Milestones Workgroup Discussion of Background Conditions

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Background Conditions

- Background conditions are land uses, septics and animal populations that BMPs can be placed on.

- Background conditions can be modified from year-to-year using projection methods and incorporating improved data from states.

Progress

- Progress is a yearly run of the Watershed Model that places BMPs reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program during that year on projected background conditions (land uses, septics and animals) for that same year.
- CBP will continue to run progress scenarios in this fashion.

Issue 1: 2013 Milestones

- 2013 Milestones were developed using 2010 background conditions (land uses, septics and animals).

- The CBP publishes yearly progress data which incorporates changes to the background conditions as well as the BMPs (e.g., 2012 Progress using 2012 BMPs and background conditions).

Question 1: 2013 Milestones

- Question: What background conditions should CBP use to measure progress towards 2013 milestones in 2013?
- Options
  1) Place 2013 Progress BMPs on 2010 background conditions.
  2) Place 2013 Progress BMPs on 2013 background conditions.

What we have heard thus far…

- Question 1: What background conditions should CBP use to measure progress towards 2013 milestones in 2013?
  - Views on this question are still divergent. Some states would like to use 2013 BMPs on 2010 background conditions (OPTION 1), while others would like to use 2013 BMPs on 2013 background conditions (OPTION 2).

Issue 2: 2015 and 2017 Milestones

- The CBP will continue to report annual progress using that year's projected background conditions and that reported BMPs.

- New data will be available that will allow the CBP to change the projected trends in land uses, septics and animals during over the next few years.

Question 2: 2015 and 2017 Milestones Planning

- Question 2: What background conditions should jurisdictions use to set milestones at the beginning of these milestone periods (in 2013 and 2015 respectively)?

- Options
    1) Use 2013 projected background conditions to set 2015 Milestone goals. (Similarly, use 2015 conditions to set 2017 goals.)
    2) Use 2015 projected background conditions to set 2015 Milestone goals. (Similarly, use 2017 conditions to set 2017 goals.)
    3) Use 2010 projected background conditions to set 2015 Milestone goals. (Similarly, use 2010 conditions to set 2017 goals.)

What we have heard thus far…

- Question 2: What background conditions should jurisdictions use to set milestones at the beginning of these milestone periods (in 2013 and 2015 respectively)?
  - Many jurisdictions expressed an interest in developing 2015 Milestones using 2015 projected background conditions, and 2017 Milestones using 2017 projected background conditions (OPTION 2).
  - This would mean that the jurisdictions would be supplied with the 2015 projections prior to developing Milestone plans.

Question 3: 2015 and 2017 Milestones Assessment

- Question 3: What background conditions should that CBP use to measure progress towards the 2015 Milestones and 2017 Milestones?

- Options
  1) Place 2015 BMPs on 2013 background conditions. (Similarly, place 2017 BMPs on 2015 background conditions.)

  2) Place 2015 BMPs on 2015 background conditions. (Similarly, place 2017 BMPs on 2017 background conditions.)

  3) Place 2015 BMPs on 2010 background conditions. (Similarly, place 2017 BMPs on 2017 background conditions.)

What we have heard thus far…

- Question 3: What background conditions should that CBP use to measure progress towards the 2015 Milestones and 2017 Milestones?
  - Many jurisdictions have expressed an interest in using 2015 Progress to measure 2015 Milestones, and 2017 Progress to measure 2017 Milestones (OPTION 2).