



## **Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)**

### **Conference Call Summary**

**Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18609/>

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### **Welcome & Introduction**

- Tanya Spano (WWTWG Chair; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments) convened the call at 10:00AM.

### **1. Midpoint Assessment priorities and prep for WQGIT meeting**

- Spano reminded the workgroup of the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's face-to-face meeting later in October. She asked for input on the midpoint assessment priorities submitted by the WWTWG ([Attachment A](#)).
  - Allen Brockenbrough (VA Dept. of Environmental Quality) recommended moving up priority #4 under wastewater.
    - Spano agreed, and suggested refining #4 to indicate the presentation is the problem, not the calculation.
    - Ning Zhou (Virginia Tech, Chesapeake Bay Program Office) noted the definition determines the calculation, and the different states define it differently.
    - Spano felt this was a problem the workgroup could tackle on its own without WQGIT guidance, but they could still point to it as a priority.
      - She asked Zhou to compile some follow-up information on this item, for a future workgroup discussion.
  - Marty Hurd (Tetra Tech) requested clarification on item #1 under wastewater. After some discussion Spano suggested the statement needs further refinement to clarify how an offset will affect a wasteload allocation (WLA).
    - Zhou gave an example of septic system connections in Pennsylvania, noting that there is not an answer as to how to account for that permanent offset every year in the WLA.
      - Marya Levelev (Maryland Dept. of Environment) raised a question about how this might affect the septic load, and pointed out that the jurisdictions calculate these reductions differently.
    - Spano commented there is clearly a need to better understand this issue, and that there needs to be a distinction between annual progress runs and evaluation of wasteload allocations.
      - She mentioned that Jeremy Hanson (CRC) is compiling background research for her reference at the WQGIT meeting. Perhaps this could include facts about how these loads are reported, and could key it up for discussion; possibly for joint discussion with Trading & Offsets Workgroup (TOWG), maybe other workgroups that deal with tracking too (i.e. the Watershed Technical Workgroup or BMP Verification Committee).

- Spano asked how the other jurisdictions felt about the proposal to clarify the need for cross-workgroup collaboration on the issue.
- Brockenbrough felt it is important to make a distinction about the goal: are we trying to measure progress for the state or determine compliance for an individual facility. For example, compliance trades between point sources in Virginia would not necessarily need to be tracked to show the state's progress, since the overall load from the facilities would accomplish that; point-nonpoint exchanges would be a different matter.
- Spano concluded this issue would need further discussion.
  - She also suggested that overall the priorities should be revised to be more proactive statements.
- Ning Zhou briefly explained how each state tracks/monitors non-significant facilities.
  - Spano noted this appeared to be a priority for Zhou and for Maryland. Other jurisdictions had no comment at the time. Spano mentioned her request for Zhou and Hanson to gather more information on the subject along with #4.
- Spano explained her perspective for items 3(a) and 3(b) and asked for comments.
  - Brockenbrough felt the workgroup had discussed the issue at length over the past year; he also commented that if 3(b) is handled well, 3(a) may be unnecessary.
  - Levelev recommended keeping the issues separate.
- Katherine Antos (EPA, CBPO) noted that the Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) has flagged #5 (biosolids), but there is a role for the WWTWG too.
  - Spano agreed, at the very least the WWTWG can get more facts, understand the magnitude and keep in touch with the AgWG.
- Spano asked if any priorities were missing; none were suggested.
  - She asked if the listed priorities were the right ones; no objections were raised.
  - She asked for suggestions on additional items to raise at the WQGIT meeting; none were heard.
- Spano asked members to send comments or suggestions on the WWTWG's priorities or WQGIT preparation to her ([tspano@mwkog.org](mailto:tspano@mwkog.org)) by 10/8 and to Zhou ([Zhou.Ning@epa.gov](mailto:Zhou.Ning@epa.gov)) and Hanson ([jhanson@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jhanson@chesapeakebay.net)) after 10/9.

**ACTION:** For the November WWTWG conference call, Ning Zhou and Jeremy Hanson will compile a table that describes how states currently define/calculate loads from industrial plants and non-significant facilities.

