

CBP Goal Implementation Team  
**Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**  
**Toxic Contaminants Workgroup**  
**Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Conference Call, Room 305 (CBPO)

**Call-in:** 202-991-0477 **Code:** 283-2221# (Please note new conference line)

**Adobe Connect Link:** <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/tcw/>

**Calendar Page:** [Link](#)



Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and <a href="#">Action Items</a>
<p><b>1. <u>Welcome, introductions, relevant news and announcements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STAC Workshop Proposal submitted: Relationship Between Fish Health and Contaminants of Known and Emerging Concern in Agricultural Settings</li> <li>• STAC Workshop Proposal submitted: Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals</li> <li>• Update on Actionable Science Team of the Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership</li> </ul>	1:00	<p><u>Documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEC STAC Workshop Proposal</li> <li>• Microplastics Workshop Proposal</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. <u>Call for Updates to PCB Story Map</u></b> –Michelle Williams, CRC  Overview of work done previously on PCB story map. Request for jurisdictional updates on PCB TMDLs for inclusion in updated PCB story map.</p>	1:20	<p><u>Documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to <a href="#">PCB Story Map</a></li> <li>• Link to <a href="#">2014 Indicator Map</a></li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Michelle Williams will request jurisdictional updates via email on existing PCB TMDLs, planned PCB TMDLs, and PCB impairment coverage in the Bay Watershed since 2015 in order to update the existing 2015 PCB TMDL story map.</p>

Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and <a href="#">Action Items</a>
<b>3. <u>Update on Phase III WIP Development Templates</u></b> –Greg Allen, EPA CBPO Comments received from Management Board, CBP Communications Team, incorporated into draft WIP templates for submittal February 13.	1:40	<u>Documents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft WIP III Template</li> <li>• Management Board and CBP Comments on Template</li> </ul>
<b>4. <u>Quarterly Strategy Review System Progress Review</u></b> —Greg Allen, EPA CBPO March 14: Pre-meeting with SRS small group April 26: STAR Presentation Dry Run April 30: Due Date for SRS Materials May 10: Quarterly SRS Presentation	2:00	<u>Documents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Template for Quarterly SRS Presentation</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">ACTION: CBP staff and TCW members will work to have drafts for TCW review and discussion of draft final materials in April for the May 10 Management Board SRS progress presentation. More detailed discussion and review will be done by the workgroup at the March conference call to outline the draft presentation.</a></p>
<b>5. <u>Modeling Needs for Chesapeake Bay Program Outcomes</u></b> —Scott Phillips, USGS Scott will provide a presentation made to the Modeling WG about needs of Goal Teams. The TCW will discuss the more detailed needs for tools and modeling related to toxic contaminants. The initial focus could include approaches for PCBs, mercury (Hg), and additional chemicals of concern in urban and agricultural areas.	2:20	<u>Documents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: CBP Modeling Needs</li> </ul>
<b><u>Wrap up</u></b>	2:50	

Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and <a href="#">Action Items</a>
<b><u>Adjourn</u></b>	3:00	

### **Action Items from January 2018:**

ACTION: The workgroup is asked to send comments on the Phase III WIP template/BMP co-benefits guide to Michelle Williams ([Williams.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.michelle@epa.gov)) and Greg Allen ([allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)) by Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The draft WIP III template was submitted to the Management Board for review on Friday, January 12, 2018. **Done. Revised template with comments incorporated was submitted for MB review 2/13/18.**

ACTION: Greg Allen will follow up with Kelly Smalling on pesticides information from the MD Pesticides Network's pesticides classification work. **Still open**

ACTION: Michelle Williams will follow up with representatives from DC, PA and DE on updates to the Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan. **Still open—need updates from DE**

ACTION: 2-17 status updates to the Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan will be incorporated into the Status document for the Research workplan. These updates will inform the workgroup's Strategy Review System presentation to the Management Board and subsequent revisions to the Toxic Contaminants Research management strategy and 2018-2019 workplan. **Still open, working through updates. Will share updated status with workgroup for March conference call.**

ACTION: The workgroup is asked to submit proposals for 2018 STAC workshops prior to the January 31, 2018 deadline. Workgroup members interested in developing a proposal for submittal are asked to contact Greg Allen ([allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)) and Scott Phillips ([swphilli@usgs.gov](mailto:swphilli@usgs.gov)). **Done. Two STAC workshop proposal**

