Chesapeake Bay Program

Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 7th, 2023
10:00 AM to 11:05 AM
Meeting Materials

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Action: If jurisdictions have updates to their membership, they should reach out to Sushanth Gupta, CRC (Gupta.sushanth@epa.gov) to update it.

Action: WTWG Members should review the Coagulant-Enhanced Treatment Technical appendix and send any comments to David Wood, CSN (wood.csn@outlook.com).

Decision: The WTWG approved the October and November Meeting Minutes.

Decision: The WTWG approved Josh Glace, Larson Design Group as an At-Large member, serving until December 2025.

Meeting Minutes

10:00 **Introductions and Announcements** – Cassie Davis, NYSDEC (20 min).

- *Please put your name and affiliation in the chat box for attendance purposes. Thank you!*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of October and November Meeting Minutes.

Decision: The WTWG approved the October and November Meeting Minutes.

- 2023 Progress Schedule – Auston Smith, EPA
    - Auston provided an update on the 2023 Progress Schedule.
    - Alana Hartman: Our loads in the draft model run from Friday are horrible and we need to dig in and find out why. I noticed a lot of Agricultural BMPs have expired but it doesn't seem like that would explain it all. I don't know about the rest of you but it's very hard to analyze this data. I can check the BMP summary and it shows we've lost total cumulative BMPs; I know how many I tried to submit this year and how many we lost but it's hard to figure out if that's the number we intended to lose. We have so many datasets from over the years that when we tried to come up with our history it's spreadsheet overload. We work with different agencies and trying to tell them here's what we did 15 years ago with the data can be challenging. I want to put it out that WV is probably going to have some weird stuff going on here and so please bear with us.
    - Olivia Devereux: I will begin a conversation on how to look at some of the data during my section of the agenda.
- At-Large Member Nomination
    - **Decision requested:** Approval of Josh Glace, Larson Design Group as an At-Large member of the WTWG

Decision: The WTWG approved Josh Glace, Larson Design Group as an At-Large member, serving until December 2025.

- States should provide updates to their membership if any changes have been made.

Action: If jurisdictions have updates to their membership, they should reach out to Sushanth Gupta, CRC (Gupta.sushanth@epa.gov) to update it.

- Last month's CAST webinar was very successful. Guest speaker from The Nature Conservancy talked about using CAST to calculate load reductions for a grant proposal. No webinar in Dec but there will be one in Jan. Dec webinar recording will be on the webpage soon.

10:20 **Progress Data Submissions Update** – Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting & Jessica Rigelman, J7 Consulting (15 min).

Olivia provided an update on Progress data submissions including the tableau app that shows the submitted progress data. She provided examples including some related to WV's submission as a follow up to Alana's question. Jess provided an update on a fix for Tidal BMP Issues in VA and on an issue with permitted acres for construction and harvested forest that primarily affects PA and WV.

10:35 **Coagulant-Enhanced Treatment Technical Appendix** – David Wood, Chesapeake Stormwater Network (25 min)

David provided an overview of the Coagulant-Enhanced Treatment Technical Appendix which the WTWG will be asked to vote on at the January 2024 meeting.

Discussion:

Bill Keeling: So, this is in effect going to be an enhancement to the stormwater treatment and runoff reduction curves?

David Wood: This is based off the curves, but it will be reported using the practice codes defined on the 'Pollutant Removal Credit' slide.

Bill Keeling: The only measurement is the total area treated, and we don't need to provide runoff captured or impervious acres treated like we do for the runoff reduction or stormwater treatment BMPs?

David Wood: Correct. It's baked in to the five practice categories.

Bill Keeling: What if we have already reported a BMP as a RR or ST BMP? These would all be ST's right since we're talking about an existing wet pond? If we've already reported it that way can this be added on top of that or is it now a standalone thing?

David Wood: This is now a standalone thing, since it's a bump on the baseline you'd be receiving from the ST practice, so if you were to report this and the ST, you'd be double counting this and the ST credit. This would replace one of those.

Bill Keeling: So, unless this is a brand new construction, when they're employing this and applying it to something historically reported, we need to report that?

David Wood: Yes.

