



Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

Conference Call Summary

Tuesday, September 4th, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Event page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18608/>

Welcome & Introduction

1. BMP Verification Protocols

- Ning Zhou (EPA-CBPO) reviewed the revised draft verification protocols for Non-sig WWTPs, CSOs, and onsite treatment systems; the protocols are available here: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18608/attachment_b--draft_bmp_verification_protocols.pdf
- Dave Montali (WV DEP) asked for clarification that the draft protocols endorse the jurisdictions' WIPs regarding tracking/reporting of overflows.
 - Zhou agreed that the WIPs probably have more detail than Long Term Control Plans.
- Zhou asked for objections to sharing the verification protocols with the BMP Verification Committee on Wednesday, September 12th; hearing none, the protocols were approved.

DECISION: The WWTWG's draft verification protocols will be presented to the BMP Verification Committee on Wednesday, September 12th for their review and consideration.

2. Midpoint Assessment

- The comments previously received from WWTWG members were compiled and are available here: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18608/attachment_a--wwtwg_prelim_comments_on_2017_mpa_workgroup_copy_08_24_12.pdf
- Jeremy Hanson described a request from the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) for workgroups to identify their top two or three priorities for discussion at the WQGIT's October meeting; he opened the floor to discuss potential priorities.
 - Priorities must be sent to the WQGIT by September 18th, so WWTWG members need to provide their comments to Tanya, Ning, and Jeremy by COB Friday, September 14th.
- Allen Brockenbough (VA DEQ) expressed continued reservations with a supplemental indicator for wastewater, suggesting that the sector already has good enough data.
 - Montali generally agreed with Virginia's comment, but noted that there is disagreement within the workgroup.
 - Ron Furlan felt the indicator was not a top priority, noting that Maryland has a strong interest in the indicator but was not present to discuss their view.
- Zhou mentioned loading from minor point sources. Tetra Tech helped with development of original data, but the confidence level is not necessarily high so there may be a need to improve the data by 2017.
 - Eric Aschenbach noted that Virginia already has plans for additional monitoring in the long term, noting that the Tetra Tech data is not ideal.

- Montali commented that West Virginia felt pretty confident with its data, but they would not object to a more detailed evaluation.
- Montali asked for clarification of how many priorities the WWTWG should select and the scope it should focus on.
 - Zhou noted that the WWTWG did not receive any comments on CSOs, so for now the focus is on wastewater and septic/on-site systems.
- Brockenbough suggested combining the following two bullets into one:
 - Changes to Point Source WLA due to permanent trades such as Septic Connections
 - Accounting for changes in WLA and Offsets both permanent and annual
 - He thought that “Nutrient loads from Minor Industrial Point Sources” was a top priority for the WWTWG in addition to the preceding two bullets.
- Marty Hurd (Tetra Tech) pointed out Virginia’s comment on septic “census” data, and asked if other jurisdictions collected similar data.
 - Brockenbough clarified that VA collects data on new septic permits issued, not septic connections to treatment plants; there’s one locality with an allocation for connections of septic systems; no formal policy is in place.
 - Furlan explained that PA does not track or collect comprehensive info on septic systems, but they track the number of systems connected or eliminated; the load from septic systems is negligible relative to the rest of PA’s pollutant loads.
 - Montali felt the spatial extent of centralized sewer systems was far too small in the past version of the Model; WV plans to gather data to more accurately understand the number of operating on-site systems.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED: WWTWG members should send comments on wastewater, septic, or CSO priorities for the Midpoint Assessment to Tanya Spano (tspano@mwkog.org), Ning Zhou (Zhou.Ning@epamail.epa.gov) and Jeremy Hanson (jhanson@chesapeakebay.net) by COB Friday, September 14th.

ACTION: Tanya, Ning, and Jeremy will draft a list of the WWTWG’s priorities to share with the WWTWG before sending to the WQGIT.

3. Septic Expert Panel Update

- Mark Sievers (Tetra Tech) briefly updated the workgroup on the expert panel’s last two meetings in late July and late August.
 - The panel is investigating specific efficiencies for different proprietary systems, given differences in their performance.
 - For non-proprietary technologies, the expert panel is considering a single BMP efficiency for each technology.
- Ron Furlan asked if the panel is looking at air deposition; Sievers indicated they are not.
- Sievers hopes to have a draft report to share with the WWTWG by December.

4. Update on Point Source Data System

- Marty Hurd’s presentation can be viewed or downloaded here:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18608/hurd_wastewater_data_reporting_system_wwtwg_09-04-2012.pdf
- Hurd reviewed the changes and upgrades that Tetra Tech is working on; his presentation contained screenshots examples.

- Hurd had no specific requests, but encouraged the jurisdictions to provide general comments.
- Montali asked about the timeline for the changes; Hurd hoped to have the updates in place in time for 2012 progress reporting, if the bugs are all worked out in time.
- Montali expressed concern that some detail might be lost; he encouraged Zhou and Hurd to meet with Megan Smith from West Virginia.

Meeting adjourned (11:30 AM)

Participants

Name	Affiliation
Ning Zhou, Coordinator	EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Jeremy Hanson, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Allan Brockenbrough	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Eric Aschenbach	Virginia Department of Health
Dave Montali	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Dharmendra Kumar	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Ron Furlan	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Laurie Mitzel	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Marty Hurd	Tetra Tech
Mark Sievers	Tetra Tech
Megan Thyng	EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Glynn Rountree	National Association of Homebuilders
Russ Pomeroy	MD and VA Associations of Municipal Wastewater Agencies