

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Trading and Offsets Workgroup Conference Call
July 18, 2012**

ACTION ITEMS

- **Nominations for the BMP Verification Review Panel are due by Monday, July 23rd** to CBPO Staff. WG members should email their nominations to Andra Popa (Popa.Andra@epa.gov); see below for more details
- Evan will inform members of changes to the EPA and workgroup workplans going forward; members are encouraged to comment at each stage of revisions
- Members are encouraged to review, and provide feedback on, Maryland's draft offset policy, with special attention to the timeline (http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/tmdl/tmdlimplementation/pages/accounting_for_growth.aspx)

MINUTES

Update on EPA Trading and Offset Work Plan – Evan Branosky

- Evan updated the workgroup on developments since the June 20th Workgroup conference call and June 25th subcommittee meeting with Nick DiPasquale and others at EPA
- The Trading and Offsets Workgroup (WG) will continue to work cooperatively with EPA on revisions of EPA's Chesapeake Bay Trading and Offsets Workplan and the WG's own workplan, leading up to 2014
- Going forward, EPA hopes to receive technical feedback from WG members
- Evan addressed a bigger issue facing the WG:
 - Current WG structure of monthly calls is likely insufficient to provide the necessary feedback to EPA;
 - Evan is working with the subcommittee to consider changes
- Evan highlighted a few of activities described in the EPA Workplan, and mentioned that the proposed Technical Memoranda offer a major opportunity for WG member input
- He also noted that the Workplan is subject to change; he will keep the WG informed
- Ron Entringer mentioned he had several technical questions regarding EPA's draft plan, but asked Evan how the EPA workplan fits with much wider efforts at EPA, including EPA's Draft Trading Guidance
- Evan acknowledged that there are many ongoing regional and national efforts that are closely related to the workplan, and it
- Evan noted that NY is not on the subcommittee, and requested that Ron email him with his comment
- Ron also observed that there are some larger issues and EPA needs to add much more detail
- Evan noted his comments and promised to share the latest workplan drafts

ACTION: Evan requested immediate comments from WG members, to provide comments to Darrell Brown by Friday, 7/20

Technical analysis of WQ crediting procedures for manure conversion – Kurt Stephenson

- Evan introduced Kurt Stephenson (Virginia Tech), who has been working with other researchers to assess available science and develop a nutrient credit calculation framework for manure conversion practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Kurt emphasized that his team is still working on a final product, so his [presentation](#) reviewed their objectives, research framework, challenges, current status, and expected timeline
 - He gave a nontechnical overview of the focus areas and approach of the research
 - To determine estimated load reductions, his team is focusing, among other things, on nutrient losses to the Bay from:
 - storage, handling, and treatment
 - field application and runoff
 - Ron Entringer observed that it is difficult to model nitrogen emissions in Agriculture; Ron asked how Kurt is addressing this issue
 - Kurt acknowledged the difficulty and indicated that one bonus of his team's efforts will be a better understanding of what is – and is not – well understood; Kurt's survey of the literature is already identifying gaps and shortcomings
 - Ron expressed curiosity about how Kurt and his team are modeling the emissions, and expressed concern that a lot could be missing given the difficulties and available knowledge
 - Kurt responded that they are incorporating a large amount of information in the hopes of limiting this issue
 - Tom Simpson followed up on Ron's question to clarify Kurt's objective: is the eventual goal to develop a quantified estimate?
 - Kurt indicated that his team is working on the step before such a goal. His team will not produce an answer, but can provide the background to reach an answer and produce an estimate
 - Olivia Devereux offered to share raw data that the CBPO uses in the Bay Model's Scenario Builder; Kurt was very thankful and they agreed to touch base after the meeting
 - Michael Helfrich asked how Kurt was including geography in his research, given its effect on nitrogen export from the watershed
 - Kurt responded that his research will not get to that level of detail, but that would be a logical next step for modelers
 - Beth McGee was curious how Kurt will handle differences between the states' nutrient management programs
 - Kurt described his team's collaboration with state nutrient management leads and acknowledged that state-by-state differences definitely affects potential nitrogen loss (e.g. for cover crops)
 - Buzz Hoerr commented that most literature on manure conversion is site-based, whereas his manure conversion operation is mobile;
 - Kurt recognized Buzz's unique perspective and they agreed to discuss the mobile vs. site-based issue offline
 - Kurt concluded with the revised timeline for the report

- The draft is intended to be ready in mid- to late-August and will be shared with the WG before it is finalized in mid-September; interested members are encouraged to provide their feedback to Kurt

