

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
LOG OF ACTIONS & DECISIONS
Last Updated: 01.24.2023

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JANUARY 24, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator, will develop a brief orientation for new WQGIT at-large members.

COMPLETE: [Orientation Guide posted under “WQGIT Governance Protocols, Membership and Orientation Materials” section of the WQGIT webpage, 2/18/2022.](#)

Decision: The WQGIT approved three new at-large members (*Kevin DuBois - DoD, Mike LaSala - LandStudies, and Jeffrey Cornwell - UMCES*). The WQGIT also appointed a new Chair (*Ed Dunne - DOEE*) and Vice Chair (*Suzanne Trevena - EPA*), pending Management Board (MB) approval.

Action: WQGIT members are encouraged to brief their MB representatives on the discussion about Phase 7 model development in preparation for the [February MB meeting](#). **COMPLETED**

Decision: The WQGIT approved making a recommendation to the Management Board to elongate the current Phase 7 model development schedule to add two full years to the development timeline.

Action: Lee McDonnell, EPA/CBPO, will update the Phase 7 model development presentation with more detail regarding the proposed timeline and distribute it to the WQGIT for review prior to the Management Board meeting.

COMPLETED: [Presentation and supporting materials sent via email to WQGIT on 02.03.2022](#)

Action: The WQGIT leadership and CBPO modeling team will develop a more detailed proposal on Phase 7 model development to outline what decisions must be made, when they need to be discussed, and by whom. This will be presented to the WQGIT at a future date. **COMPLETED:** [Gary Shenk gave an update at the February 28th WQGIT meeting. More to follow at subsequent meetings.](#)

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Note: this was not a standard WQGIT meeting, but a special webinar titled “WQGIT Discussion of CAST 2021: Data Inputs, Results, and Next Steps.”

Action: The CBPO CAST Team will brief the Management Board on updates to CAST21 at their [March 10th meeting](#). **COMPLETED**

Action: The CBPO CAST Team will develop a fact sheet that documents the changes affecting CAST-21 and helpful messaging tools for jurisdictional partners to communicate these changes and their impacts. The fact sheet will be distributed to the WQGIT in early to mid-March. **IN PROGRESS**

Action: The Urban Stormwater Workgroup (USWG) will seek consensus on the Urban fertilizer data at their [March 15 meeting](#). Results of the decision will be presented to the WQGIT once confirmed. **COMPLETED:** [Consensus was not reached at USWG.](#)

Action: The upcoming CAST-21 timeline and release date will be reevaluated to incorporate additional time for review and decision-making at the USWG. The WQGIT will be notified of the new schedule once finalized. **COMPLETED:** [The WQGIT Chair, Ed Dunne, sent an email on 02.18.2022 announcing the release of CAST21. The review period was extended to 60 days with the final day to submit on April 15, 2022. The email was also forwarded to the WTWG.](#)

Action: Hilary Swartwood, Staffer, will consolidate the chat Q&A for inclusion in the Comment Response document. **COMPLETED:** [The chat was posted to the calendar page.](#)

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Decision: WQGIT reached concurrence on the approval of the Agriculture Workgroup's new Vice-Chair, Kathryn Brasier (Penn State).

Action: WQGIT members should contact Sally Claggett (sclaggett@fs.fed.us) with any questions or input (e.g. suggested invitees familiar with your jurisdictions relevant programs) on the proposed forest buffer outcome Workshop (see [March 2 PSC materials](#) for more information). **COMPLETED**

Action: WQGIT members should contact Chris Guy (chris_guy@fws.gov) with any questions or input (e.g. suggested invitees familiar with your jurisdictions relevant programs) on the proposed wetlands outcome Workshop (see [March 2 PSC materials](#) for more information). **COMPLETED**

Action: Once it is available, Hilary Swartwood will send the registration link for the PFAS STAC Workshop to the WQGIT. **COMPLETED**

Action: Olivia Devereux and Hilary Swartwood will notify the WQGIT and WTWG once the Tableau Data Visualization tools in CAST are updated and available. **COMPLETED:** *Email sent out on 03.03.2022. Additional Workgroups included: USWG and AgWG.*

Action: The WQGIT leadership will write a letter to the Management Board addressing their collective concerns (examples below) for CAST 2021 and recommendations for how to proceed. **COMPLETED:** *Feedback was due Monday March 28th. Updated actions can be found under the March 28th line.*

