

Key Midpoint Assessment Decisions and Deadlines

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

2016 – The “Year of Review”

Purpose

To clearly define the roles of the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT), the Modeling Workgroup, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Management Board (MB), and the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) in the decision making process as it relates to policy and modeling issues under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL’s midpoint assessment. Each group contributes to the necessary technical, policy, and management decisions the partnership will address through 2017 and beyond.

WQGIT: Evaluate, focus, and accelerate the implementation of practices, policies, and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

Modeling Workgroup: Develop technically defensible modeling tools as directed by the partnership; develop scenarios to assess management actions needed to fully achieve Bay water quality standards; track and quantify nutrient and sediment loads as WIP implementation progresses; and to estimate the aggregate effect of management practices from each source sector due to changes in land use, atmospheric deposition, fertilizer application, animal populations, manures, and management actions.

STAC: Enhance scientific communication and outreach throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond. Provide independent scientific and technical advice in various ways, including technical reports and position papers; technical workshops; assistance in organizing merit reviews of CBP programs and projects; and discussion groups.

EPA: To protect human health and the environment by developing and enforcing regulations; provide grants to state environmental programs, non-profits, educational institutions, and others; study environmental issues; publish information through written materials and websites; and sponsor partnerships and education people about the environment.

MB: Provide strategic planning, priority setting, and operational guidance through implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated, accountable implementation strategy for the CBP using the CAP and a management system based on adaptive management principles.

PSC: Acts as the policy advisors to the Executive Council, accepting items for Council consideration and approval, and setting agendas for Council meetings. Individual members of the PSC arrange and provide briefings to their principals, the Agreement signatories. The PSC also provides policy and program direction to the Management Board.

Decision Points for Upcoming Midpoint Assessment Priorities in 2016

MPA PRIORITY	DELIVERABLE / DECISION	DECISION-MAKING LEAD(S)
January 2016		
Ph6 Model	Partnership one-year review of Phase 6 modeling tools; key scenarios run (to be completed by Dec 2016)	Modeling Workgroup & WQGIT (primary reviewers)
James River	STAC peer review of criteria assessment and procedures (until March 2016)	STAC/VA/Modeling WG
Phase III WIPs/Ph6 Model	Jurisdictions submit draft 2016-2017 milestones to EPA-CBPO	EPA
BMP Verification	Formal report out on EPA's review/approval of each jurisdiction's verification program to the CBP partnership	EPA
Conowingo/Ph6 Model	STAC Workshop on CBP Conowingo modeling approach for Phase 6	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Street Sweeping BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Algal Flow Ways BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
Phase III WIPs	Approval of Final Action Plan for the Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment	WQGIT/MB/PSC
February 2016		
Climate Change/Phase 6 Model	STAC Workshop on general CBP assessment approach to climate change	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
Phase 6 Model	STAC peer review of Phase 6 Model begins	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Manure Treatment Technologies BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT

MPA PRIORITY	DELIVERABLE / DECISION	DECISION-MAKING LEAD(S)
BMP Panels	Approval of Advanced Onsite Systems, Part 2 BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
April 2016		
Phase 6 Model	Phase 6 Beta 1 model calibration w/ data updates	Modeling WG/WQGIT
Phase III WIPs	Jurisdictions submit final 2016-2017 milestones to EPA-CBPO	EPA
Phase 6 Model	Approval of revised Tree Canopy Loading Rates	Modeling WG/WQGIT
Phase 6 Model	Initial findings from key Phase 6 model scenarios – No Action (2010), All Forest, 1985 Progress, 2009 Progress, 2014 Progress, and Phase II WIPs	Modeling WG/WQGIT
May 2016		
Land Use/Phase III WIPs	Decision on setting Phase III WIPs on proposed 2025 forecasted conditions	WQGIT/MB/PSC
Phase 6 Model	STAC workshop on model uncertainty	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
Land Use	High resolution land cover data collection complete, includes rolling review	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Phase 6 Cover Crops BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Phase 6 Nutrient Management BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Phase 6 Conservation Tillage BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Manure Injection/Manure Incorporation BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
Conowingo/Phase 6 Model	STAC Peer Review of Conowingo modeling approach	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
Phase 6 Model	STAC Workshop on model uncertainty	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
June 2016		

MPA PRIORITY	DELIVERABLE / DECISION	DECISION-MAKING LEAD(S)
Phase 6 Model/Phase III WIPs	Decision on Phase III WIP Planning Target Methodology	WQGIT/MB/PSC
Phase 6 Model	STAC Peer Review of Water Quality Sediment Transport Model	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
Phase 6 Model/James River	Model analysis of James chlorophyll-a	Modeling WG/VA
BMP Panels	Approval of Urban Tree Canopy BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
Phase 6 Model	Decision on whether to conduct uncertainty analysis for Phase 6 Watershed Model based on STAC workshop	WQGIT/Modeling WG
July 2016		
Land Use	All local data must be submitted. Final fine-scale land use is available for incorporation into Phase 6 Watershed Model.	WQGIT
Conowingo/Phase 6 Model	Updated assessment of Conowingo	Modeling WG/WQGIT
Phase 6 Model	Phase 6 model calibration w/ data updates	Modeling WG/WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Oyster BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Wetlands BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
August 2016		
Climate Change/Phase 6 Model	STAC review of CBP climate change modeling approach for Phase 6 modeling tools	STAC/Modeling WG/WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Animal Waste Storage Facilities BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Floating Wetlands BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT
BMP Panels	Approval of Impervious Disconnection BMP Expert Panel Report	WQGIT

MPA PRIORITY	DELIVERABLE / DECISION	DECISION-MAKING LEAD(S)
September 2016		
Phase 6 Model	Approval of updated information for Phase 6 modeling tools (final land use dataset, BMP panel recommendations)	WQGIT/Modeling WG
October 2016		
Phase III WIPs	EPA presents preliminary expectations and seeks initial input from WQGIT and workgroups on expectations for Phase III WIPs	EPA
November 2016		
Climate Change	WQGIT decision on climate change assessment findings and implications, in preparation of MB and PSC discussions in Winter 2017	WQGIT
Conowingo	WQGIT decision on final assessment of Conowingo and implications, in preparation of MB and PSC discussions in Winter 2017	WQGIT
December 2016 – January 2017		
Phase 6 Model	Final calibration of Phase 6 modeling tools	Modeling WG
Phase 6 Model	Phase 6 Watershed Model final	Modeling WG/WQGIT

Upcoming Decisions to Note in 2017

- ❖ January/February 2017: Preliminary/limited Phase 6 linked Watershed Model and Estuarine Model scenarios presented (Modeling WG Lead)
- ❖ January/February 2017: Decision on climate change and Conowingo assessment findings and implications (MB & PSC Leads)
- ❖ March 2017: All Phase 6 linked Watershed Model and Estuarine Model runs complete (Modeling WG Lead)
- ❖ June 2017: EPA presents final Phase III WIP expectations, including expectations for jurisdiction and Federal Agency milestones development for 2018-2025 (after several rounds of review by the CBP partnership) (EPA Lead)
- ❖ December 2017: EPA releases final Phase III WIP planning targets after approval of methodology by CBP partnership (EPA Lead)