Browning	WV DEP