

CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL'S MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT: MOVING TOWARDS A RESTORED BAY

James Davis-Martin, WQGIT Chair
Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
March 16, 2016

MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT: RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Phase III WIP stakeholder assessment report is final and subsequent action plan recommends steps to improve programmatic capacity and increase local engagement in preparation for Phase III WIPs.
- USGS releases Nontidal Network Trends Analysis for Nutrients and Sediment .
- BMP Verification Program Plans submitted and Approved or Conditionally Approved.
- 2016-2017 Programmatic and Implementation Milestones submitted
- Beta version of the Phase 6 modeling tools was released to the partnership for a one-year review in January 2016.

MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT: RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Establishment of Local Area Targets Task Force to explore setting local goals for Phase III WIPs.
- CBP received parcel, land use, land cover, or sewer service data from over 80% of counties/cities in Bay watershed. Process for reviewing this data – particularly at the local level – has been established by the LUWG and high resolution land cover data collection underway.
- Several STAC workshops on optimization, climate change, Conowingo, and assessing uncertainty have been scheduled or have taken place as part of the Phase 6 review process.
- **Is the PSC interested in learning more details about these accomplishments, such as any of the STAC workshops or the Local Area Targets Task Force?**

POTENTIAL SCHEDULING ISSUES FOR MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES

- This is advance notice that some priorities could potentially veer off schedule in the coming months:
 - Land Use: currently experiencing delays with collecting/processing high resolution land cover data.
 - This could impact timing of local review of this data and submitting data for final calibration deadline in October 2016.
 - BMP Expert Panels: currently 19 panels underway. Some panels may not deliver final recommendations in order to meet calibration deadlines.
 - For those panels that might not have an approved report by October 2016, incremental decision points and associated schedules are being developed.
- **More detail about scheduling changes will be provided to the Management Board during their April meeting and the PSC if you wish.**

UPCOMING MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT BRIEFINGS & DECISIONS FOR MB & PSC

- **Conowingo**
 - Release of the final Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment Report (March 7)
 - STAC Peer Review of Conowingo modeling approach (May 2016)
 - Updated modeling assessment of Conowingo (July 2016)
 - Decision on final assessment of Conowingo Dam and implications for achievement of water quality standards (January 2017)
- **Does the PSC want to become engaged in Conowingo, in preparation for the partnership decision in January 2017?**

UPCOMING MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT BRIEFINGS & DECISIONS FOR MB & PSC

- **Climate Change**

- STAC workshop on the development of climate change projections for use in CBP assessments (March 7-8, 2016)
- Development of initial climate change analyses with all CBP models (June-July 2016)
- STAC review of the CBP climate change modeling approach (August 2016)
- Partnership decision on climate change assessment findings and implications (January 2017)

➤ **Does the PSC want to become engaged in climate change, in preparation for the partnership decision in January 2017?**

UPCOMING MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT BRIEFINGS & DECISIONS FOR MB & PSC

- **Monitoring and Assessment**

- Technical and management working group established to work directly with USGS explaining trends team (March 2016)
- STAC workshop on “Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement” (April 2016)
- Summary report of trends in estuarine water quality standards attainment from 1985-2014 available (June 2016)
- Preliminary results on long-term trends and flow-adjusted trends in tidal water quality (December 2016)

➤ **What specific information or briefings is the PSC most interested in receiving from the CBP monitoring team?**

UPCOMING MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT DECISIONS & BRIEFINGS FOR MB & PSC

- **Phase III WIP Development & Expectations**
 - Decision of Stakeholder Assessment Action Plan (March 2016)
 - Decision on Phase III WIP Basin scale planning targets methodology (June 2016)
 - Local Area Targets Task Force presents preliminary recommendations (August 2016) and final recommendations (March 2017)
 - Decision on setting Phase III WIPs on proposed 2025 forecasted conditions (October 2016)
 - EPA presents preliminary expectations on Phase III WIPs (Fall-Winter 2017); revised expectations (Spring 2017); and final expectations (June 2017)
 - EPA presents draft Phase III WIP planning targets (Spring 2017); revised planning targets (Summer 2017); and final planning targets (December 2017)
 - Draft Phase III WIPs (June 2018) and final Phase III WIPs (December 2018) due
- **How far in advance of these key decisions and presentations would the PSC like to receive briefings on these issues? How would the membership like to stay engaged?**



QUESTIONS

