

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
MAY 9TH, 2011 CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

SUMMARY OF DECISION AND ACTION ITEMS

ACTION: WQGIT members should review the meeting summary and provide comments to Scott Phillips by May 19th.

MINUTES

Updates

Modeling Subcommittee: Meeting date was changed to May 19th.

Follow up from previous call:

- Phase II WIPs must include Scenario Builder and Watershed Model input decks for both 2017 interim targets and proposed TMDL allocations so that a Watershed Model run can be used to calculate these loads.
- We will be distributing schedule for Scenario Builder workshops and webinars on dates July-September based on your input.

Guide for Federal Lands and Facilities:

- This guide was distributed to federal and state agencies and posted to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL website on April 29. Please contact Greg Allen, EPA, if you have any questions.

BMP Protocol

- An outside organization has proposed a BMP for the first time, which is not accounted for in the existing BMP protocol.
- The protocol we are adopting for this is that Russ Perkinson, vice-chair, will review and send to appropriate Workgroup Chairs and Coordinators so that the Workgroups may decide whether to propose this BMP for review through the protocol and, if so, where it stands in priority to other BMPs that are in the queue for protocol review.
- Norm Goulet suggested using TARP or similar BMP group to review BMPs prior to our review and working with only public domain BMPs or classes of proprietary systems for our model.

Nutrient Management

- Agricultural Workgroup does not approve the nutrient management fix that was suggested by the workgroup in January 2011 because they request a difference between NM and non-NM of at least 5% and the result of this fix may be as low as 1.7% on acres only receiving inorganic fertilizer.
- To correct this will require at least an additional month in the model update schedule.
- CBPO will look into this issue and revisit at May 23rd call, but the model update schedule needs to be maintained.

Recommendations for April 13th STAR/WQGIT Topical Meeting – Scott Phillips

- NY expressed the need for a way to differentiate monitored data from the modeled, average year hydrology response in communication pieces.
- MD found that information we have is good, but we need better ways to communicate it and link the data back to restoration actions.

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Maryland's Assessment and Scenario Tool – Lee Currey, Gary Shenk

- See presentation for a screenshot demonstration of this tool.
- MAST is software for approximating the results of a set of management actions in Scenario Builder and the Watershed Model. MAST runs interactively so the user has instantaneous feedback on the effectiveness of practices.
- Chesapeake Assessment and Scenario Tool (CAST) for all states could be released approximately one month after MAST
- States would not be required to use CAST, as long as an input deck is submitted somehow.
- All inputs (septic systems and land use) are consistent with Phase 5.3.2.
- VA expressed concern with the schedule, may be faster to do separate state contracts.
- Goal is to save states time and money, CAST could be customized based on state requests.

2011 Milestones Workgroup: Measuring Progress – Suzanne Trevena

- EPA will provide excel spreadsheet to facilitate calculations
- Pie chart showing the percent of the milestone load reduction that is attributable to each sector is from original 2009-2011 milestones fact sheet released in May 2009
- Based on workgroup feedback a section was added for additional BMPs that weren't originally included in the commitments in 2009.
- States expressed concern with a discrepancy when model cuts off submittal – eg, when there are not enough available acres in a county on which to apply a BMP. Given that the interim milestone progress assessment will not be based on model runs, this concern is not an issue for the interim progress report.
- Placeholder BMPs – included in milestone interim progress report two pagers, but not yet credited in the model
- Approved – those approved for use in any watershed model
- Contingencies – not included in commitment but already started because they know they will not meet their milestones using the original BMPs that they committed to
- Workgroup generally okay with using 5.3.2 for final milestone analysis
- Bill Keeling is concerned with using 4.3 at all because it is outdated and will lead to inconsistencies.
- In the coming months, the Milestone Workgroup will revisit which model (5.3.2 or 4.3) is most appropriate for evaluating the final milestones.

WIP Cost/Benefit – Kevin Debell

- Kevin reviewed the summary information on the WIP Cost and Analysis review.
- We will have assistance from EPA's Center for National Economics on developing benefit estimates.
- The schedule for both cost and benefit calculations will be the same.

PARTICIPANTS

Larry Merrill, Chair	EPA	merrill.larry@epa.gov
Katherine Antos, Coordinator	EPA CBPO	antos.katherine@epa.gov
Rachel Streusand, Staff	CBPO/CRC	rstreusa@chesapeakebay.net
Clifton Bell	Malcolm Pirnie	cbell@pirnie.com
Karl Berger	MWCOG	kberger@mwkog.org
Karl Blankenship	Bay Journal	bayjournal@earthlink.net
Sally Bradley	Water Stewardship	sallyb@waterstewardshipinc.org
Chris Brosch	UMD/CBPO	cbrosch@chesapeakebay.net
Bevin Buchheister	CBC	bevinb@chesbay.us
Arthur Butt	VA DEQ	ajbutt@deq.virginia.gov
Lee Currey	MDE	lcurrey@mde.state.md.us
James Davis-Martin	VA DCR	james.davis-martin@dcr.virginia.gov
Ron Entringer	NY DEC	raentrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Katie Foreman	CBPO/UMCES	kforeman@chesapeakebay.net
Norm Goulet	NVRC	ngoulet@novaregion.org
Steve Hann	HRMM&L	shann@hrmml.com
Will Hunley	HRSD	whunley@hrsd.com
Bill Keeling	VA DCR	william.keeling@dcr.virginia.gov
David Koran	USACE HQ	david.koran@usace.army.mil
Sara Lane	MD DNR	slane@dnr.state.md.us
Lewis Linker	EPA/CBPO	linker.lewis@epa.gov
Beth McGee	CBF	bmcgee@cbf.org
Kevin McGonigal	SRBC	kmcgonigal@srbc.net
Dianne McNally	EPA Region III	mcnally.dianne@epa.gov
Bruce Michael	MD DNR	bmichael@dnr.state.md.us
Doug Moyer	USGS	dlmoyer@usgs.gov
George Onyullo	DC DOE	george.onyullo@dc.gov
Kenn Pattison	PA DEP	kpattison@state.pa.us
Russ Perkinson	VA DCR	russ.perkinson@dcr.virginia.gov
Scott Phillips	USGS	swphilli@usgs.gov
Alan Pollock	VA DEQ	aepollock@deq.virginia.gov
Sheryl Quinn	US Navy	sheryle.quinn@navy.mil
Marel Raub	CBC	mraub@chesbay.us
Bo Reilley	PA DEP	rreiley@state.pa.us
Ann Roda	PA DEP	aroda@state.pa.us
Sarah Sand	DDOE	sarah.sand@dc.gov
John Schneider	DE DNREC	john.schneider@state.de.us
Gary Shenk	EPA/CBPO	gshenk@chesapeakebay.net
Mohsin Siddique	DC WASA	mohsin_siddique@dcwasa.com
Helen Stewart	MD DNR	hstewart@dnr.state.md.us
Gwen Supplee	EPA Region III	supplee.gwendolyne@epa.gov
Nita Sylvester	EPA/CBPO	sylvester.nita@epa.gov
Peter Tango	USGS	ptango@chesapeakebay.net
Suzanne Trevena	EPA Region III	trevena.suzanne@epa.gov
Sara Walker	WRI	swalker@wri.org
Ning Zhou	VA Tech/CBPO	nzhou@chesapeakebay.net