Workplan for the CBP Nontidal Water-Quality Workgroup
2012 Calendar Year

The workplan for the CBP Nontidal Water-Quality Monitoring Workgroup consists of three major elements (I) enhancement and coordination of water-quality monitoring and data management, (II) water-quality data analysis and information delivery, and (III) support the needs of Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Goal Implementation Teams.
The 2012 work plan priorities include:

- Implementing recommendations from the CBP monitoring realignment effort to expand the nontidal network
- Improving support to the CBP Water-Quality Goal Team and other Goal Implementation Teams
- Updating indicators to support the release of important communication products
- Coordinating science activities through STAR

Tasks and leaders responsible to complete activities

I. Enhance and Coordinate Water-Quality Monitoring and Data Management

A. Enhance and maintain the CBP nontidal monitoring network

- Implement new sites in the network (All partners)
- Sustain stream gaging funding for sites in the nontidal network (KF, USGS, ongoing)
- Update database of site characteristics for the new network sites (KF, JB, MM)
- Update 2011 status report of the water quality network (KF)
- Assess issues related to sampling and analytical procedures (MEL, on-going)
- Identify opportunities to employ continuous monitoring to better assess change at key sites
- Develop a strategy to incorporate non-traditional partners in monitoring network and assessment (PT, SP, KF, LH)

B. Identify opportunities to conduct small watershed studies

- Pursue best opportunities to implement monitoring and assessment in small watersheds (USGS, NRCS, state/DC partners). Have implemented enhanced monitoring and assessment in several small watersheds (Chester, MD, Smith Creek, VA, Difficult Run, VA). There are also several on-going studies (Corsica, etc.)
- Summarize lessons learned from small watersheds (see analysis of information)

C. Enhance the nontidal database

- Maintain and update the current nontidal database for WY 2011 (ML with submissions state/DC partners and SRBC)
- Develop the Formal, Automated, Standardized, and Timely (FAST) data process development for WY2011 and beta test it (KF, MM, JB, ML, PT, MK)
- Update and maintain benthic database to support stream health indicator (JJ)

II Water-Quality Data Analysis and Information Delivery

A. Develop new indicators to support CBP Bay Barometer and Goal Teams

- Develop indicator for change over time for stream health (KF and AG)
- Revise indicator for nutrient and sediment loads and short term trends (KH, ML, JB, DM, SP)

- Coordinate with Goal Implementation Teams to determine priorities for new indicator development (KF, SP, PT)

B. Sustain existing indicators for Chesapeake Bay Program reports

- Update stream health indicator (KF, JJ, CB)
- Update stream flow and loads to the Bay (DM, JB, KF, discussed by WQ GIT and may need to be done)
- Update long-term trends of nutrients and sediment (ML, DM, JB, KH)
- Provide estimates of stream flow and loads for CBP/UMCES Summer Forecast (JB, DM, CW)
- Provide estimates of stream flow and loads for CBP/UMCES Summer Summary (JB, DM, CW)

C. Assess and better explain water-quality conditions

- Complete 2011 annual water quality status and trends assessment (USGS, ML as lead for nontidal trends working with state partners and SRBC).
- Summarize lessons learned about water-quality changes and relation to management practices (KF, SP, LH and joint effort with TMAW)
- Conduct assessments of factors affecting water quality change in key areas (Eastern Shore (2012-2013 summary report) and Potomac (2013-2015 working with TMAW), (USGS, NTWG with TMAW)
- Contribute and review toxic contaminants report (to be released in Nov) (SP)
- Assess potential to have stronger relationship with non-traditional partners, through the CBP Monitoring Alliance, and how their data can be used to assess water-quality conditions across the watershed.(PT, SP, LH, KF)

D. Improve communication of monitoring information to CBP Goal Teams and decision makers

- Develop WWW site with results from CBP nontidal network (KH/USGS), in progress but delayed due to implementation of new network sites, needs to be done)
- Improve use of monitoring results in ChesapeakeStat (KF, PT, JW)
- Improve communication of water quality and stream health results to Goal Teams and decision makers
- Work through STAR to support needs and communicate results to other CBP Goal Teams and implement new CBP communication strategy.

III. Support the needs of Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Implementation Teams

- Support appropriate CBP goal teams as they implement new CBP adaptive-management decision support framework.
- Work with STAR to prioritize science needs of the CBP and how we can better support those needs.

Acronyms:
DM – Doug Moyer (USGS)
KH- Ken Hyer (USGS)
KF - Katie Foreman (UMCES/CBPO)
MEL – Mary Ellen Ley (USGS/CBPO)
ML – Michael Langland (USGS)
PT – Peter Tango (USGS/CBPO)

STAC – Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
MM – Mike Mallonee (ICPRB/CBPO)
USGS – United States Geological Survey
WY – water year (Oct 1- Sept 30)
JB – Joel Blomquist (USGS)
CB – Claire Buchanan (ICPRB)
SP-Scott Phillips (USGS)
GS-Gary Shenk (EPA)
CW – Caroline Wicks (NOAA/Ecocheck)
JJ – Jackie Johnson (ICPRB)
MK- Mike Koterba
AG- Adam Griggs
LH- Liza Hernandez
TMAW – Tidal Monitoring and Assessment Workgroup