Update on CBP Verification Review – Rich Batiuk

- Evan introduced Rich Batiuk (EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Office) who briefed the WG about ongoing efforts at the Bay Program to develop BMP verification principles.
- Rich noted that the BMP verification principles are designed to not cover trading and offsets activities, but he explained how the principles could affect trading and the WG's activities
- Rich requested WG members to read through the draft BMP Verification Principles and provide feedback; he emphasized that the principles will undergo multiple drafts before they are finalized and proposed to the Principal's Staff Committee
- He noted that many of the materials he mentioned are available on the event page for the June 19 BMP Verification Committee meeting:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18404/>
 1. He highlighted some major themes that emerged from across source sectors in conversations about BMP verification, including:
 - The need to establish a clear baseline at various scales (farm, municipality, etc.); from there can we then incorporate periodic checks to ensure that practices are installed and maintained?
 - The June 19th meeting summary covers the themes and feedback that was provided at the meeting
- Rich commented that Dean Hively (USGS/USDA ARS) is working with each state to ensure that there is no double-counting of cost-shared BMPs; his presentation is available on the event page
- He mentioned a request for the jurisdictions to clean up their historical BMP databases
- Rich reflected there is a need for a clear crosswalk between NRCS BMPs and CBP-approved BMPs, and their definitions and standards; this cross-walk can alleviate confusion among state and federal partners
- Rich emphasized that **nominations for the BMP Verification Review Panel are due by Monday, July 23rd** to CBPO Staff. WG members should email their nominations to Andra Popa (Popa.Andra@epa.gov) and include the following information for each nominee:
 1. Affiliation
 2. Contact info (email address, phone number)
 3. Which set(s) of the member type, expertise and proficiencies listed on page 3 of the BMP Verification Review Panel Charge
 - WG members received the Charge via email when nominations were originally solicited. Alternatively, the Charge can be viewed at the May 18th BMP Verif. Steering Committee event page:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18318/attachment_b_-_verification_review_panel_charge_membership.pdf)
- Rich briefly outlined the tentative schedule for the Verification Committee
- Evan inquired how demanding of a time commitment the Review Panel would be

- Rich responded he had not added up the expected hours demanded, so could not provide an estimate. However, he indicated that it would require a commitment and he would try to provide an estimate as this was a recurring question.

Jurisdictional updates

- Ron provided the update for New York
 - NY submitted its Phase II WIP to EPA and is undergoing internal discussions with them, after which it will be released to the public
 - Ron credited Dave Montali and WV for providing NY with many ideas in WV's WIP
 - He mentioned NY's recent Onondaga Lake TMDL as an example of flexibility for the other jurisdictions to consider, Section 7.0 Implementation Plan (page 52): <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67594.html>
- Pennsylvania is still working with the feedback it received from stakeholders; no new developments to report, but commented that its stormwater offset policy is on track for release in mid-2013
- Maryland has released its draft offset policy, available on MDE's website: http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/tmdl/tmdlimplementation/pages/accounting_for_growth.aspx
 - Dan Baldwin indicated that MDE posted a white paper that is being shared with larger stakeholder groups; this process will inform the policy and associated regulations
- Dave Montali reported that West Virginia is mainly focused on determining their baselines, building on their attempts in their Phase I WIP
- Delaware was not represented on the call, but Evan commented that Delaware continues to consider revisions to their sediment and stormwater regulations
- Allen Brockenbough reported that 33 out of 105 significant facilities required compliance credits in the first year of the point source program; the trades accounted for a relatively small volume
 - Allen described changes under SB77 (HB176) new legislation which passed under the last legislative session
- Dan Baldwin expressed concern about changes in loads from urban/suburban development of farm fields; he asked if other participants were also worried that a land use change from agriculture to urban/suburban may actually account for a net nutrient reduction, thus encouraging sprawl growth
 - Evan encouraged Dan to contact Pat Gleason about this question
- Evan recapped the meeting and thanked the participants for their time

Meeting adjourned at 11:50AM.

Next meeting for the Trading and Offset Workgroup is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 15th** from **10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. View the event page [here](#)

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation
Evan Branosky	WRI
Pat Gleason	EPA Region III
Ron Entringer	NYDEC

Lindsay Slote	Linden Trust
Kathy Benini	Markit
Nicki Casey	PA DEP
Andy Zumba	PA DEP
Pat Buckley	PA DEP
Buzz Hoerr	ElectroCell Technologies
Michael Helfrich	Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper
Marya Levelev	MDE
Dan Baldwin	MDP
Dana York	Green Earth Connections
Tom Ballentine	NAIOP-Maryland
Tom Simpson	Water Stewardship
George Kelly	EBX
Shana Jones	Center for Progressive Reform
Olivia Devereux	Devereux Environmental Consulting
Susan Payne	MDA
Teresa Koon	WV DEP
Dave Montali	WV DEP
Joe Hankins	Conservation Fund
Allen Brockenbough	VA DEQ
Russ Baxter	VA DEQ
Marcia Degen	VA Dept. of Health
Nicole Rovner	The Nature Conservancy
Rick Parrish	Southern Environmental Center
Joe Maroon	Maroon Consulting
Jacob Powell	VA Conservation Network
Jenny Snead	VA DNR
Abel Russ	Environmental Integrity Project
Katherine Zook	OEM
Darrell Brown	EPA
Andra Popa	EPA, CBPO
Jeremy Hanson	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Kimberly Snell-Zarcone	Conservation Pennsylvania
Audra Lew	ICPRB
Beth McGee	CBF
Doug Lipton	Univ. of MD
Kurt Stephenson	Virginia Tech
Rich Batiuk	EPA, CBPO
Kevin Schneider	Greenvest
Robert Boos	PENNVEST