

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG): Midpoint Assessment Priorities [Draft]

09-14-2012

As requested by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, the WWTWG discussed it's priorities given the comments submitted on August 24th, 2012. Following the WWTWG's September 4th conference call the workgroup refined its list of priorities via e-mail for submission to the WQGIT on September 18th. The priorities are divided into two categories to reflect the WWTWG's point- and nonpoint-source areas: wastewater plants, and on-site/septics.

Wastewater Plants:

1. Determine how to reconcile/account for actual or apparent differences in reported annual loads versus WLAs due to permanent or annual Trades and Offsets.
2. Determine how to improve nutrient loading data from Non-Significant Facilities, especially the Non-Significant Industrial Facilities.
3. Agree on methodologies to reflect the expected variability in point source loads when reporting on progress:
 - a. To account for the expected variability due to wet weather impacts – to be consistent with how non-point source progress is characterized; and
 - b. To ensure that increases in loads attributable to growth that are under the load caps is expected/acceptable and is not mistaken for lack or a decline in progress.
4. Standardize the methods used to calculate the net loads from industrial plants with river uptakes and defining the no-net-contribution dischargers.
5. Evaluate how biosolids that are land-applied are accounted for – to ensure that net loads are accounted for, and to ensure consistency with how other nutrient load ag practices are accounted for (e.g., manure, chemical fertilizers). [Point raised in BMP Verification process]

On-site/Septics:

1. Determine how to best to use local septic information to improve Bay model estimates to:
 - a. Better reconcile local and Bay Program data; and
 - b. Assess how this information can be used to improve how loads are estimated in growth projections.
2. Develop methods for identifying/quantifying loads from commercial and residential systems.
3. Agree on methods to account for reduced septic loads due to:
 - a. Septic system/BMP upgrades;
 - b. Connections to sewered systems; and
 - c. Determine how to address affordability issues associated with onsite/septic upgrades for nutrient removal - and identify potential funding sources; recognizing the increased concerns as we move forward in the process.