- Scott Phillips introduced the STAC workshop proposal to integrate science and developing approaches to study ag contaminants and relationships with fish health. Called for workgroup to provide any suggestions on possible speakers, steering committee members

- Greg Allen: I'm communicating with the AgWG to see if they are willing to be involved in this work.
  - Phillips: We will be submitting this on Friday for STAC review. We will know by March if this gets accepted.
- Matt Robinson introduced the proposal for microplastics STAC workshop. Planning to sample Watts Branch. There is a large USGS study up the East Coast studying microplastics.
- Allen: This is broader than just SAV, right?
  - Robinson: There is a lack of data out on the variety of microplastics in the Bay and where they are from.
- Allen: Filter feeders might be at particularly high risk for this. Including oysters and other filter feeders in this study would be really compelling.
  - Robinson: We will be expanding the focus of this study on filter feeders and oyster reefs. We have also seen some early evidence of ingestion by barnacles that are then consumed by crabs where the microplastics are still present.
  - Allen: If we don't get STAC workshop funding, we can consider alternative ways to keep working on this issue.
- Greg Allen covered updates on the actionable science team and potential fall Baltimore workshop. Working to get a follow up workshop planned and a possible consortium on PCBs. We would have experts from around the watershed, managers, researchers, agency representatives to come together to work on PCB research and management throughout the watershed. We will be coming forward with a proposal of sorts in coming weeks for the launch of this consortium.
- Allen: I have an update on GIT funding study for feasibility of voluntary PSC phase out program. We got one proposal from ERG for this project, and it looks very strong. We will have more updates on the status of the award for the March TCW meeting, and we invite anyone who wants to get involved in the project to let us know.

### **Updates to PCB Story Map:**

- John Wolf: We have updated information for PCB impairments to the PCB story map from the updates to the 2014 chemical contaminants indicator map. There may also be updated information on PCB TMDLs in development and completed.

- John Wolf: I worked with MDE (Len) on getting updated impairment and TMDL information from MD. That's the kind of information that we are looking to update for this map. We can take shapefiles, website links for impaired waters and TMDLs.
- John Wolf: This also has use beyond the story map. The Diversity Workgroup may also want to look at where these PCB impairments and TMDL coverages overlap with EJ communities and opportunities for diversity, equity, inclusion and engagement in those regulatory and management processes.
- Mark Richards: I am a primary contact for VA's TMDL program, and I can direct questions for TMDL information.
- Amy Williams: I have access to GIS data and I can work with other PA staff. We also have a new open data portal on our website that I can direct you to.
- Allen: And we know that Len Schugam will be the primary contact for MD for this information. We will have to follow up with DC, probably Aaron Waters. We also have contacts for NY, DE and WV that we can contact.
- Wolf: in the past, we have defaulted to EPA's data, but we want to try first to gather information from the states themselves.
- Allen: We will work via email to get that data and have a draft ready to review at an upcoming workgroup meeting. We aim to have this done by mid April so that we can show this to the MB during our SRS presentation.

**ACTION:** Michelle Williams will request jurisdictional updates via email on existing PCB TMDLs, planned PCB TMDLs, and PCB impairment coverage in the Bay Watershed since 2015 in order to update the existing 2015 PCB TMDL story map.

#### **WIP Template Updates:**

- Greg Allen reviewed the comments received and overall purpose of the WIP template. This will be a voluntary tool for jurisdictions to use in the Phase III WIPs. There are some jurisdictions that are very enthusiastic about this and some that may not use. Also intended to be an informative document for general audiences.

#### **Quarterly Progress Review System:**

- Greg Allen gave an overview of the timeline for the SRS process. This is good to have as a driver for reviewing our work and updating our management strategy and workplans. We will have 120 days

after our presentation to update our management strategies and workplans. They are reviewed by the Management Board and partners in the process of that revision.

