

### Sample Narrative Template

(Developed by the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and Water Quality Goal Implementation Team)

#### **Background: Programmatic “qualitative” (and optional quantitative) Policy Approach: Optimize Phase III WIP Development and Adaptively Manage BMP Implementation**

**Description:** Within a practical time-period applicable to an individual source sector, initiative or action but no later than 2022, the Partnership will consider new information on the performance of BMPs, including the contribution of seasonal, inter-annual climate variability, and weather extremes. Jurisdictions will assess this information and their support programs and adjust plans through the two-year milestone process to implement their Phase III WIPs to better mitigate anticipated increases in nitrogen, phosphorus, or sediment due to climate change. Jurisdictions will provide a narrative consistent with the Guiding Principles that describes their programmatic commitments to address climate change in their Phase III WIPs.

**Implementation Considerations:** The Chesapeake Bay Program’s (CBP) *preliminary* modeling results of climate change in 2025 were relayed to the jurisdictions at the March 2018 Principals Staff Committee (PSC) meeting. The jurisdictions will document these preliminary numeric targets in their respective Phase III WIPs and will include a narrative strategy, outlining their programmatic and/or numeric commitments to address projected impacts consistent with the Guiding Principles, outlined below (approved by the PSC on December 13, 2016).<sup>1</sup> Narrative strategies could vary across jurisdictions; however, by following a “narrative template,” they could be standardized or harmonized to provide for transparency, accountability, and consistency. EPA can potentially use the guiding principles as a guide to evaluate the proposed narrative strategies in the Phase III WIPs.

To inform implementation, over the longer-term, the Partnership expects to facilitate the collection and evaluation of BMP performance data. The Partnership will learn more about BMP performance and the sensitivity of BMPs that are attributable to climate change, to allow for consideration of these factors while adaptively managing for long-term change. Periodically, in support of this action, the CBP Partnership could compile and assess the latest climate and ecosystem science, research, or data, and relay this information to the jurisdictions. The PSC agreed that in September 2021, jurisdictions will account for additional nutrient and sediment pollutant loads due to 2025 climate change conditions in a Phase III WIP addendum and/or two-year milestones beginning in 2022.

#### Sample Narrative Phase III WIP Template:

<sup>1</sup> Jurisdictions should also reference Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Section 7: Reasonable Assurance and Accountability Framework; and, Section 10: Implementation and Adaptive Management for guidance on developing narrative strategies.

**Commented [MD1]:** Provide link.

**Commented [MD2]:** Since this is referring to the modeling numbers, we should just say so.

Provide a hyperlink to slide 14 of this presentation: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/26045/v\\_2025\\_chesapeake\\_bay\\_climate\\_change\\_load\\_projections\\_explanation\\_revised\\_02.28.18.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/26045/v_2025_chesapeake_bay_climate_change_load_projections_explanation_revised_02.28.18.pdf)

**Commented [MD3]:** Not sure what the “elements” are—the guiding principles?

**Commented [lp4]:** I wonder if we should just document the PSC decision on future science and research needs here:

#### **Understand the Science**

- By refining the climate modeling and assessment framework, continue to sharpen the understanding of the science, the impacts of climate change, and any research gaps and needs.
- Develop an estimate of pollutant load changes (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) due to 2025 climate change conditions.
- Develop a better understanding of BMP responses, including new, enhanced, and climate resilient BMPs.
- In March 2021, the CBP partnership will consider results of updated methods, techniques, and studies and refine estimated loads due to climate change for each jurisdiction.
- The PSC agreed that in September 2021, jurisdictions will account for additional nutrient and sediment pollutant loads due to 2025 climate change conditions in a Phase III WIP addendum and/or two-year milestones beginning in 2022.

## I. Document the preliminary 2025 Climate Change Impacts

- a) The CBP’s preliminary modeling results of climate change in 2025 were relayed to the jurisdictions in the form of nutrient load projections. Jurisdictions will document those preliminary numeric load targets due to 2025 climate change impacts in their Phase III WIPs with support from the Modeling Workgroup and Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG).
- b) Jurisdictions committed to adopting refined climate change targets by 2021, employing the CBP partnership’s Phase 6 suite of models that factor in climate change and other relevant local information.
  - a. c)The preliminary modeling estimates attributable to climate change by 2025 to be roughly an additional 9 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.5 million pounds of phosphorus.