- Release and use of CAST 2021
- Fertilizer data
- Impacts to jurisdictional loads and attainability
- EPA expectations for achieving jurisdictional goals

Action: The WQGIT leadership will reach out to the Management Board to schedule time to discuss CAST 2021 concerns at an upcoming meeting (aiming for April at the earliest). **COMPLETED**

Action: Hilary Swartwood will add urban fertilizer data to the WQGIT planning calendar for March, pending a USWG decision at their March 15 meeting. **COMPLETED**

Action: WQGIT Members are encouraged to reach out to Hilary Swartwood (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov) and Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) with additional feedback on the WQGIT newsletter. **COMPLETED**

MARCH 28, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: WQGIT members are encouraged to reach out to Jake Reilly by April 15, 2022, if interested in being a SWG proposal reviewer (email: jake.reilly@nfwf.org).

Action: The WQGIT updated their next steps / timeline to address CAST 2021 concerns with the Management Board (MB):

1. Hilary Swartwood will create poll to schedule separate call to discuss received comments and recommendations for the CAST 2021 letter to the MB. **COMPLETED**
2. The WQGIT leadership will generate awareness on the WQGIT's concerns about CAST 2021 with the MB on April 14th. **COMPLETED**
3. The WQGIT voting members will meet to discuss received comments and recommendations on April 19th. **COMPLETED**

4. The WQGIT leadership will finalize letter which will detail magnitude of change, seek some clarity/ collective understanding of expectations and communicating / messaging, and recommendations. **COMPLETED**
5. The WQGIT leadership will present the final letter to the MB during their May 12th meeting. **COMPLETED**

Action: The WQGIT heard that the USWG members did not reach consensus on a proposed method for urban fertilizer. They encouraged the USWG to continue their discussions in an attempt to achieve consensus on the methodology, which may inform future versions of the model.

Action: The WQGIT will continue discussion of decision- making and governance procedures to clarify if or when technical issues are raised for WQGIT decision following a lack of consensus at a sector / technical workgroup level. **IN PROGRESS**

Decision: WQGIT endorsed the USWG's Recommended Next Steps to Advance Efforts to Maintain the Resilience of Stormwater BMPs.

Action: Lucinda Power and Jeremy Hanson will distribute the revised BMP protocols, based on received comments, to the WQGIT in early April. **COMPLETED:** *the updated BMP Protocol Revisions were sent to the WQGIT on April 5, 2022. WQGIT members have until COB May 13, 2022, to review and provide feedback.*

Action: WQGIT members are encouraged to send any topics/recommendations for future discussion or action related to the Climate Synthesis Report to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org). **COMPLETED**

APRIL 19, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Note: this was not a standard WQGIT meeting; members met to discuss and attempt consensus on the CAST21 Letter to the MB and suggested recommendations.

Action: Please review the draft letter to the MB (see attached) and submit all feedback to Ed Dunne (ed.dunne@dc.gov) by COB Wednesday, April 27th. Feedback will be taken into consideration for the presentation to the MB at their May meeting. **COMPLETED**

Action: VOTING MEMBERS ONLY - please fill out the following consensus poll by COB Wednesday, April 27th to indicate your level of support for each of the recommendations outlined in the CAST-2021 draft letter to the MB: <https://forms.gle/7EUUh9LSGfHTuCD9>. **COMPLETED**

APRIL 25, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: WQGIT Chair, Ed Dunne, will report back to the WQGIT on the feedback given about Phase 7 Model development, frequency of updates, and logistics of information sharing at the May WQGIT meeting.

Action: WQGIT leadership will reach out to GIT 6 and the website team to determine if recordings can be posted to the Phase 7 Model Development website. **IN PROGRESS:** *WQGIT leadership reached out to GIT6 and is awaiting feedback on meeting recordings (i.e., can they be shared? Etc.)*

MAY 23, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: Matt Rowe (MDE & CWIP Steering Committee Co- Chair) will provide additional documentation for developing a modified review process for dredging and potential expert panel for dredging as a BMP, and will send it to the Modeling WG, WTWG and WQGIT for their review. **COMPLETED:** *The draft Conowingo Dredging BMP Process is available [here](#).*

Action: WQGIT Leadership will add an appendix to the CAST21 MB letter that contains results and comments from the second survey. This will be submitted for the June 9 Management Board meeting. **COMPLETED:** *The updated letter was provided to the Management Board on May 26 and is posted to the June 9 MB page [here](#).*

