

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**  
**WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**  
**MARCH 10, 2014 CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES**

**ACTION ITEMS & DECISIONS**

**ACTION:** WQGIT members are requested to provide their nominations for WQGIT Vice-Chair to Jenn Volk and Lucinda Power by March 24th.

**ACTION:** WQGIT members will send additional comments on the BMP protocol addendum by COB Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Lucinda Power will distribute a second, revised draft of the addendum in advance of the April 14<sup>th</sup> WQGIT call.

**ACTION:** Working with the WQGIT Workgroup coordinators, Lucinda Power will develop a draft schedule of briefings and in person meetings for midpoint assessment topics and share this schedule with the WQGIT for review and approval.

**WORKGROUP UPDATES**

**Agriculture Workgroup**

- The AgWG met on 3/13. The following decisions are a result of that meeting:
  - **DECISION:** Workgroup nominated Kristen Saacke-Blunk and John Rhoderick as Agriculture Workgroup co-chairs. The WQGIT will confirm the nominations during their 4/14 conference call.
  - **DECISION:** Mark Dubin will revise the list of CEAP questions based on recommendations today and send to Lee Norfleet.
  - **DECISION:** The Agriculture Workgroup recommended that buffers less than 35 ft be reported as a land use change.
  - **DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup recommended that the Riparian Buffer Expert Panel Report move forward for WQGIT approval.
  - **DECISION:** The workgroup decided to send Virginia Tech and TetraTech the full list of Phase 5.3.2 list of BMPs, (removing multiple width grass buffers, adding manure injection and manure technologies) to represent the priorities in total (not in order). The list will be annotated with each priority's availability for Phase 5 and 6, or only available for Phase 6.0. Virginia Tech and TetraTech will be asked which BMPs can be completed the most quickly vs. which will take the longest.

**Urban Stormwater Workgroup**

- The Urban Filter Strips & Stream Buffer Upgrades expert panel presented its report on 2/18.
- The USWG will not meet in March. Next call or meeting is scheduled for 4/15.

**Watershed Technical Workgroup**

- Conference call on 3/6 included discussion of the ESC panel's recommendations, and a presentation of the on-site systems expert panel's recommendations.
- Next call or meeting scheduled for 4/8.

**Wastewater Treatment Workgroup**

- The Wastewater Treatment Workgroup cancelled its March call.
- The April call is being rescheduled, date TBD.

**BMP Verification Review Panel and BMP Verification Committee**

- The Panel will have an all-day face-to-face meeting on 4/1 in Annapolis, followed by a joint meeting with the Committee on 4/2.

### **Land Use Workgroup**

- The Land Use Workgroup held a conference call on 3/11.
- LUWG will be working with the sector and Watershed Technical workgroups and the Habitat GIT in April and May to get their feedback before making a final recommendation on the Phase 6.0 land uses to WQGIT (projected briefing for the WQGIT is June 201).

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome/Confirm Call Participants, Recent Workgroup Decisions and Updates**

- Lucinda Power, WQGIT coordinator, welcomed everyone to the call and reviewed the WQGIT workgroup updates.

### **2. Modeling Workgroup Updates**

- Dave Montali, Modeling Workgroup Co-Chair, provided WQGIT members with an update on recent workgroup activities.
- The Modeling Workgroup has been discussing Conowingo infill at recent meetings, and will be discussing new model development and calibration at upcoming meetings.
- The next Quarterly Modeling Review is scheduled for April 1-2. Agenda items include how to implement BMP panel recommendations, updates on lower Susquehanna dams, oyster sanctuary presentation, aquaculture and climate change influence.
- Lee Curry, Modeling Workgroup Co-Chair noted that the Modeling Workgroup is planning to provide additional updates to the WQGIT following the April quarterly review.

### **3. Nomination/Selection of WQGIT Vice-Chair**

- Lucinda Power announced that Russ Baxter was recently appointed deputy secretary of natural resources for the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Jenn Volk will be taking his place as chair, and the GIT will be nominating and selecting a new vice-chair by the next conference call.
- WQGIT members are requested to provide their nominations for WQGIT Vice-Chair to Jenn Volk and Lucinda Power by March 24<sup>th</sup> in preparation for a final decision during the April 14<sup>th</sup> conference call.

**ACTION:** WQGIT members are requested to provide their nominations for WQGIT Vice-Chair to Jenn Volk and Lucinda Power by March 24th.

### **4. Review BMP Protocol Addendum**

- Lucinda Power provided an overview of [proposed language for the WQGIT's BMP Protocol](#) to formalize the approval process for expert panel reports. The purpose of the protocol addendum is to formalize a process for decisions made at the WQGIT level regarding BMP panel reports.
- VA comments:
  - Recommend that the Watershed Technical Workgroup also sign off on the report before the panel is dismissed.

