



Chesapeake Bay Program

**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 2, 2020

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Calendar Page: [Link](#)

**Summary of Actions and Decisions**

**Action:** The May meeting minutes will be emailed to the WTWG for final approval.

**Action:** WTWG members should provide any feedback / edits on NEIEN to Jess Rigelman ([jrigelman@j7llc.com](mailto:jrigelman@j7llc.com)) before August.

**Action:** WTWG members should send any feedback on additional trend data that would be helpful in CAST to Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)).

**Agenda**

**10:00 AM – Introductions and Announcements – Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC (20 min.)**

- May Meeting Minutes
  - **Action:** The May meeting minutes will be emailed to the WTWG for final approval.
- Updates on NEIEN and CAST – Jess Rigelman (J7, LLC)
  - *IT team and Jess are working on putting together a NEIEN portal and create a portal for states to view and update their inventory/ xmls. All of this would be available for state progress users through CAST. We are hoping to get that out to everyone by December (tentative).*
  - *On NEIEN web services page there is a link to the appendix etc. although these are not finalized for 2020 progress. Please provide feedback/ edits to Jess because that will be final in August.*
  - **Action:** WTWG members should provide any feedback / edits on NEIEN to Jess Rigelman before August.
- Member and participant announcements
  - No membership/ participant announcements at this time.

**10:20 AM – Trend Data Available on CAST – Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting (15 min.)**

Olivia will demonstrate BMP trend data now available through CAST.

***Discussion:***

Olivia provided a demonstration showing where additional trend data is located in CAST (select “track TMDL progress” → “trends over time” → click link to see trends over time for one of the following: BMPs, loads, nutrients applied, animal unites, and septic). If you select “trends over time” this allows you to see the trends for total acreage of BMPs, for example, from 1985 through the most recent version of CAST.

- *CAST Trend Data Link:*

- <https://cast.chesapeakebay.net/Home/TMDLTracking#trendsOverTimeSection>
- Another tool that could be helpful is the “Compare Planning Target” tool:  
<https://cast.chesapeakebay.net/PlanningTargets>

*What other information would be helpful?*

Lisa Beatty suggested that this be a potential CAST Webinar topic so they could go into more detail and get feedback from a broader audience.

Others mentioned they would need to spend more time looking at this tool first before providing feedback. If members have any input, please email Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)).

**Action:** WTWG members should send any feedback on additional trend data that would be helpful in CAST to Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)).

#### **10:35 AM – BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team – Vanessa Van Note, EPA (15 min.)**

Vanessa will cover the task statement and membership of the newly- formed BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team.

*For more detailed information on this refer to the documents posted to the [WTWG calendar page](#).*

#### ***Discussion:***

*Norm Goulet:* Would this group be revisiting every decision on credit duration?

*Vanessa Van Note:* I don't believe we will be revisiting every decision on credit duration.

*Jeff Sweeney:* What we envisioned here is to reach out to agencies to see where they do have some type of documentation on credit duration for Ag BMPs where they are using a lifespan. Any thoughts on how to address this would be helpful. The letter that went to the MB had eight items on it. The WTWG and EPA has already addressed three or four of these items. The only big tasks that remain are credit duration, design life, and trying to figure out how to get that done.

*Norm Goulet:* It might be helpful to rephrase the bullet on credit duration, especially since we have already done the leg work for part of this item. The other thing that is not on this list that probably should be is revisiting the BMP protocol itself (for example, we need to add in climate change). I don't want to spend time rehashing old stuff.

*Lisa Beatty:* In my notes from the May meeting there was talk of a GIT Funded project to hire a consultant to work on the credit duration review. If this occurs, there would be a point person to be able to gather this information. A point person would be the most efficient way to do this.

*Jeff Sweeney:* Unfortunately, this project was not selected for GIT funding.

#### **10: 50 AM – CAST19 – Jeff Sweeney, EPA (30 min.)**

Jeff will provide an update on the status of releasing CAST19, including re-investigating some methods and BMP crediting for potential use with CAST21.

*For more detailed information on this refer to the PowerPoint posted to the [WTWG calendar page](#).*

#### ***Discussion:***

*Greg Sandi:* I remember the last time this occurred in 2012 with the Ag Census- were we able to verify it over time?

*Jeff Sweeney:* It hasn't been verified, which is the reason the Milestone Workgroup was concerned and made this recommendation to change to every 2 years. It was not verification but a search for different methods. We are going to dig into our projection methods and see how well we hit the actual data and see if we need to do a tweak on that. We are also going to dig into double cropping to see if we can do better in this category as well.

***Zoom Chat:***

*Clint Gill:* Delaware's concern is less about 'more soybeans,' rather a dramatic switch from double cropped soybeans to full season soybeans

*Jess Rigelman:* Crops in "Other Agronomic Crops":

- Cotton
- cropland idle or used for cover crops or soil improvement but not harvested and not pastured or grazed
- cropland in cultivated summer fallow
- dry edible beans excluding limas
- peanuts for nuts
- sod
- sweet corn
- tobacco

**11: 20 AM – Schedule for TMDL-Related Scenarios – Jeff Sweeney, EPA (30 min.)**

Jeff will provide an update on the current schedule for TMDL-related measures including 2019 Progress (CAST17 and CAST19), 2020 Progress, and EPA Milestone evaluations.

*For more detailed information on this refer to the PowerPoint posted to the [WTWG calendar page](#).*

***Discussion:***

*Cassandra Davis:* will all of this be available in a memo, like before?

*Jeff Sweeney:* I grabbed this from the grant guidance appendix, and it lists the whole schedule there. The grant guidance can be found on the CBP website.

***Zoom Chat:***

Olivia provided the link to the grant guidance: <https://www.epa.gov/restoration-chesapeake-bay/chesapeake-bay-program-grant-guidance>

**11:30 AM – Adjourn**

***Next meeting: August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM***

**Call Participants**

Hilary Swartwood, CRC

Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC

Jeff Sweeney, EPA

Emily Dekar, USC

Matt English, DOEE

Alana Hartman, WV DEP  
Arianna Johns, VA DEQ  
Brittany Sturgis, DNREC  
Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA  
Jess Rigelman, J7  
Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting  
Norm Goulet, NOVA  
Jessica Rodriguez, DoD  
Loretta Collins, UMD  
Sebastian Donner, WV DEP  
Whitney Ahead, CRC  
Lisa Beatty, PA DEP  
Vanessa Van Note, EPA  
Sucharith Ravi, UMCES  
Greg Sandi, MDE  
Ruth Cassilly, UMD  
Clint Gill, DDA