

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 6th, 2023

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

[Meeting Materials](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Action: WTWG Voting Members should make sure to attend the August WTWG meeting on August 3rd; they will be asked to approve the NEIEN Appendix used for 2023 Progress reporting.

Decision: The WTWG approved the Animal Mortality BMP Technical Appendix.

Meeting Minutes

10:00 **Introductions and Announcements** – Cassie Davis, NYSDEC (15 min).

- **Decision requested:** Approval of June Meeting Minutes.
 - The June minutes were still being reviewed so approval was pushed to the August meeting.
- **CAST21 and WQGIT decisions on Phase 6 CAST Schedule Options** – Ruth Cassilly, UMD
 - CAST23 release, tentatively Fall 2023
 - WTWG will be asked to approve the NEIEN Appendix used for 2023 Progress reporting at the August meeting.
 - WQGIT will vote on CAST Schedule Options as well as PSC Decisions 1-3 recommendations at their 7-24 meeting.
- Other announcements?
 - CMAQ presentation scheduled for August - Lew Linker and Gary Shenk EPA, USGS
 - Free Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Assistance from EPA's Creating Resilient Water Utilities initiative - [Link](#)

10:15 **Approval and review of At-Large membership vote** – Cassie Davis, NYSDEC (10 min).

Cassie went over the results of the At-Large membership vote including reading through the bios of the two new At-Large members, Matt Kofroth, LCCD and Ashley Kelly, DoD. Matt and Ashley introduced themselves to the group.

10:25 **Animal Mortality BMP Overview** – Mark Dubin, UMD, and Auston Smith, EPA (45 min)

Mark provided background on the Animal Mortality BMP TA Expert Panel Report. Following that, Auston presented the latest update to the Animal Mortality BMP TA incorporating feedback received from workgroup members.

Decision Requested: The WTWG will be asked to vote on whether to approve the Animal Mortality BMP Technical Appendix.

Discussion:

Victor Clark: I'm struggling to understand how Phase 6 operates, but glad to know we will tackle this in Phase 7; I'm not going to oppose the proposal.

Decision: The WTWG approved the Animal Mortality BMP Technical Appendix. The breakdown of votes is below.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| DC | Endorse |
| DE | Agree with reservations |
| MD | Endorse |
| NY | Endorse |
| PA | Endorse |
| VA | Stand aside |
| WV | Endorse |
| EPA | Endorse |
| Norm (At-Large) | Stand aside |
| Matt (At-Large) | Agree with reservations |
| Ashley (At-Large) | Stand aside |

Note: MD asked whether the Animal Mortality BMP TA had been approved by the AgWG. Auston replied that the AgWG had previously approved the TA and that we gave them a general summary after the updates. They approved it to go back to WTWG for a formal decision.

11:10 Overview of the NEIEN Appendix- Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting (15 min)

Olivia gave an overview of the updated NEIEN Appendix including context on the timeline for its approval. At the August meeting, WTWG voting members will be asked to approve the updated Appendix to be used for 2023 Annual Progress reporting in CAST19

Jess went over new rows (added/modified) in the NEIEN appendix. Most are due to new BMPs ie Animal Mortality or Oyster Assimilation. These BMPs also will go into CAST 23 under the assumption that the WQGIT approves them. States can start submitting the new BMPs in CAST 19 as draft BMPs. Several septic BMPs are included as well.

Discussion:

Cassie Davis: Will these [new BMPs] remain draft until CAST23 approved?

Jessica Rigelman: Yes

- 11:25 **Conowingo BMP Reporting to NEIEN Demonstration** – Tim Paris, Arlluk, Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting (15 min)

Tim and Olivia demonstrated the process for Conowingo BMP reporting to NEIEN. Olivia gave context for the Phase 3 WIP process including the CWIP which was established to address increased load from Conowingo dam. Tim then explained and demonstrated the NEIEN schema.

- 11:40 **Presentation on Newly AgWG Approved Cover Crop Enhancement Verification Methodology** – Mark Dubin, UMD (20 min).

Mark presented on a new approved methodology for enhanced crop cover verification and reporting developed by PSU, the Capital Area RC&D, PADEP, and UMD.

Olivia Devereux: Just so I'm clear, Penn State would be doing this annually for a subset of counties in PA, is that how it would work if approved?

Mark Dubin: There's two processes. The transect survey occurs every year, each county is surveyed in alternate years. In off years 50% of the area in watershed is surveyed. As far as the Penn State survey, we had the initial one in 2016, four county one in 2020, 14 county in 2022. That is occurring more infrequently, not on a every year or every other year process yet. We wanted to see what additional value might be coming out of that survey because it's a pretty intensive process. Historically we have not been offering every other year and it's unlikely that would happen. Auston and I have been working on an addendum to BMP verification framework document to encapsulate partnership decisions such as this one. That is in process now and will be posted on the website at some point, not sure where yet. That will be a one stop shop for partners to go to for the latest on partnership approved decisions, BMP verification, changes to BMPs themselves (ie animal mortality TA panel report), and will also provide pending decisions.

Olivia Devereux (in chat): Here's a link to the current verification page, which might be a good home for this:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/programs/bmp-verification>

Matt Kofroth: Is this public information yet? I know some of the countywide action plan folks in PA would be interested in some of this information.

Mark Dubin: Yes, the presentation material is available on the AgWG webpage; also links will be on the new framework document I'm working on with Auston. In addition to this presentation,

there's an Excel document that gets into the calculations and a Word document report that covers the whole research project. All those documents are housed at the AgWG webpage.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 3rd, 2023, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Participants

Alana Hartman, WV DEP
Arianna Johns, VA DEQ
Ashley Kelly, DoD
Auston Smith, EPA
Chris Brosch, DDA
Cassie Davis, NYSDEC
Clint Gill, DDA
Dave Montali, Tetra Tech
Emily Dekar, USC
Eugenia Hart, Tetra Tech
Fernando Pasquel, Arcadis
Gregorio Sandi, MDE
Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting
Holly Walker, DE DNREC
Jackie Pickford, CRC
Jessica Rigelman, J7 Consulting
Joshua Glace, Larson Design Group
Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE
Katie Dyer, MWCOG
KC Filippino, HRPDC

Katie Walker, Chesapeake Conservancy
Leon Tillman, USDA
Lori Brown, DE DNREC
Marjie Zeff, AECOM
Mark Dubin, UMD
Matthew Kofroth, LCCD
Megan Thyng, EPA
Nicole Christ, MDE
Norm Goulet, NVRC
Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting
Ruth Cassily, UMD
Samuel Canfield, WV DEP
Sarah Lane, MD DNR
Scott Heidel, PA DEP
Sushanth Gupta, CRC
Tim Paris, Arrluk
Tom Butler, EPA
Tyler Trostle, PA DEP
Victor Clark, Farm Freezers LLC

Acronym List

[DC] DOEE: DC Department of Energy and Environment
AgWG: Agriculture Workgroup
BMP: Best Management Practice
CAST: Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)
CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program
CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium
DDA: Delaware Department of Agriculture
EPA: [U.S.] Environmental Protection Agency
HRPDC: Hampden Roads Planning District Commission
LCCD: Lancaster County Conservation District

MWCOG: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
NEIEN: National Environmental Information Exchange Network
NVRC: Northern Virginia Regional Commission
NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
TA: Technical Appendix
UMD: University of Maryland
USC: Upper Susquehanna Coalition
WQGIT: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
WTWG: Watershed Technical Workgroup