Action: WQGIT members and interested parties are encouraged to start brainstorming GIT Funding project ideas, and should reach out to workgroup, GIT or STAR leadership with prospective ideas. **COMPLETED:** *A brief review of [potential GIT Funding Proposals](#) was given at the August WQGIT meeting. Proposals will be submitted to the CBT Portal on September 1st).*

Action: WQGIT leadership is asking for a small number of volunteers to work with GIT leaders, staffers, and SRS contacts offline to review and update 2025 WIP Outcome documents. Volunteers should reach out to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) by June 9th. **COMPLETED**

Action: The BMP Protocol Revisions will undergo a fatal flaw review. The WQGIT has until **June 17th** to submit final fatal flaw comments and/ or objections to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) and Lucinda Power (power.lucinda@epa.gov). The WQGIT will seek consensus at the June 27th WQGIT meeting. **COMPLETED:** *the WQGIT received an email with the latest version of the BMP Protocols on 06.02.2022. The WQGIT received a status update at their June 27th meeting. Consensus was delayed till August to give more time to incorporate comments from STAC and Pennsylvania.*

JUNE 27, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Decision: WQGIT agreed with the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee's proposed model-based process to evaluate dredging as a BMP if clarifications discussed at the meeting are considered and an updated version of the draft Conowingo Dredging process is sent to the WQGIT for review. The WQGIT will continue to receive updates on this effort as it progresses.

Action: The WQGIT did not reach consensus on the Revised Forestry Workgroup (FWG) Method for the Tree Canopy Outcome Indicator. The revised method counted forest conversion to developed as a loss of urban tree canopy.

Jurisdictions expressed concerns that this is actually a loss of forest canopy but not a loss of urban canopy and that the forest conversion to developed should be excluded from the “urban canopy loss” calculation. The Forestry Workgroup will work with the Land Use Workgroup to review the calculation(s) and definitions and develop further justification and/or a new approach. *WQGIT leadership requests that jurisdictions who expressed concerns be represented at the workgroup level to develop new approach.* The WQGIT will be asked to reach consensus at an upcoming meeting. **IN**

PROGRESS: *The LUWG and FWG met to discuss next steps and will continue to meet with jurisdictions who expressed concerns. They are still developing alternative solutions. This is not yet ready to come to the WQGIT.*

Action: The updated Revised BMP Protocols will be sent to the WQGIT for their review once available. The WQGIT will seek consensus on the updated Revised BMP Protocols at their August Meeting. **COMPLETED:** *The updated Revised BMP Protocols were under review by STAC. These edits were incorporated and sent to the WQGIT for review on 08.24.2022. Consensus will be sought at the WQGIT's September meeting.*

Action: The WQGIT will make a good faith effort to update the 2025 WIP Outcome Logic and Action Plan.

COMPLETED: *The WQGIT received a 1- month extension on their SRS materials and plans to devote their July 25th meeting to SRS discussions. Link to [updated timeline](#).*

- WQGIT leadership will request more time to update the plan from the Strategy Review System (SRS) team and will report out to the WQGIT soon.
- WQGIT feedback via email on the SRS Logic and Action Plan is welcome by **July 11** to be considered in time for the SRS Dry Run.
- WQGIT feedback via email on the SRS Logic and Action Plan is welcome by **July 21** to be considered in time for the materials due for the August Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting (QPM). Please consider including your perspective on progress that relates to actions (see page 14 in the linked [draft logic plan](#))

JULY 25, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: WQGIT members have **until Friday, July 29th** to put any additional feedback into [the Jamboard](#). **COMPLETED**

Action: The WQGIT SRS team will synthesize the Jamboard feedback into the Narrative Analysis. It will be sent to the WQGIT for their review by August 11th. Further discussion will occur during our August 22nd WQGIT meeting.

COMPLETED

Action: The WQGIT leadership will confirm a secondary call in August to further discuss the narrative analysis.

COMPLETED: *The WQGIT will reserve an hour and a half on [Monday, August 29th](#) at 1:00PM in the event that more time is needed for discussion or decisions on time sensitive topics.*

Action: Jeremy Hanson will provide the presentation slides on the Oyster BMP Expert Panel from the Fisheries GIT meeting to the WQGIT.

