

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
JUNE 9, 2014 CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

ACTION ITEMS & DECISIONS

DECISION: WQGIT will hold a face to face meeting in October 2014. Meeting date and location will be finalized and announced as soon as possible.

ACTION: Lucinda will send out a template for identifying official WQGIT and WQGIT Workgroup voting representatives and their alternates. The completed templates are due from the signatories by June 23rd and should be sent to power.lucinda@epa.gov.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Urban Filter Strips Panel Report.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the proposed SAV goal alignment to 192,000 acres.

ACTION: Members are asked to provide any final fatal-flaw comments on the BMP Protocol by June 23, 2014 to power.lucinda@epa.gov. The issue of Expert Panel transparency will be discussed during the July 14th WQGIT conference call.

ACTION: WQGIT and invited Habitat/Fisheries/Healthy Watershed GIT members are asked to identify any remaining issues with the recommended 12 framework elements and the recommendations for basinwide implementation of BMP verification. Comments are requested by June 30, 2014 and should be submitted to batiuk.richard@epa.gov and jhanson@chesapeakebay.net.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Land Use Workgroup

- The Land Use Workgroup had a conference call on June 10th to review comments received from the Partnership on the proposed Phase 6.0 land use classifications. LUWG will hold a joint meeting with the Stormwater Workgroup on July 15th to develop land use classifications for urban land.

Agriculture Workgroup

- The Agriculture Workgroup will have a face to face meeting on June 19th to discuss verification and recommendations from the Resource Improvement Technical Review Panel.

Urban Stormwater Workgroup

- The USWG held its call on June 17th and discussed progress run results for the urban sector, reprioritization of the urban BMP review queue, and the expert panel recommendations for nutrient discharges from grey infrastructure (NDGI).

Watershed Technical Workgroup

- The WTWG approved the On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems expert panel report and technical appendix via email on June 10th.

- The WTWG will revisit the shoreline management expert panel's recommendations at its next meeting, along with forest buffers, stream restoration, and oyster aquaculture. The workgroup will also discuss priorities for the CAST family of tools.
- Next meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, July 9th.

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

- The next conference call has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 24th.
- The WWTWG will receive a briefing on the expert panel recommendations for nutrient discharges from grey infrastructure. The workgroup will also discuss biosolids and recommendations in response to the STAC workshop for on-site wastewater treatment technologies.

Trading and Offsets Workgroup

- Next conference call scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th, and will include discussion of interstate water quality trades in the Ohio River Basin.

Forestry Workgroup

- The FWG held a conference call on June 4th to discuss Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) opportunities and hear a presentation on iTree Canopy as a tool to use for verification of Urban Tree Canopy BMPs.
- On June 19th, a gathering of key leadership will be held as part of the Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative Leadership Summit. This meeting will highlight the unique importance of forest buffers to the Chesapeake, review local success stories, seek consensus on the issues that should be addressed, and commit to a process and allocation of staff resources for determining key actions needed to accelerate riparian forest buffer adoption.

MINUTES

1. Welcome/Confirm Call Participants, Recent Workgroup Decisions and Updates

- Jenn Volk, WQGIT Chair, welcomed everyone to the call and confirmed call participants.
- Volk: It has been almost two years since the WQGIT's last face to face two day meeting. Are members interested in holding a follow up face to face meeting in October 2014?
 - WQGIT members responded via AdobeConnect poll with the majority in favor of holding a face to face meeting in October 2014.
 - Meeting dates and location will be finalized and announced as soon as possible.

DECISION: WQGIT will hold a face to face meeting in October 2014. Meeting date and location will be finalized and announced as soon as possible.

- Volk: The WQGIT governance protocols have now been finalized. Thanks to everyone for their input and assistance with creating this document. The posted version can be found on our website:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/water_quality_goal_implementation_team
 under the **publications** tab.
 - Jurisdictions are requested to provide names of voting members to Lucinda.
 - Voting members will also be needed to identify official voting representatives for each workgroup by June 23rd.

ACTION: Lucinda will send out a template for identifying official WQGIT and WQGIT Workgroup voting representatives and their alternates. The completed templates are due from the signatories by June 23rd and should be sent to power.lucinda@epa.gov.

