



Chesapeake Bay Program

**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 1, 2021

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Calendar Page: [Link](#)

**Summary of Actions and Decisions**

**Decision:** WTWG approved the March meeting minutes.

**Action:** WTWG members will review cut-off procedures and provide any comments / recommendations to Jeff Sweeney before our next WTWG meeting on May 6, 2021 where Jeff will present these to the group for approval, if needed.

**Action:** Hilary Swartwood will schedule a mid- April WTWG meeting to discuss and review Back- out procedures.

**Action:** Sally Claggett and Iris ? will be invited to present at the May 6<sup>th</sup> WTWG meeting on back- out time period related to trees.

**Agenda**

**10:00 AM – Introductions and Announcements – Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC**

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes
  - **Decision:** WTWG approved the March meeting minutes
- BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team – Vanessa Van Note, EPA
- Updates to CAST and Upcoming Webinars – Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting
- Other announcements

**10:15 AM – Progress Scenario Schedule – Jeff Sweeney, EPA**

Jeff Sweeney will cover schedules for the annual progress assessment including due dates for jurisdictional information.

**Discussion: Relisten to whole section.**

**Slide 2:**

Relisten to first part of call at 10:21 AM; slide 2

**Slide?**

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*Jess Rigelman:* We won't make new BMP changes as far as putting them in CAST until there is a new version of CAST.

*Bill Keeling:* Tree planting cover causes confusion; I was hoping to add a tree canopy but have it as tree planting. Is anyone opposed to that template?

*Jeff Sweeney:* that seems reasonable to me, but can you write it out/ put it into the chat?

## **Slide 6**

*Jess Rigelman:* Slide 6: animal fraction started as mostly as a request from WV and VA stating what fraction of the animals are in the watershed and non-watershed part of the county and we can work with that. That is a 2-year CAST model update.

*Jeff Sweeney:* It would happen this year because we are updating to CAST 2021 this year.

## **Slide 8:**

*Matt English:* who are you requesting this data from? Is the LU LC data request going to the LUWG?

*Jeff Sweeney:* all this stuff on slide 8 is LUWG. I would suggest either participating on those calls or shoot Peter Claggett an email directly.

*Kevin Du Bois:* How does Federal agencies engage in MS\$ boundaries? How does that work for DoD installations?

*Jeff Sweeney:* CBPO reached to states to give us those boundaries. I can't say for sure how we reached out to federal facilities on that?

*Kevin Du Bois:* Do states then reach out to federal agencies?

*Bill Keeling:* We have all MS4s listed as a unique organization our reporting application. Federal agencies are a unique organization. For example, there is DoD but then there is DoD Ms4s that report separately from DoD.

*Kevin Du Bois:* DoD doesn't confirm the extent of the boundary?

*Bill Keeling:* the MS4 section made provide mapping of the service area, so areas that are not draining to that conveyance wouldn't be draining to that facility

*Norm Goulet:* MD take s a different approach than VA. The boundaries should not have changed unless there were changes in the MS4. If an MS\$ is expanding in theory, they are supposed to be reporting that to VA DEQ

*Jeff Sweeney:* Kevin, I would suggest reaching out to Renee Thompson because she is in charge of those MS4 boundaries.

*Olivia Devereux:* We do have the federal agency layer and MS4 layer in CAST. What we use in CAST is not kept up to date because we are keeping those boundaries consistent over time, this was a CBP policy decisions.

## **Slide 9:**

*Cassie Davis:* Is the methodology for the septic system numbers written down anywhere?

*Jeff Sweeney:* I think that MD and WV may have been working on this. Hilary, can you put that in the notes for me?

*Bill Keeling:* I think you would need to reach out to Peter for that information.

*Olivia Devereux:* It is not documented; the best way is to contact Peter Claggett directly because it is not documented yet.

*Bill Keeling:* I don't know how much sway you have over this, but the lack of methodology is getting to be problematic

*Olivia Devereux:* the only other parts are the septic and land use (Peter's stuff)

**Slide 14:**

*Jess Rigelman:* these are reported every year.

