

Wastewater Supplemental Indicators

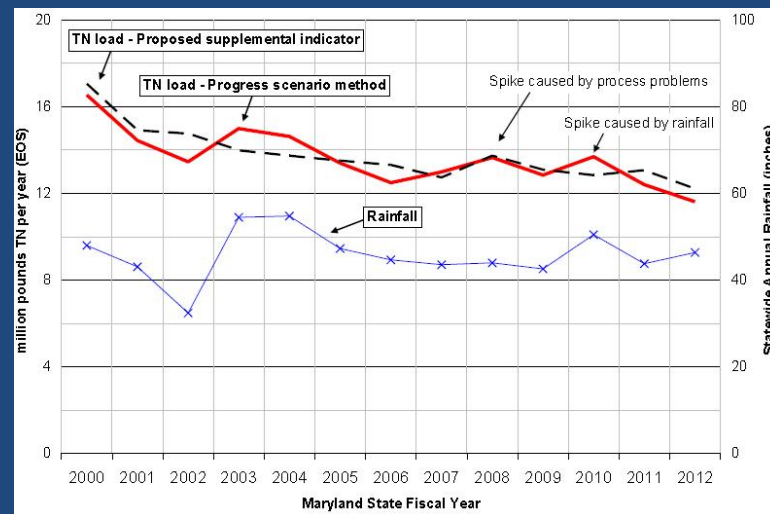
STAR Discussion

January 2014

Presented by Nita Sylvester, EPA CBPO
Chair of STAR's Indicators Workgroup

Purpose of Discussion

- Briefing on WQGIT recommendation to the MB
 - regarding how a new “Partnership-recognized” supplemental wastewater indicator will be reported and
 - who will be responsible for maintaining the indicator.
 - regarding the current supplemental wastewater indicator.



Significant Wastewater Facilities That Meet Applicable Water Quality Standards in the Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Waters*

*Based on date that a permit containing an effluent limit that meets dissolved oxygen and SAV/clarity standards becomes effective. Does not include assessment of chlorophyll-a standards. West Virginia data are based on expected compliance dates.



Background

CBP Indicators:

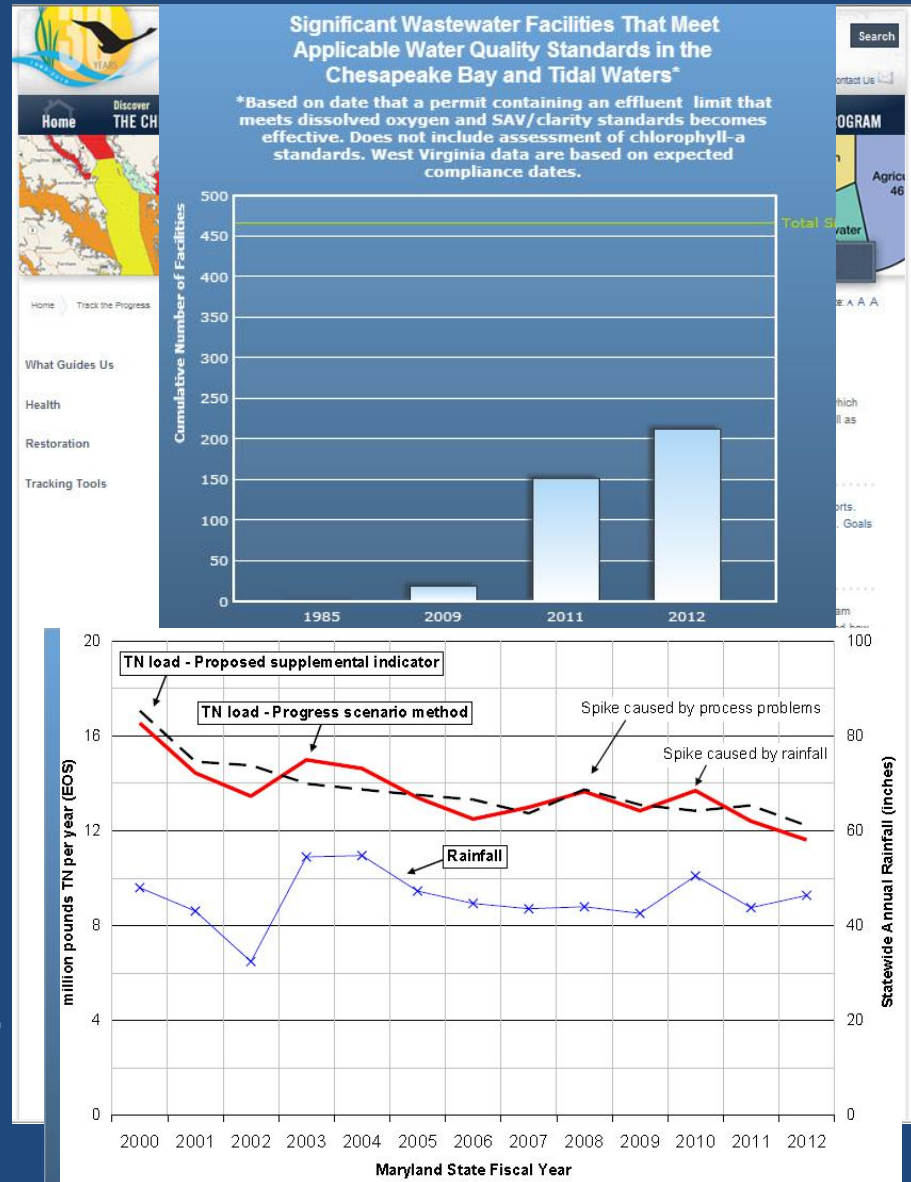
- Approved by MB
- Available from “Track Our Progress” section of www.ChesapeakeBay.net