2. Urban Filter Strips and Stream Buffer Upgrade Practices Expert Panel Report

- The Urban Stormwater and Watershed Technical Workgroups have recently approved [Urban Filter Strips and Stream Buffer Upgrade Practices Expert Panel report](#) and the associated [technical appendices](#). Neely Law, panel coordinator, [presented the report for WQGIT approval](#).
- Dianne McNally (EPA): Why was no credit given for stream buffers?
 - Law: The report does not affect the current definition or credit provided for urban forest buffers. The expert panel was asked to determine effectiveness of more narrow buffers, however there was no literature available to make a recommendation at this time.
- James Davis-Martin (VA): Is there a grass buffer option for urban buffers?
 - Law: This expert panel did not explore a linear grass buffer.
- Volk: Can filter strips be combined with urban nutrient management?
 - Law: Possible to apply urban nutrient management to acres upstream of the filter strip.
- McNally: How were conflicts of interest and dissenting opinion handled?
 - Law: The 2010 BMP Expert Panel Protocol had a conflict of interest statement, which the panelists reviewed and subsequently determined no conflicts of interest. With the dissenting opinion about no credit for nitrogen, the panel opted for a majority vote.
- Volk: With no further objections the report will be approved.
 - There were no objections.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Urban Filter Strips Panel Report.

3. Revising the CBP Partnership's Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Restoration Goal

- Peter Tango and Howard Weinberg presented the [SAV Workgroup's recommendation](#) for alignment of the Chesapeake Bay SAV restoration acreage goal with the State and DC water quality standards goal of 192,000 acres. A WQGIT decision is requested regarding the goal alignment.
- Andy Zemba (PA-DEP): What acreage number is in the Bay Watershed Agreement?
 - Rich Batiuk (EPA): The Bay Agreement lists 185,000 acres; however the management strategies would incorporate the new numeric goal if the WQGIT approves the change.
 - Zemba: Recommend informing the Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee of this change.
- Bruce Michael (DNR): The existing standards for water quality in DC, MD and VA will not have to be changed if these acreage numbers are aligned.
- Davis-Martin: Will there be an impact on the TMDL or load allocations?
 - Batiuk: No.
- Davis-Martin: Recommend reviewing the goal to determine whether either number is defensible.
 - Rich: This was based on the best science available in DC, MD, and VA. A re-evaluation of the goal is not what is being proposed today. The purpose is to prevent

confusion within the partnership and with the public by having both the CBP restoration goal and water quality standards consistent.

- Rich clarified that the Habitat GIT has already approved this alignment. The Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee will be asked to approve the alignment following the WQGIT.
- Jenn asked for any final comments before approval of the goal alignment.
 - There were no objections.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the proposed SAV goal alignment to 192,000 acres.

4. Demonstration of CAST's Cost Functionality

- Olivia Devereux provided an overview and demonstration of the new cost function that has been added to the CAST family of tools. Users will now be able to quantify the costs associated with BMP implementation.
- Lee Currey (MDE): How was the lifespan determined?
 - Devereux: All data were prepared using existing data. Jurisdictions were provided the opportunity to review and amend the information.
- Volk: Can the lifespan be edited in CAST?
 - Devereux: The operation and maintenance, and opportunity costs were based on the standardized life spans used here, so those are not editable.
- Devereux: Cost is now available in MAST, VAST, CAST and BayFAST.
- Davis-Martin: Is it possible to get the breakout of costs in the downloaded data?
 - Devereux: It is not set up that way for an individual scenario, but you can see it for all BMPs on the documentation page.
 - Davis-Martin: Recommend that the cost breakout can be a part of the downloadable options.
 - Devereux: We will look into adding that to the download.
- Davis-Martin: Now that stakeholders can understand the costs associated with the WIPs, it would be helpful to also show the benefits beyond load reductions.
 - Rich Batiuk: That information is expected by the end of this year.
- Lee Currey: Is there an opportunity to provide additional comments?
 - Yes, please provide comments to Olivia. There will also be a training coming up on June 24th, so look for an email announcing the training soon.

5. Discussion of BMP Protocol

- Lucinda Power reviewed comments received during the second review period for the [BMP Protocol](#) and resulting changes to the document. Final review and approval of the protocol is requested via email by June 23rd.
 - Lucinda is developing a definitions document to attach to the protocol to identify roles of panels, workgroups, etc.
 - STAC will be discussing and likely recommending guidelines for best professional judgment and panel transparency.
- Davis-Martin: Expert panels will likely not have jurisdictional representation; clarify that the panelists will be the voting members.
 - Lucinda will clarify the language.
- Davis-Martin: Would the modeling team or the WTWG member be voting members?
 - Jeff Sweeney (EPA): The modeling team provides technical support but does not vote.