- Recommend outlining rules of voting, such as membership, in this protocol.
- Recommend that the protocol specify “voting member” rather than “member”.
- Recommend striking “The responsibility for coordinating this process falls to the members raising the objection and not the chairs or coordinator”.
- Recommend that the WQGIT vote to accept or not accept an expert panel report as written, not make changes.
- MD recommends that the WQGIT should not revise the report, but instead create an addendum to the recommendations in the case that they approve most, but not all, recommendations.
- Norm Goulet (NVRC): The purpose of this document is to formalize the process based on the lessons learned so far from the expert panel reports.
  - Recommend a process to handle WQGIT changes to a report, such as a title change, to indicate whose recommendations they are.
- VA recommends earlier and continued coordination with the Watershed Technical Workgroup and at least 10 days to review the written reports in advance of approval.
  - Lucinda: will clarify the definition of membership in the protocol, and the paragraph addressing the approach to significant WQGIT comments/revisions to a panel report.
  - Lucinda noted that responsibility of coordinating objection partly falls to one of the coordinators as well.
    - Goulet (NVRC): Note that coordinators already spend a significant amount of time on the report approval process. Recommend placing some responsibility on the objecting party.
    - VA recommends the panel coordinator work together with the objecting party to resolve objections.
    - Goulet (NVRC): The reason for the language was to put some responsibility on the objecting party to speed up the process. Agree with the panel coordinator and the objecting party working in conjunction.
  - Lucinda noted that part of the panel role is to be available for questions and clarifications.
    - WQGIT leadership will be developing an expectations document to more clearly outline the process for expert panel members.
- Norm: Recommend that WQGIT members have discussions with their source sector representatives during the approval process to ensure their comments are addressed.
- VA will send their suggestions to Lucinda.
- Lucinda will revise report based on comments received by COB Friday, and send a second draft to members.

**ACTION:** WQGIT members will send additional comments on the BMP protocol addendum by COB Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Lucinda Power will distribute a second, revised draft of the addendum in advance of the April 14<sup>th</sup> WQGIT call.

## 5. Discussion of Midpoint Assessment Priority Issues

- During the last meeting, the WQGIT reviewed midpoint assessment support documents that highlighted the key priorities, and discussed plans to develop a detailed schedule for each one that clearly articulates the deliverables, start and end dates, technical and policy considerations that impact other MPA priorities, and decision points at certain levels of the Partnership. Work is underway to put that more detailed schedule together but we do have a revised timeline that has been posted to the calendar entry, based on your comments from the last call.
- The purpose of today's discussion is for the group to start thinking about how we want to be engaged and briefed on what's happening under the midpoint assessment process. Some briefings will be driven by the timeline of the priority itself (e.g. October 2015 for BMP information) but we might want an earlier understanding of what's happening with these other issues, such as Conowingo, climate change, and land use.
- VA: Request a quarterly update from the Modeling Workgroup at the WQGIT meeting following the quarterly review.
  - Low Linker (EPA): Note that the Modeling Workgroup may be considering more regular meetings on an as needed basis. The group may have something more substantial to report more frequently if this happens. Modeling Workgroup is looking for increased coordination with the WQGIT.
  - Lucinda will work with the workgroup coordinators to set up dates for briefings at the WQGIT meetings.

**ACTION:** Working with the WQGIT Workgroup coordinators, Lucinda Power will develop a draft schedule of briefings and in person meetings for midpoint assessment topics and share this schedule with the WQGIT for review and approval.

Adjourned

**Next WQGIT Conference Call:**

April 14th, 2014

1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**Participants:**

Karl Blankenship	Bay Journal
Marel Raub	CBC
Kim Snell-Zarcone	Conservation PA
Jeremy Hanson	CRC
Emma Giese	CRC
George Onyullo	DDOE
John Schneider	DNREC
Sarah Diebel	DOD
Ann Carkhuff	EPA
Suzanne Trevena	EPA Region 3
Lucinda Power (Coordinator)	EPA/CBPO
Jeff Sweeney	EPA/CBPO
Lewis Linker	EPA/CBPO

Gary Shenk	EPA/CBPO
Jennifer Tribo	Hampton Roads
Steve Hann	HRMML
Bruce Michael	MD DNR
Lee Currey	MDE
Tom Thornton	MDE
Jim George	MDE
Norm Goulet	NVRC
Larry Tennity	NRCS DE
Ron Entringer	NY DEC
Kevin McGonigal	SRBC
Matt Johnston	UMD
Sheryle Quinn	US DON
Sally Claggett	USFS/CBPO
Bill Keeling	VADEQ
Alana Hartman	WV DEP
Teresa Koon	WV DEP
Dave Montali	WV DEP
Matt Monroe	WVDA
Eric Aschenbach	VDH