COMPLETED: *The slides are posted to the [7/25 WQGIT calendar page](#) for reference. Please note the slides are a summarized preview and the panel report is not yet available for review.*

AUGUST 22, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: The WQGIT SRS team will incorporate the feedback received during the August WQGIT meeting into their Quarterly Progress Meeting (QPM) materials (PowerPoint, Narrative Analysis, and Logic and Action Plan). The updated materials will be shared with the WQGIT prior to the September 15th Management Board meeting. **COMPLETED**

Action: WQGIT members have until **Friday, August 26th** to submit any last comments and/ or feedback on the 2025 WIP Outcome SRS materials. **COMPLETED**

Action: WQGIT members are encouraged to review the Dry Run presentations for the other SRS Outcomes within the Clean Water Cohort – [Toxic Contaminants Research](#) (TCR) Outcome and [Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention](#) (TCPP) Outcome – and provide any feedback to those SRS leads (TCR: Emily Majcher emajcher@usgs.gov / TCPP: Greg Allen allen.greg@epa.gov). **COMPLETED**

Action: Draft GIT Funding proposals will be shared with the WQGIT after September 1, and members are encouraged to reach out to GIT Funding proposal leads with any questions. A summary and emails for each project lead can be found in the [presentation from the August 22 meeting](#). After September 1st the WQGIT will be provided with a survey link to determine which project is the WQGIT's top priority for this cycle. Survey responses will be due by **September 16th**.

COMPLETED: *The WQGIT's priority project for this cycle is the Forest Buffer Outcomes "Leaning into the Multiple Benefits of Riparian Forest Buffers". A full list of the rankings can be found [here](#).*

Action: Alex Gunnerson, Hilary Swartwood, and Jackie Pickford will determine availability via online poll to hold a separate call to discuss the tributary options and “decision matrix” for the multiple tributary models (MTMs) in more detail. This will include selection criteria that were put forward by different GITs, and how to weight the matrix that will be distributed. *Any WQGIT members who are interested in attending this separate call and did not already indicate this during the meeting, please reach out to Alex (agunnerson@chesapeakebay.net) and Hilary (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov) By Friday, August 26, 2022. COMPLETED: A meeting was held on September 7, 2022. Meeting materials are found [here](#).*

Action: Hilary Swartwood will send out the Multiple Tributary Model (MTM) decision matrix to the WQGIT when available, in advance of the next WQGIT meeting. **Post-meeting note:** The details for the MTM decision will be framed in the WQGIT agenda for the 26th. Input from other GIT’s leadership will be requested on the criteria/decision matrix and selection of tributaries in advance of our September 26 meeting. At the next WQGIT meeting we will seek agreement on which tributaries should be recommended for Management Board approval at their October 13th meeting. Specifically, there are two suggested tributaries – the James and Potomac– proposed to be modeled in-house by the CBP Modeling Team. Once the MB approves the selection of an additional three tributaries for modeling that work will be completed through a competitive request for assistance (RFA). A sixth model for the York has been developed and will also be incorporated in-house by the CBP Modeling Team. The GITs and MB will seek agreement of the two suggested tributaries (James and Potomac) and choice of three additional tributaries for the RFA. **COMPLETED:** *see the actions and decisions for September below.*

Action: Review the completed BMP Protocol Revisions (attached in this email) by the September 26 WQGIT meeting. Consensus from the WQGIT will be requested on the final revisions at the September 26 meeting. **Post-meeting note:** Red-line edits show the latest changes since the previously distributed version (from June 2), most of which are in response to input from STAC, e.g., passages on “consensus” and the “independent review” section that we highlighted at the WQGIT in July. Please note the “independent review” section was wholly re-written and the deleted text is not displayed through track-changes since it was too confusing to follow the multiple insertions/deletions through our iterations with STAC leadership. WQGIT members or interested parties are encouraged to reach out to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) with questions or concerns about the proposed revisions over coming weeks, in advance of the next WQGIT meeting. **COMPLETED**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: The WQGIT, with input from other GITs, did not reach consensus on a final recommendation for two tributaries for in-house modeling by the CBP modeling team and 3 additional tributaries to be modeled as part of an upcoming RFA. Interested WQGIT members will meet with the MTM selection process participants (original small group and relevant jurisdictional leads) in early October to further discuss and refine the recommendation(s). The results of this discussion will be sent to the WQGIT for concurrence before they are sent to the Management Board for final decision. (**Post meeting note:** this meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 3rd from 10 – 11 AM**. If interested in attending, please reach out to Alex Gunnerson (agunnerson@chesapeakebay.net)). **COMPLETED:** *the WQGIT leadership presented at the October 13th MB meeting ([Link to Presentation here](#).)*