- Mark Dubin (UMD): Clarify that if a separate ancillary benefits or unintended consequences appendix is attached to the report, it needs to be clearly labeled as a separate effort that does not impact the original panels' recommendations.
- Davis-Martin: Clarify the proprietary device language to explain what happens with proprietary BMPs that fit the definition of an existing practice.
 - Power: WQGIT does not accept requests for proprietary devices, only if they fit the definition of an existing practice.
 - Power: If a class of BMPs is created and if a proprietary BMP falls under it, that BMP would receive credit.
 - Norm Goulet (NVRC): As long as they meet the qualifying design criteria.
- McNally: The primary purpose of panels is to demonstrate nutrient and sediment removal. What will be the role of other GITs?
 - Power: There is currently a wetlands panel that is supported by the Habitat GIT. The Panel report will need to be approved by both goal teams because of the nutrient and sediment implications. Other goal teams can initiate and approve panel recommendations.
- Jennifer Greiner (Habitat GIT coordinator): The Habitat GIT is appreciative of the cross GIT discussions.
- Lucinda will make additional edits as discussed today and will ask WQGIT members for final comments by June 23rd.
- Kevin Sellner (CRC): STAC will likely weigh in on the non expert access to expert panel discussions.
 - Davis-Martin: There is guidance in the current protocol for non experts being allowed to listen in only, without being part of the discussion.
 - Goulet: There are progress reports during the workgroups, which would be an appropriate way to relay the discussions to the public.
 - Rich Batiuk asked STAC to help define where the line should be between closed door meetings and public meetings.
- Power: The WQGIT will discuss this issue of panel transparency during the July 14th WQGIT conference call.

ACTION: Members are asked to provide any final fatal-flaw comments on the BMP Protocol by June 23, 2014 to power.lucinda@epa.gov.

6. Basinwide BMP Verification Framework

- Rich Batiuk, CBP BMP Verification Committee Chair, and Dana York, CBP BMP Verification Review Panel Chair, presented the current status of and planned schedule for continued CBP Partnership review and eventual Principals' Staff Committee approval of the basinwide BMP verification framework:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21753/cbp_verification_document_may_2014_review-draft_05122014.docx (Presentation link). (Executive Summary).

 - Batiuk: GIT members are requested to focus their review on Sections 4, 5 and 6 if their review time is limited.
- Volk: Recommend discussing the specifics with the watershed technical workgroup, regarding how the jurisdictions will be reporting verification of BMPs.
- Davis-Martin: Is the 2 year time period enough time?
 - Batiuk: Comments on the timeline are welcomed.
 - McNally: Recommend that the verification framework be phased in.

- Dubin: Recommended allowing for adaptation during this phase in period.
- Batiuk: Request feedback and comments from GITs by June 30th. The BMP verification committee will have a chance to review these comments before the verification guidance is brought to the Management Board and Principal's Staff Committee this fall.

ACTION: WQGIT and invited Habitat/Fisheries/Healthy Watershed GIT members are asked to identify any remaining issues with the recommended 12 framework elements and the recommendations for basinwide implementation of BMP verification. Comments are requested by June 30, 2014 and should be submitted to batiuk.richard@epa.gov and jhanson@chesapeakebay.net.

Adjourn

Next WQGIT Conference Call:

July 14th, 2014

1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Participants:

Member	Affiliation
Jennifer Volk (Chair)	U Delaware
James Davis-Martin (Vice-Chair)	VADEQ
Lucinda Power (Coordinator)	EPA/CBPO
Aaron Ristow	USC
Alana Hartman	WV DEP
Andy Zemba	PA DEP
Ann Carkhuff	EPA Region 3
Bruce Michael	MD DNR
Chris Brosch	VA-DCR
Dana York	Green Earth Connection
Dave Montali	WV DEP
David Rider	EPA
Dianne McNally	EPA Region 3
Dinorah Dalmasy	MDE
Emma Giese	CRC
Gary Shenk	EPA/CBPO
Gene Yagow	VT
George Onyullo	DDOE
Howard Weinberg	UMCES
Jeff Sweeney	EPA/CBPO
Jennifer Griener	Habitat GIT/ USFWS
Jennifer Tribo	Hampton Roads PDC
Jeremy Hanson	CRC
Jessica Rigelman	J7 LLC
Jim George	MDE
Jim Hedrick	
John Rhoderick	MDA

John Schneider	DNREC
Julie Winters	EPA/CBPO
Karl Berger	MWCOG
Karl Blankenship	Bay Journal
Lee Currey	MDE
Lewis Linker	EPA/CBPO
Lisa Ochsenhirt	VAMWA
Marel Raub	CBC
Mark Dubin	UMD
Mary Searing	DDOE
Matt Monroe	WVDA
Natalie Gardner	CRC- STAC
Neely Law	CWP
Norm Goulet	NVRC
Olivia Devereux	Devereux Environmental Consulting
Peter Tango	USGS
Rich Batiuk	EPA
Ross Mandel	ICPRB
Sally Szydlowski	Water Stewardship
Steve Hann	HRMML
Suzanne Trevena	EPA Region 3
Teresa Koon	WV DEP
Tom Simpson	Water Stewardship Inc.
Viman Amin	MDE