

# EPA's Final Phase III WIP Expectations

Lucinda Power  
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
July 9, 2018 PSC Meeting



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# Overview

- **The WIPs are a critical piece to restoring our local and Bay waters.**
- **The Phase III WIPs are intended to provide clear roadmaps towards meeting nutrient and sediment goals by 2025.**
- **The Phase III WIPs will set forth the actions jurisdictions will implement between 2018 and 2025.**

# Overview

- **EPA released its final expectations for the Phase III WIPs on June 20, 2018 to account for the next seven years of implementation of the 2010 Bay TMDL, as well as to factor in new science and information resulting from the Bay TMDL's midpoint assessment.**

# CBP Partnership Role

- These Phase III WIP expectations went through **thorough Partnership review prior to its interim release in January 2017.**
- **Although this document is being released by EPA, many of these expectations are Partnership driven** and reflect Partnership priorities and PSC decisions.

# CBP Partnership Role

- Recently, **EPA worked closely with the seven watershed jurisdictions and CBC** to propose language to **address concerns over changed levels of effort** under the Phase III WIPs and to **emphasize a commitment to the 2025 deadline**.
- Through these expectations, the **Partnership reaffirmed its commitment to have practices and controls in place by 2025** to meet applicable water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay.

# General Phase III WIP Expectations

**Our expectations were developed to provide the jurisdictions with the opportunity to build off their earlier WIP strategies to:**

- Further optimize their choices of pollution reduction practices.
- Incorporate lessons learned and new science and information from the midpoint assessment.
- Develop comprehensive local and federal engagement strategies.
- Account for growth and climate change, and ensure new pollutant loads are offset.
- Build and sustain the necessary programmatic and funding capacity needed to achieve their 2025 goals.

# New Phase III WIP Expectations

There are several new expectations since the Phase I and Phase II WIPs were released and implemented:

1. Development and implementation of **local planning goals (reflects PSC decision)**.
2. Use of **2025 forecasted conditions in Phase III WIPs to account for growth (reflects PSC decision)**.
3. Address **Conowingo Dam infill in a collaborative fashion** through a separate Conowingo WIP and Planning Target **(reflects PSC decision)**.
4. Address **climate change impacts programmatically in the Phase III WIPs and numerically starting with the 2022-2023 milestones (reflects PSC decision)**.

## New Phase III WIP Expectations (con't.)

4. **Consider the co-benefits of nutrient and sediment pollutant reduction practices**
5. **Conduct a finer level of BMP targeting towards those segment-sheds** that are significantly out of water quality standards attainment (tidal jurisdictions only).
6. **EPA also has developed specific Phase III WIP expectations for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** to help ensure Pennsylvania is on track for meeting their water quality goals under the Bay TMDL by 2025.
7. **EPA will be issuing federal agency expectations** for the development of federal water quality milestones and the role federal agencies can play in the development and implementation of the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs.



# Changes in Level of Effort for Phase III WIPS

- **Since completion of the Phase II WIPs in 2012, the Partnership has undertaken a midpoint assessment** of progress to determine if restoration efforts are working as intended.
- **The results of the Bay TMDL's midpoint assessment show that some jurisdictions need to do more** to meet their Phase III WIP planning targets.
- **EPA CBPO has been working with each of the seven Bay watershed jurisdictions** to understand the drivers behind these changes to levels of effort.

# Closing

- **As a partnership, we need to recognize the good work and progress we've made in meeting our water quality commitments**, while knowing that additional effort is needed to get us to the 2025 goals.
- **We have a shared understanding of how much farther we need to go**, what's needed – both through regulatory and voluntary means – to get us there, and what resources are key to making a demonstrable difference at the state and local levels.
- **EPA looks forward to our continued collaboration with each of the seven Bay watershed jurisdictions** as they develop and implement their Phase III WIPs, and
- **EPA will continue to support these efforts** through technical assistance, funding, facilitation services, and other resources.

# Questions?

Lucinda Power  
power.lucinda@epa.gov



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*