**Commented [lp5]:** My understanding is that this will be a Partnership undertaking, with support and leadership from the Modeling Workgroup and the Climate Resiliency Workgroup.

## II. Programmatic (and optional Numeric) Commitments

- a) Consistent with EPA’s Phase III WIP expectations document, describe current action plans and strategies at both the state and local levels to address climate change. Jurisdictions should use local expertise and knowledge along with the latest climate information and science to inform their programmatic and/or numeric commitments.
- b) Commitments may vary across jurisdictions but could include activities such as undertaking demonstration projects; prioritizing implementation of climate-resilient BMPs; approaches for assessing vulnerability of planned BMPs; or enhancing plans, policies, regulations or on-the-ground efforts to address impacts, etc.
- c) Jurisdictions could also pursue BMPs with clear co-benefits and climate change-related positive impacts (e.g., habitat restoration and flood control).
- d) Jurisdictions have the flexibility to go beyond just documenting efforts addressing additional loads due to 2025 climate change impacts and making numeric commitments. In choosing to make a numeric commitment, jurisdictions should identify programmatically how the commitment will be met.

**Commented [MD6]:** We are providing a “narrative” template, not a template for numeric commitments. However, the states have the option to develop numeric commitments. If they do, they will need to provide specific programmatic support of those commitments.

## III. Phase III WIP Development: Planning and Scoping<sup>2</sup>

- a) In developing their narrative strategies, jurisdictions should consider the following approved Climate Resiliency Guiding Principles:
  - 1. *Capitalize on “Co-Benefits”* – maximize BMP selection to increase climate or coastal resiliency, soil health, flood attenuation, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, or socio-economic and quality of life benefits.
  - 2. *Account for and integrate planning and consideration of existing stressors* – consider existing stressors such as future increase in the amount of paved or impervious area, future population growth, and land-use change in establishing reduction targets or selection/prioritizing BMPs.

**Commented [MD7]:** Should this be lumped with II.?

<sup>2</sup> See Johnson, Z. et. al. In-Press. [STAC Workshop Report: Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design](#). (in press) for more information and guidance on implementation.

3. *Align with existing climate resiliency plans and strategies* where feasible– align with implementation of existing greenhouse gas reduction strategies; coastal/climate adaptation strategies; hazard mitigation plans; floodplain management programs; DoD Installation Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs); fisheries/habitat restoration programs, etc.

4. *Manage for risk and plan for uncertainty* – employ iterative risk management and develop robust and flexible implementation plans to achieve and maintain the established water quality standards in changing, often difficult-to-predict conditions.

5. *Engage Federal and Local Agencies and Leaders* – work cooperatively with agencies, elected officials, and staff at the local level to provide the best available data on local impacts from climate change and facilitate the modification of existing WIPs to account for these impacts.

#### IV. **Phase III WIP Implementation: BMP Evaluation Process**<sup>3</sup>

a) Describe any process that might be used by the jurisdiction to implement WIP programmatic and/or numeric commitments, including qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of and implementation of BMPs, in accordance with the approved Climate Resiliency Guiding Principles: WIP Implementation. It is acknowledged that issues related to BMP efficiency and vulnerability will be taken on by the partnership, however, individual jurisdictions are encouraged to incorporate into their WIP any actions along these lines that they may be taking.

1. *Reduce vulnerability* - use “Climate-Smart” principles to site and design BMP’s to reduce future impact of sea level rise, coastal storms, increased temperature, and extreme events on BMP performance over time. Vulnerability should be evaluated based on the factor of risk (i.e. consequence x probability) in combination with determined levels of risk tolerance, over the intended design-life of the proposed practice.

2. *Build in flexibility and adaptability* - allow for adjustments in BMP implementation in order to consider a wider range of potential uncertainties and a richer set of response options (load allocations, BMP selections, BMP redesign). Use existing WIP development, implementation and reporting procedures, as well as monitoring results and local feedback on performance, to guide this process.

a)

**Commented [BMR8]:** I think this reporting element should be removed as part of the climate narrative. There is already a timeline for development of the WIPs and the PSC has already established that numeric targets will be considered in a WIP addendum or milestones beginning in 2022. The Partnership has committed to looking at the change in BMP efficiencies. To me, that covers adaptive management as it relates to climate. I feel that this section is redundant and a little confusing.

<sup>3</sup> See Johnson, Z. et. al. In-Press. [STAC Workshop Report: Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design](#). (in press) for more information and guidance on implementation.