Current CBP Wastewater Indicator:

- Facilities w/ permit limits meeting WQS
- Supplemental to Reducing Pollution indicators

New WW Indicator:

- Effects of wastewater management actions
- WWTWG accepted for use by MD
- No other jurisdiction plans to use



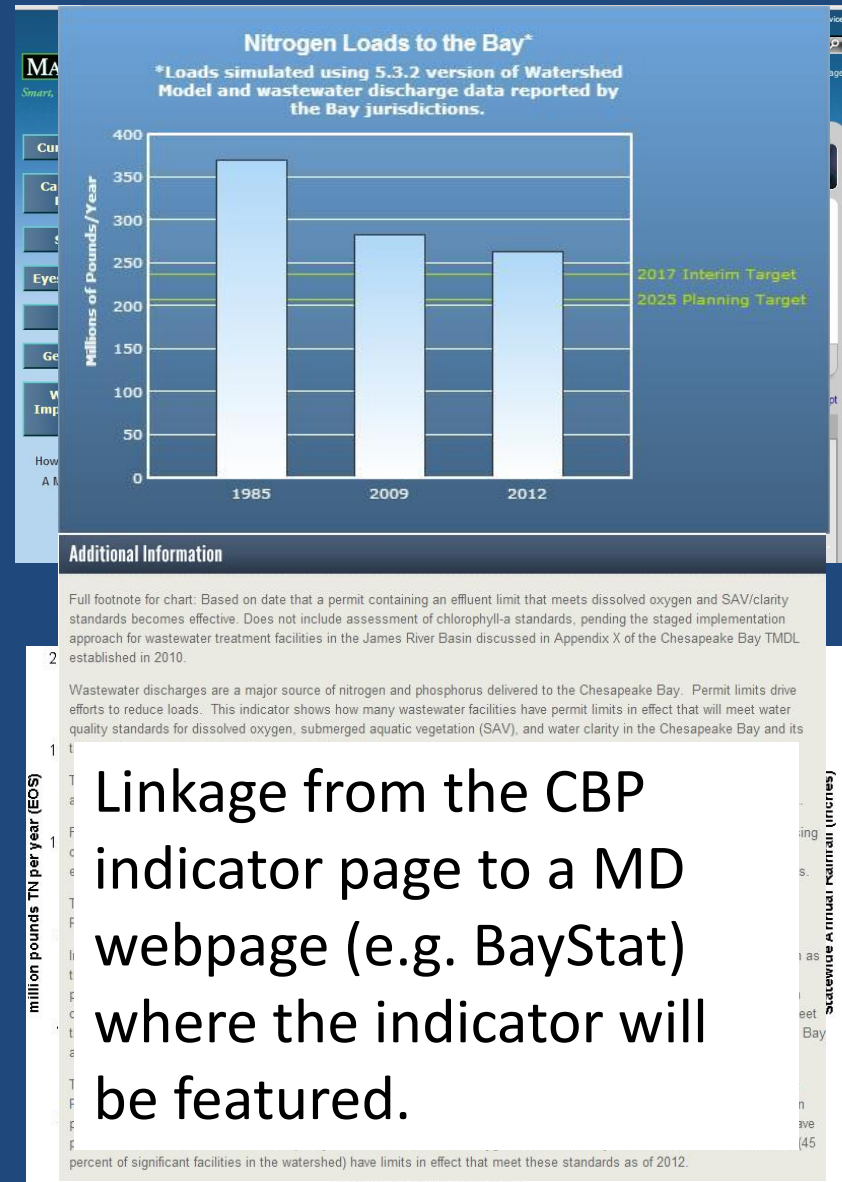
Background

Indicator Workgroup Proposal:

- Since only MD plans to use at this time,
- provide a link from the CBP indicator pages to a MD website where this new supplemental wastewater indicator would be presented and maintained.

