



**Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup
Conference Call – RM 305A
September 26th, 2012**

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18713/>

MINUTES

Participants

Peter Tango (USGS/CAP WG Chair), Liza Hernandez (UMCES/CAP WG Coordinator), Richard Tian (UMCES), Amanda Pruzinsky (CRC/CBPO), Andrew Muller (US Naval Academy), Cleo Stevens (VA DEQ), Donald Smith (VA DEQ), Jackie Johnson (ICPRB), Ken Moore (VIMS), Mark Trice (MD DNR), Sherm Garrison (MD DNR), Will Hunley (Hampton Roads Sanitation District), Tish Robertson (VA DEQ), Matt Stover (MDE), Diana Muller (SRF), John Backus (MDE), Howard Weinberg (UMCES)

Welcome, introductions, announcements (P. Tango)

Status and progress update on new WQS indicator, per E.O. (L. Hernandez)

Liza Hernandez discussed “Developing a New Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Indicator for Tracking Progress toward the EO's Water Quality Outcome.”

Schedule:

- Working with GIS to develop the graphics in the next week
- Presenting to the Bay managers in mid-October
- Present to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team in November

To read the draft report:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18713/eo_wqindicator_2012.09.19_fhte.pdf

Discussion and Questions

- Graphical Illustration
 - Pushing for one consolidated map for the general public and different maps for the separate designated uses.
 - SUGGESTION: Calculate percent of total number of designated uses in a segment that are attaining for each of the 92 segments and map accordingly.
- Concern for designated uses that are not being assessed in segments.
- **ACTION:** Discuss including uncertainty in the analysis and report.

- Is there some way to show the level of attainment? Some of the segments are on the edge of non-attainment and vice versa. It may be beneficial to show this and how much change there could be in the segment with a slight increase or decrease with attainment.
- Are we assuming that the designated uses are fixed?
 - The DO assessment accounts for slight variations in designated use boundaries that influence the total number of designated uses reported each year depending on climate conditions.
 - **SUGGESTION:** For explanation purposes, capture the indicator and how it is being used vs. the variability of the system.

MD Assessment Protocols Questions (M. Stover)

Benthic IBI

- **ACTION:** Jackie Johnson will send the data sets that were used for the most current assessment to Roberto Llanso.
- **REQUEST:** Roberto Llanso to present a review of the Benthic IBI assessment methodology at future meeting.
 - Issues with minimum sampling size
 - Can the statistically method be simplified?
 - Were the past peer review questions addressed?
- **ACTION:** While existing methods are in place, Tish Robertson and Matt Stover will draft rules for the specific times that we should invoke the uncertainty issues.

DO Assessments

- Long term vs. short term.
- **ACTION:** A new category for insufficient information was suggested. Peter Tango will be following up with EPA Region 3 and will discuss updates at the next meeting.
- Certain segments have never been assessed as impaired under the 30-day, mean assessment and have never been assessed at all short-term
- **ACTION:** Follow up with Larry Merrill and Bill Richardson; to discuss at the next meeting.

Western Branch Tidal Fresh

- Currently, no bathymetry layer for this area.

- **ACTION:** Review bathymetry data from NOAA, MDSS, and other options.
- **ACTION:** Discuss options with modeling and GIS teams.

Review Issue of the Instantaneous Minimum Criteria (P. Tango)

- At the past meeting with STAC, the Umbrella Criteria Report suggested revisiting the definition and application of the Instantaneous Minimum Criteria relative to how we monitor it.
- Peter Tango proposed having a late February/early March ‘workshop’/meeting to discuss further and provide recommendations.
- **ACTION:** Send in recommendations for attendees, presenters, and location possibilities to Amanda Pruzinsky (apruzinsky@chesapeakebay.net).
- **ACTION:** Peter Tango and Liza Hernandez will provide background information at the October meeting. Please send any information that should be included to them also.
- Tish Robertson offered to present on her analysis.

Review List of Tasks (P. Tango)

- TMAW SAV related tasks
- Recommends that we consider revisiting our current assessment approach
 - 4 key issues
 - Barriers or no barriers
 - Movement of a state boundary
 - 1-year vs. 3-year assessment
 - Basis for the goal (2.5 multiplier)

Discussion and Questions

- **ACTION:** Ken Moore to organize SAV WG subgroup for further discussion and present recommendations to CAP WG.
- **ACTION:** Next TMAW meeting – Establish coordination on resolving recommendations for a selection of the CAP WG issues.