

STAR Special Session: Monitoring Budgets

July 22, 2013

9:30AM-2:00PM

Joe Macknis Memorial Fish Shack

9:30-9:45 AM Welcome and Introductions

9:45-10:15 AM Meeting Introduction:

The Goals of this meeting are:

- A coordination of decisions on one or more options that adjusts the CBP Water Quality Monitoring Program across the partnership addressing a \$945K gap in FY13 available Federal U.S. EPA CBPO funding support.
- Capturing key message points to be used in presenting the option(s) for approval.

Review our Collective Role:

- Decision needed: One or more options combining the reduction opportunities developed across the monitoring programs towards addressing the Federal funding shortfall of \$945K in FY13 monitoring.
 - Option(s) and Impacts will be presented to the CBP Water Quality GIT for feedback July 29-August 5 and approval requested at the Management Board August 8.
 - Underlying Guidance: 2009 Management Board decision on monitoring program priorities: The removal of tidal segments of the Bay from the impaired waters list (delisting) and determining the effectiveness of our management actions.

Review the Process:

- EPA had and retains an option to impose their own suggested split of the available Chesapeake Bay Program monitoring funding available to support tidal and nontidal networks and data analysis support. However, without strategic consideration for the impact on program viability that program managers can provide, an imposed funding distribution could result in catastrophic loss of a major water quality monitoring program area and inability to meet basic monitoring program priorities of the partnership.
- STAR Workgroups were requested through approvals by the Water Quality Goal Implementation team and the CBP Management Board to work with its workgroups on potential options to the funding distribution question.

- STAR's TMAW and NTWG worked with the jurisdictions to evaluate tidal and nontidal network budget scenarios considering \$100's K's of reductions in both areas. A list of the reduction levels and impacts of each reduction scenario were highlighted.
- During the July 10 TMAW meeting and July 17 NTWG meeting, each jurisdiction presented options they could contribute toward addressing the shortfall.
- Today we are looking at
 - Guiding principles to distributing reductions to the monitoring program.
 - Generating one or more options that combine the findings of the TMAW and NTWG budget cut assessments and
 - Messaging for the upcoming presentations of the option(s) being considered.

Questions at this point?

10:15AM-10:45AM Options: Tidal, Nontidal, and Considerations for Distribution.

Need input: I suggest we might do a no-questions run through for 30 minutes here: Do we do a 10 minute tidal and a 10 minute nontidal presentations by the workgroup chairs to say

- Tidal:
 - This is where we started – streamlined program since 2010, money was actually added to tidal in FY12 due to recognition that 2010 cuts created too few cruises to capture the key management data needs in mid-summer period sensitive to change (Murphy et al. publication basis). Suggests we went beyond a critical threshold in funding to support management needs in FY11.
 - Show what was considered thus far (e.g. cruises, samples, parameters, stations, programs)
 - Illustrate the 100's of \$K's of reductions considered by the jurisdictions.
 - Show what we have to work with as tidal combined options
 - Discuss the impacts and identify any programming threshold issues to sustaining the network operations and supporting the priorities of the CBP.
- Nontidal
 - This is where we started – 2010-2012 expansion filling key gaps in TMDL support requested by the partnership.
 - Show what was considered (e.g. stations, samples, decisions on adjustments that pit strategic decisions on new sites in jurisdictions to track changes versus value of long term monitoring locations.
 - Illustrate the 100's of \$K's of reductions considered by the jurisdictions.
 - Show what has been considered
 - Discuss the impacts to the program, identify any program threshold issues to sustaining the network operations and supporting the priorities of the CBP.
- End with 10-15 minutes on distribution options and considerations we discussed to capture equity in programs and across jurisdictions within the major program elements:

- Proportional and its viability,
- Pro-rated cuts to each program
- 700+244 and its viability
- Summarize: Show where we are if we take the total of what we know.
 - Give credit where credit is due here on jurisdictions evaluating and expressing their abilities to mitigate portions of this budget impact on the expanded network

10:45AM-11:45AM

○ Questions, thoughts, concerns, volunteers offering up another cut or station adoptions to bridge the gap, strategies we look at it in the next week to close the gap? Use this time to deal with the process of moving from our research on the reduction options in each program element and offer alternatives to meeting the budget reduction needs within a jurisdiction or within a program. Express alternative models that support blending the options for reductions across programs. Organically develop the options and the contribution to meeting the reduction target.

11:45-noon AM: Bring to closure the option discussion –

- Review our option list.
- Refine option(s)
- Potential homework assignments may relating back to putting final touches on painting the full picture behind a particular option (what do you start to lose at the first threshold, next threshold; what are the impacts to operating the network, to the management community, to analysis and reporting; what happens with match programs?; what can't we do at this level?; what functions/staff are lost?)

12:00-12:30 Lunch (Bring your own or dash quickly nearby to Boatyard/Deli/Royal Farms).

12:30-2PM: Messaging the background material to the WQGIT and presentation to the Management Board.

- Provide a short list of messaging considerations we have heard in the workgroup discussions.
- Capture additional comments for consideration in the presentation to WQGIT and MB.

2PM Adjourn.