**10:45 AM – Cut-Off Procedures – Jeff Sweeney, EPA**

Jeff Sweeney will review recommendations to minimize cutoff of BMPs with progress scenario submissions and lead a discussion of alternatives to the current methods.

**Discussion:**

**Slide 36:**

*Matt English:* in order to ensure our federal partner still got credit we had to have an agreement with SUDA instead of having it be detailed in the model.

**General Discussion:**

*Alana Hartman:* we were getting cover crops cut off we had an idea that the cover crops could be applied to a large range of subtypes. That seems nice to me because it would even out nuisances in the model that are artificially detailed.

*Jess Rigelman :* I think of two solutions: 1: the default land use group is usually the largest land use group. If it's not, how could you propose a change that is bigger so when in CAST it would be available for more ag land. The second is the in CAST if the second land use is incorrect then that would be a change in the BMP those are pretty easy changes technically. The first one through NEIEN is pretty easy, the other one is a bigger deal as far as getting it through the processes.

*Alana Hartman:* I will take your advice to look at the smallest reported geography.

*Matt English:* where they are reporting a BMP at a high-resolution and that BMP is treating property outside that land segment and there being cut off from that. The federal property that had the BMP but the river segment although small, is treating beyond the segment.

*Olivia Devereux:* it would still get credited, not cutoff, it would just be reported differentially. Are you saying that you are reporting on an incorrect lat/long?

*Matt English:* no, I'm talking about a high resolution.

*Jeff Sweeney:* you don't run into this when the scale is for the whole county. You usually don't get lat/longs for ag BMPs. 99% of the time there is going to be land to put that BMP in. I don't see that degree of detail with the states.

*Norm Goulet:* that triggered something in my head, a jurisdiction could have a wet pond that could be draining to multiple river segments.

*Olivia Devereux:* because you are reporting acres treated you should be the geographic area of the acres created.

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**Norm Goulet:** the problem there is that most of these are older facilities and I don't know how much of that was captured in the cleanup.

**Jeff Sweeney:** for sure Norm, it's everywhere. The idea is well I paid for the project so therefore the model would just cover a different drainage area within the county where the pond actually is instead of where the drainage is actually occurring.

**Action:** WTWG members will review cut-off procedures and provide any comments / recommendations to Jeff Sweeney before our next WTWG meeting on May 6, 2021 where Jeff will present these to the group for approval, if needed.

**11:15 AM – Back-Out Procedures** – Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC and Jeff Sweeney, EPA

At the request of a member, Cassandra and Jeff will review last month's information about CAST's back-out procedure, including the proposal (for forest BMPs) to extend the land use-change credit through time versus the model's purpose of giving immediate full credit of a mature tree stand to saplings when they are first reported as planted.

**Discussion:**

Add Sally Claggett to May 6th agenda for credit duration with trees. Invite Iris Allen, MDNR to present her analysis on tree credit durations as well.

**Mid- April Meeting:** General Backout Discussion as well as a presentation from VA DEQ (Bill Keeling / James Martin).

**Action:** Hilary Swartwood will schedule a mid- April WTWG meeting to discuss and review Back- out procedures.

**Action:** Sally Claggett and Iris Allen will be invited to present at the May 6<sup>th</sup> WTWG meeting on back-out time period related to trees.

**12:00 PM – Meeting Adjourn**

***Next Meeting: May 6, 2021 from 10:00 to 12:00 PM***

**Call Participants**

Cassie Davis, NYSDEC

Jeff Sweeney, EPA

Brittany Sturgis, DNREC

Hilary Swartwood, CRC

Emily Dekar, USC

Bill Keeling, VA DEQ

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Norm Goulet, NOVA

Alana Hartman, WV DEP

Greg Sandi, MDE

Loretta Collins, UMD

Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal

Arianna Johns, VA DEQ

Jess Rigelman, J7 LLC

Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting

Kevin Du Bois, DoD

Ruth Cassilly, UMD

Sally Claggett, USFS

Ted Tesler, PA DEP

Lisa Beatty, PA DEP

Pat Thompson, Energy Works

Matt English, DOEE

Suchith Ravi, UMCES

Katie Brownson, USFS

Dave Montali, DOEE

Jessica Rodriguez, DoD