Norm Goulet: I wanted to give some more background on the history. When Hampton Roads wanted to try this out, they went to VADEQ and VADEQ preferred that they go through the Bay Program protocol as opposed to VADEQ developing its own.
Scott Heidel (in chat): Do these ponds get dredged out periodically, and if so, what happens to the removed solids and aluminum flocculant?
David Wood: Yes, they do get dredged and it depends on how much storage volume is available, but typically every four to five years. Then they take the dewatered floc and in some of the other states they're using it as a kind of biosolid and land applying it once it meets the necessary requirements. Landfill disposal is also an option, but it depends on the specific regulations of the state in question.
Bill Keeling: In a storm event, you end up with turbidity; is there some relationship with the turbidity level as to when those materials are dispersed. I.e., if you wait long enough, will it settle anyway or is this discharging a certain amount of the chemical every so many hours?
David Wood: These systems are dosing the coagulants on a regular interval; I believe every several hours. You're maintaining the concentrations determined by the jar testing in the pre-design phase. There are sensors constantly monitoring the concentrations pumped into the system and what's in the pond to ensure that you're maximizing the settling processes.
Mark Dubin: When the floc is being removed from the ponds, do you have a transport function as far as how it would be reported where it ended up going?
David Wood: That wasn't covered as part of this report. Some of the case studies were from watersheds using it for land application, but we didn't carry it through for this particular use whether they're land applied or not. The initial impression I got from some of the states were that there wasn't a ton of interest in using it that way here, but I assume there would be a separate effort to flesh that out if that was of interest to folks.
Mark Dubin: For developing Phase 6 we implemented a transport function for biosolids to better track where those are land applied or landfilled or so forth so I'm wondering if that's an example of what we would do here.
Norm Goulet: I see the use of this being significantly lower than what we're dealing with in terms of manure in the watershed. This is more of a concierge type of BMP; its implementation levels are not going to be significant. The juice isn't worth the squeeze at this point.
Mark Dubin: I hear you, just something I think would be worthwhile to at least recognize as we move forward. Right now, there's nothing there but it could become more commonplace down the road.
Bill Keeling: On the implementation date that actually has to be a specific format, not just the year. If all we get is the year, we can create the specific format, but it should be the day and year.
Dave Wood: I can get that updated for you.

Action: WTWG Members should review the Coagulant-Enhanced Treatment Technical appendix and send any comments to David Wood, CSN (wood.csn@outlook.com).

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 4th, 2023, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Participants

Alana Hartman, WV DEP
Alicia Ritzenthaler, DC DOEE
Arianna Johns, VA DEQ
Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP
Auston Smith, EPA
Bill Keeling, VA DEQ
Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG
Cassie Davis, NYSDEC
Chris Brosch, DDA
Clint Gill, DDA
David Wood, CSN
Dylan Burgevin, MDE
Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA
Emily Dekar, USC
Eric Hughes, EPA
Eugenia Hart, Tetra Tech
George Doumit, DE DNREC
Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting
Holly Walker, DE DNREC
Jeff Sweeney, EPA
Jeremy Hanson, CRC
Jessica Rigelman, J7 Consulting
Joe Schell, DE DNREC
Joshua Glace, Larson Design Group
KC Filippino, HRPDC
Keith Bollt, EPA
Kevin DuBois, DoD
Mark Dubin, UMD
Megan Thynge, EPA
Nicole Christ, MDE
Normand Goulet, NVRC
Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting
Ruth Cassilly, UMD
Scott Heidel, PA DEP
Sushanth Gupta, CRC
Tom Butler, EPA
Tyler Trostle, PA DEP

Acronym List

[DC] DOEE: DC Department of Energy and Environment
[DE] DNREC: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
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
DoD: [US] Department of Defense
DEP: [PA] or [WV] Department of Environmental Protection
[VA] DEQ: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
[MD] DNR: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
EPA: [U.S.] Environmental Protection Agency
MDA: Maryland Department of Agriculture
MDE: Maryland Department of the Environment
MWCOG: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
NVRC: Northern Virginia Regional Commission
NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
UMD: University of Maryland
USC: Upper Susquehanna Coalition
WTWG: Watershed Technical Workgroup