

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**  
**WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**  
**MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 CONFERENCE CALL**

## **Decision and Action Items**

**ACTION:** Suzanne Trevena will distribute a memo summarizing the path forward for the 2009-2011 milestones by the end of the week, or indicate when such a memo will be available.

**ACTION:** WQGIT members should expect and review email communication regarding the supplemental wastewater indicator.

**ACTION:** Rachel Streusand will prepare a draft timeline for future WQGIT calls and share for next WQGIT call.

## **Minutes**

### Welcome/Confirm Call Participants and Updates – Larry Merrill, Chair

- There was a Management Board Meeting last Tuesday, on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - STAC did a report on the Social Sciences and Management Board and Goal Implementation Team members are asked to identify possible intersections and opportunities where STAC's social science experts could be of assistance on specific issues. Suggestions, requests and questions may be emailed to Matt Johnston ([JohnstonMa@si.edu](mailto:JohnstonMa@si.edu)) at STAC.
  - CBP Partners are requested to provide comments on the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order 2011 Progress Report and 2012 Action Plan by March 16, 2012. The report can be found [www.executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net).
- PAST WQGIT workgroup meetings:
  - Trading and Offsets Workgroup
  - Agricultural Workgroup
    - The workgroup is receiving continuing regular status reports on the development and activity of the four expert review panels that have been implemented. Technical assistance is now being provided to support all four panels. The panels include: Poultry Litter Management, Nutrient Management Systems, Conservation Tillage Systems and Cover Crop Systems.
    - In response to the partnership decision to develop and implement a multi-sector verification process in 2012, the workgroup is currently evaluating the findings of multiple agricultural verification projects that have/are being implemented in the watershed. The results of these projects will be utilized to assist in the development of a draft agricultural verification protocol for consideration by the partnership. The projects include:
      - National Association of Conservation Districts Non-Cost Share BMP Project

- Howard County Verification Project
  - Water Stewardship Verification Process
  - USDA/USGS NEIEN Data Project
- Due to the volume of activity, the workgroup is now meeting in person or by phone on a monthly schedule. An additional conference call with the workgroup is being considered for this month to discuss the review findings of interim BMP proposals submitted for the Phase 2 WIP process.
- Future WQGIT workgroup meetings:
  - Stormwater Workgroup – March 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Trading and Offsets Workgroup – March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Wastewater Workgroup – April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Scenario Submission Deadline:
  - Given the fast-approaching March 30 deadline for the final Phase II WIPs and milestones, EPA Senior Managers have requested from their state counterparts that all Phase II WIP 2017 and 2025 input decks be submitted by Friday, March 16 if jurisdictions want to have the results in advance of the March 30 deadline.
  - Similarly, if jurisdictions plan to resubmit a final, 2012-2013 input deck and want the results before March 30, please also submit milestone input decks by March 16.
  - Decks should be submitted to Jeff Sweeney and Ning Zhou, with a cc' to your EPA staff-level WIP contact, Katherine Antos, and Lucinda Power. (JSweeney@chesapeakebay.net, zhou.ning@epa.gov, antos.katherine@epa.gov, power.lucinda@epa.gov).
- MD signed the water quality standards variances for the Eastern Bay and the Chester River. They will be published shortly in MD Register, then come to EPA for review and approval.
- Bruce Michael shared that the CBP STAR and its monitoring workgroups are putting on workshop at USGS in Baltimore on April 19<sup>th</sup> to consider impact of Summer 2011 wet weather. Contact Scott Philips ([swphilli@usgs.gov](mailto:swphilli@usgs.gov)) for more information.

#### Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model Update – Gary Shenk

- Fix for upland acres process for buffers and Wetland Restoration on Degraded Riparian Pasture (trp) that were submitted as acres were not correctly credited unless they were submitted as percents or on the LRseg basis.
  - The land use change from Degraded Riparian Pasture was being done, but the upland benefit was not correctly credited.
  - Will affect most scenarios except CAST (percent) and progress (lrseg scale) runs
  - Will result in additional reductions.
- Urban Growth Reduction BMP is not being fully credited
  - This BMP converts urban land to ag and forest and was being under-credited

- This BMP is little used and the effect will be very small. The scenario with the most acres had only 4600 acres submitted. Turning urban into forest and ag has little overall effect as it has a loading at roughly the average of the two.

*Discussion:*

- Continuous NoTill Panel has just begun
- Implementation of changes when the interim BMPs are accepted is very quick
- Will be able to have lo-till as an option to high-till w/o manure (HOM)

Progress on BMP Verification – Rich Batiuk

See the Chesapeake Bay Program's [BMP Verification Program Development Update](#).

*Discussion:*

- The source sector verification protocols would include decisions such as in the agricultural sector if you need to go out on a farm-by-farm basis or if BMP verification it could be done through a survey or imagery.
- CBPO staff will bring forward examples of the verification protocols under development by the workgroups so that WQGIT members can see exactly what is meant by a verification protocol.
- There will be continued regular written and verbal updates and requests for direction and decisions for the WQGIT as this work continues well into the summer time frame.
- The verification process will vary by practice, but the panel will review options. The goal of the process is to maximize the practices tracked and reported with the confidence that are on the ground and working as anticipated in the partnership's approved sets of BMPs.

2009 – 2011 Milestone Assessment – Suzanne Trevena, Russ Baxter

- It was proposed at the Management Board meeting that final results of the 2009-2011 milestones be presented to the Executive Council this year.
- The package that would be presented to the EC would include number/% of practices in the milestone that were implemented, changes in milestones or practices, annual progress run data, and fact sheets for 2012-2013 milestones.
- EPA is compiling data from NEIEN and will provide spreadsheet to each jurisdiction with milestone results for state review.
- Currently working with Milestones Workgroup to determine the layout of the 2012-2013 milestones factsheets.

**ACTION:** Suzanne Trevena will distribute a memo summarizing the path forward for the 2009-2011 milestones by the end of the week, or indicate when such a memo will be available.

Supplemental Wastewater Indicator Status – Larry Merrill

- MDE is reviewing a supplemental wastewater indicator that EPA proposed based on feedback from the WQGIT and Management Board.
- MDE would like a supplemental indicator, but other jurisdictions want to ensure no additional work is required.
- MDE hope to include this indicator in the 2011 progress run.

- Team should expect formal update by email due to time constraints.

**ACTION:** WQGIT members should expect and review email communication regarding the supplemental wastewater indicator.

#### Future WQGIT Call Topics – Larry Merrill

The following were suggested as potential topics for future WQGIT calls:

- Information sharing on improvements and relevant features of Final Phase II WIPs
- Revisiting Land Use and other modeling issues in Chesapeake Bay model for 2017 model
- Interim BMPs and use of 2010 land use as base of planning scenarios and milestones
- **A consideration of using 2012 progress run to evaluate progress on future milestones**
- Summary of April 19<sup>th</sup> STAR workshop for May call – Bruce Michael
- Adaptive Management/Decision Framework review

**ACTION:** Rachel Streusand will prepare a draft timeline for future WQGIT calls and share for next WQGIT call.

#### **Participants**

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