- Allen: The workplan reviews that we did in December and January have been very helpful, and it's about time to start diving in to what information we want to present to the Management Board and what we want to communicate to move the workgroup forward. We will only have 45 minutes total for each of our outcomes—20 min presentation, 20 min discussion, and 5 min to review action items and needed follow up.
- Phillips: we want to be really clear on what we are asking from the Management Board. We can bring up funding if we want to but they may not be able to provide that. Our big categories are science needs, funding and resource needs, and organizational/admin support. It would also be good for us to go first while the MB is fresh (we are going first).
- Allen: That would include items that we can ask the Management Board to go back to their agencies and staff to move our requests along.
- Phillips: in March or April at the latest, we need to get our asks together for the Management Board.
- Allen: We can have drafts together for TCW review and discussion of draft final materials for April. We will have more detailed discussion and review by the workgroup at the March conference call to build our draft presentation. We don't want it to be only about the asks, we also want some time to show our strategic story and how we have progressed and developed in the workgroup. We have a chance at the June MB meeting to do follow up from the May meeting. Please contact us with your thoughts, and we may be contacting jurisdictions with some more requests for information for the progress presentation.
- Allen: the Management Board meetings are public, and we encourage anyone from the TCW who is interested to come in person or call in to the meeting. May 10—mark your calendars.

**ACTION:** CBP staff and TCW members will work to have drafts for TCW review and discussion of draft final materials in April for the May 10 Management Board SRS progress presentation. More detailed discussion and review will be done by the workgroup at the March conference call to outline the draft presentation.

#### **Modeling Needs:**

- Scott asked the workgroup what extent and coverage of PCB modeling they have for local impairments and TMDLs, and how they are using existing models, and how their modeling needs

could be met/enhanced. Also includes questions of other contaminants and concerns, like emerging agricultural contaminants.

- Other goal teams that indicated interest in toxics include fish and habitat GITs. There are linkages we want to look at as well between toxic contaminants, stream health, and other outcomes.
- Scott asked the workgroup for input on TCW-identified modeling needs.
- Phillips: For the state representatives, Lee Currey has asked if there are existing regulatory tools that are already in place for these TMDLs that are being developed—tools that can be used as a starting point for developing those modeling tools.
- Mark Richards: We are using the Watershed Model for the tidal James, and VIMs is working on building on that model for PCB transport. For each local TMDL developed, we have a model for that project. In the near future, the tidal James watershed would be most applicable for that kind of modeling development.
  - Phillips: Are there enhancements to the Watershed Model that the Modeling workgroup can make in the near future—3-5 year timeline?
  - Richards: The Rappahannock and the York will have TMDLs developed in 2022, so the Modeling workgroup could target those watersheds. Air deposition is also a huge deficiency—that can always use more work.
  - Phillips: For you it's site specific and you use more small-scale models.
  - Allen: The James River TMDL is moving along, and any enhancements to the model won't affect that. But future modeling could influence the development of TMDLs for the Rappahannock and York.
  - Phillips asked about other contaminants
    - Mark Richards suggested mercury. Our Hg problem is mainly on the eastern side of VA (east of I-95)
    - Allen: Hg is very air-dominated rather than water, so that's a different modeling problem.
- Amy Williams: I'm not very involved in the modeling and TMDL development process. I can refer you to Bill Brown, the head of the TMDL section at DEP. We can get you in touch with him in the near future.

### **Additional Updates:**

- Baltimore city very interested in FCA poster—lots of fishing going on despite advisory. Asked if they can submit comments on the graphic.
- Allen: We are hoping to send in last round of comments for final final changes before the graphic is published for general consumption. This last round of comments is pretty substantive, and pretty critical of the product overall—on the finer points of the science and management implications. In the spring, we would like to shift the conversation to roll out strategy, publication targeting, and encouraging other parties to develop their own versions of this kind of communication product. We will hope to share a final graphic at our March meeting.
- Emily Majcher announced a seminar by Trevor Needham on Feb 21.

### **3:00 PM    Adjourned**

#### Call Participants:

Greg Allen, EPA-CBPO  
 Scott Phillips, USGS  
 Michelle Williams, CRC  
 Mark Richards, VA DEQ  
 Amy Williams, PA DEP  
 Matt Robinson, DC DOEE  
 Emily Majcher, USGS  
 Marel King, CBC  
 Micka Peck, EPA R3  
 Doug Austin, EPA-SEE  
 John Wolf, USGS  
 Ian Hartwell  
 Jeremy Hanson, VT