

Biochar as an Enhancement to Bioretention Practices

USWG MEETING: MARCH 2025



Background

- October 2024 presentation from Center for Watershed Protection (BMP request sponsored by DOEE)
- Proposal to provide enhanced nutrient removal credit for bioretention practices amended with biochar
- USWG Decision to agree with BMP Interpretation Policy
- Draft white paper developed by CWP

The BMP Interpretation Policy

- The process should clarify and reinforce the existing BMP expert panel protocol and process, and never be used to undercut or re-open an existing urban BMP expert panel.
- The BMP must represent a real change on the ground that occurs in the present day (e.g., no historic BMP discoveries).
- The proposed BMP must have verification procedures that are at least as stringent as the "parent" BMP.
- The proposed BMP should not create problems when it comes to reporting it in Scenario Builder.

The BMP Interpretation Policy - Process

- CSN will convene a team to review the white paper that was developed by the proposers
 - 2-3 folks who have expertise/experience with these coagulant systems, plus 2-3 state and local reps.
 - The goal is to catch any issues, request any additional information or clarifications, and make sure the recommendations reflect best available science.
- USWG review of the final recommendations and make an approval decision.
- This process does not require full review by the Watershed Technical Workgroup, though the CAST team would be part of the recommendations development, and it can be requested that the proposal be coordinated with the WTWG.
- USWG may provide review and comment on the draft white paper by **Tues. April 15.**
- Targeted completion date: May-June 2025