Action: Volunteers are needed to assist with drafting the new 2025 WIP Outcome Logic and Action Plan for 2022-2024. WQGIT members who are willing and interested should reach out to Ed Dunne, Suzanne Trevena, and Jeremy Hanson by the end of next week, **Friday October 7th**. **COMPLETED**

Action: WQGIT members have until **COB October 11, 2022**, to voice any final objections to the updated BMP Protocol revisions (i.e., if they consider themselves a “STOP” or “HOLD” on the consensus continuum). Please send objections to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) and Lucinda Power (power.lucinda@epa.gov). If none are received, then the

updated Protocol will be considered approved. Anyone who identifies as a “stop” or “hold” is asked to explain their reasoning and suggestions to quickly resolve final issues offline. **COMPLETED**

OCTOBER 24, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: The WQGIT is asked to provide feedback on [existing science needs](#), as well as identify any new science needs, for the 2025 WIP Outcome. Please send all feedback to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) by COB November 8th. **COMPLETED**

Action: Please send any additional feedback on the Water Quality Standards and Attainment (WQSAM) Outcome [draft science needs](#) to Breck Sullivan (bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net). **COMPLETED**

Action: The WQGIT was briefed on a [2021 STAC Workshop](#) regarding the implementation of agricultural BMPs through a social science lens. WQGIT members are encouraged to provide feedback to the WQGIT leadership on how to incorporate the workshop recommendations into our Logic and Action Plan. **COMPLETED**

Action: To capture ideas in the initial draft Logic and Action Plan for review at the November 14 WQGIT meeting, please submit feedback to the WQGIT leadership by November 1, 2022. **COMPLETED**

NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Action: Please submit any objections to the posted version of BMP Expert Panel Protocol ([final version](#) | [tracked changes version](#)) to Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) by **COB November 30th**. The protocol will be considered approved by the WQGIT if none are received. **COMPLETED**

Action: If you have any additional feedback on the next two-year Logic and Action Plan for the 2025 WIP Outcome, please contact Jeremy, Suzanne, Ed, and Jackie (hansonj@chesapeake.org; Trevena.suzanne@epa.gov; ed.dunne@dc.gov; pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov) by **COB Monday, November 28th**. **COMPLETED**

Action: The WQGIT is now accepting nominations for three at- large positions (currently held by KC Filippino (HRPDC), Emily Dekar (USC) and Joe Wood (CBF)). Jackie Pickford, Staffer, will distribute an email with additional information regarding the process and timeline for nominations and a brief description of the position.

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Decision: The WQGIT approved the revisions to the “[Protocols for the Development, Review, and Approval of Loading and Effectiveness Estimates for Nutrient and Sediment Controls in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model](#)” (also known as BMP Expert Panel Protocols) on December 1, 2022.

Action: The WQGIT is accepting nominations for three at- large member positions until Friday, January 6th. Please send all nominations to Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov) with the name, affiliation, and a short bio/resume/C.V. of the nominee.

Action: Tell us your favorite Chesapeake getaway by Monday, January 23rd: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XBPL85D> . Responses will be shared at future meetings or in the WQGIT quarterly newsletter.

Action: If you want to participate in the STAC Workshop on [Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model](#), contact Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org) and Karl Berger (kberger@mwkog.org) by January 2023.

JANUARY 24, 2023

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Decision: The WQGIT approved the Watershed Technical Workgroup's (WTWG) updated scope and purpose.

Action: A poll will be sent to current WQGIT members (9 signatories + 3 at-large members from previous cycle) to rank nominees by COB Monday February 6th. The top 3 will be confirmed as at-large members for the term 2023 - 2025 at the February WQGIT meeting.

Action: Please email Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) with any feedback on the Conowingo dredging Expert Panel Exploratory Group (EPEG) charge.

Action: Julie Mawhorter, Forestry Workgroup, will update the WQGIT on the tree canopy indicator and county-specific fact sheets once they are finalized.

Action: Please complete the following poll by COB Monday, February 6th to indicate your preferred meeting time for an in-person WQGIT meeting: <https://forms.gle/4cfwxBYZh32yt7hV8>.

Action: Please provide any additional feedback on meetings for the upcoming year [via JamBoard](#) by COB Wednesday, February 1st. The WQGIT leadership will consolidate the feedback from the GIT and a tentative schedule will be presented at a future meeting.