MDE Staff Response:

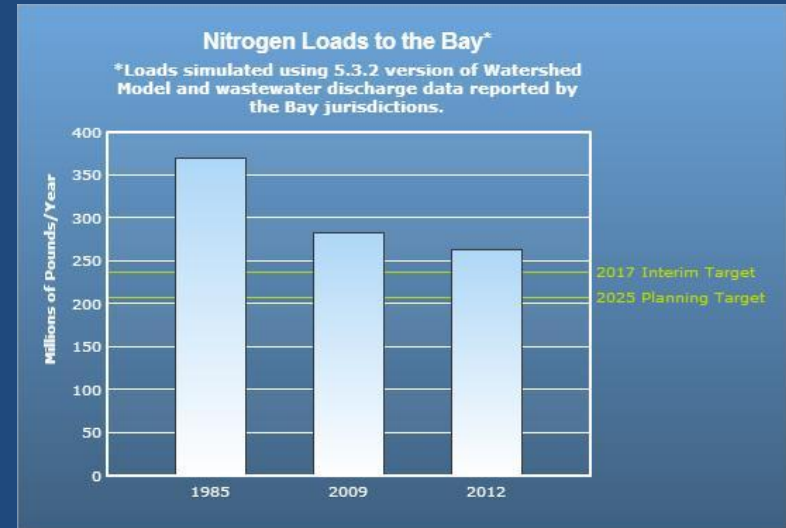
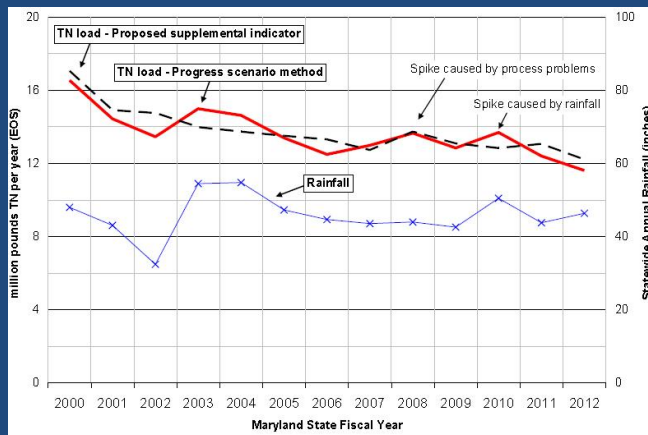
- Agreed that until other jurisdictions decide to use the indicator it is appropriate for the new WW indicator to be presented and maintained on a MD website (rec. BayStat)
- MDE will work with BayStat staff to implement the proposal.



WQGIT Recommendation – New Indicator, part 1

Provide a link from Reducing Pollution indicators to a new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland.

If we maintain the current supplemental WW indicator, also provide a link from that page.



Additional Information

Full footnote for chart: Based on data that a permit containing an effluent limit that meets dissolved oxygen and SAV/clarity standards becomes effective. Does not include assessment of chlorophyll-a standards, pending the staged implementation approach for wastewater treatment facilities in the James River Basin discussed in Appendix X of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL established in 2010.

Wastewater discharges are a major source of nitrogen and phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay. Permit limits drive efforts to reduce loads. This indicator shows how many wastewater facilities have permit limits in effect that will meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), and water clarity in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal

Linkage from the CBP indicator page to a MD webpage (e.g. BayStat) where the indicator will be featured.

percent of significant facilities in the watershed) have limits in effect that meet these standards as of 2012.

WQGIT Recommendation – New Indicator, part 2

Include the following “CBP partnership approval” statement in association with the new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland:

“The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership-approved Supplemental Wastewater Indicator is a load-based measure of average annual progress toward the 2025 planning targets for wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources.”

WQGIT Recommendation – New Indicator, part 3

Use the following language to provide the linkage from the CBP indicator webpages to the new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland:

“The Supplemental Wastewater Indicator is a load-based measure of average annual progress toward the 2025 planning targets for wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources. Unlike the Reducing Pollution indicators which report wastewater flows from annual discharge data, this wastewater indicator uses long-term average flows to control for annual variations in weather and hydrological conditions. Since these hydrological influences can cause load fluctuations that exceed restoration efforts in any given year, this indicator was developed as a tool for watershed managers to better understand the effects of their management decisions.”

WQGIT Recommendation – Current Indicator

- Remove current “supplemental” wastewater indicator charts and info from the indicator webpage, but
- Maintain the indicator webpage and explain why the old indicator is no longer reported (misleading for VA; no value to MD; confusing for all).
- Provide linkages to where the old information can be found (ICIS and possibly BayTAS).
- Provide linkages to new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland.