**FEEDBACK REQUESTED:** Comments or suggestions on the workgroup's priorities or WQGIT preparation should be sent to ([tspano@mwkog.org](mailto:tspano@mwkog.org)) by 10/8, and to Zhou ([Zhou.Ning@epa.gov](mailto:Zhou.Ning@epa.gov)) and Hanson ([jhanson@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jhanson@chesapeakebay.net)) after 10/9, before 10/19.

## 2. ChesapeakeStat presentation of WSM 5.3.2 point source data

- Doreen Vetter (EPA, CBPO) described some of the changes to ChesapeakeStat's presentation of NPDES facilities data in the site's TMDL Tracker; the changes are still

under development and she asked for input and feedback from the WWTWG members (screen shots are available in the [5.3.2 facilities mock-ups](#) document).

- Lori Mitzel (?) asked about the source of the data.
  - Vetter indicated it comes from BayTAS (Chesapeake Bay TMDL Tracking and Accounting System).
  - Brian Trulear (EPA, Region 3) and Megan Thyng (EPA, CBPO) noted the data used for the proposed updates is from the states' 2011 progress submissions.
  - Spano asked if a footnote describing the data source would be helpful; Mitzel felt it would be.
    - Vetter mentioned that a footnote is included on the site, under the map legend, but left out from the screen shots: "Loads simulated using Watershed Model 5.3.2 and wastewater discharge data reported by jurisdictions."
- Brockenbough suggested that CBPO ChesapeakeStat staff should touch base with VA DEQ staff, given staged implementation on the James River that may be confusing.
- Spano felt it was key to clearly convey what is meant by the phrase "consistent with TMDL," so she asked Zhou and others to work with Doreen on the language.
  - Vetter mentioned it had been suggested to add a link to more information and the description of the supplemental wastewater indicator.
- Vetter noted they hope to update the facilities tracker by early November, in time for the Management Board's meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. She explained that gathering the data is the largest time requirement.
  - Given the timeline, she asked WWTWG members to provide their input no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**FEEDBACK REQUESTED: WWTWG members should submit comments/suggestions on the proposed updates to ChesapeakeStat's TMDL tracker point-source data to Doreen Vetter ([vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@epa.gov)), Ning Zhou ([Zhou.Ning@epa.gov](mailto:Zhou.Ning@epa.gov)) and Jeremy Hanson ([jhanson@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jhanson@chesapeakebay.net)) by 10/31.**

**ACTION: CBPO staff will work with Doreen to clarify the phrase "consistent with the TMDL" on ChesapeakeStat's updated TMDL tracker.**

### 3. Septic Expert Panel Update

- Mark Sievers (Tetra Tech) described the status of the on-site wastewater treatment system panel.
  - Panel held a call the previous week, on 9/25. They discussed the split between the current panel and next year's attenuation panel, among other things.
  - Hope to have recommendations by December for the WWTWG's discussion.

### 4. Other updates

- Virginia DCR is going through regulatory process to expand its trading program under new state law; they are reevaluating their 2:1 nonpoint source-point source trading ratio.

**Meeting adjourned**

**Next conference call:**

Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18610/>

**Participants**

Name		Affiliation
Tanya	Spano (Chair)	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Ning	Zhou (Coordinator)	Virginia Tech, Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Jeremy	Hanson (Staff)	Chesapeake Research Consortium, CBPO
Katherine	Antos	EPA, CBPO
Eric	Aschenbach	Virginia Dept. of Health
Allan	Brockenbrough	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Greg	Busch	MDE
Marty	Hurd	Tetra Tech
Dharmendra	Kumar	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Marya	Levelev	Maryland Dept. of Environment
Lori	Mitzel	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Glynn	Rountree	National Association of Home Builders
Dave	Schepens	Delaware
Mark	Sievers	Tetra Tech
Megan	Thynge	EPA, CBPO
Brian	Trulear	EPA, Region 3
John	Weidman	New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Nasser	Ameen	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Doreen	Vetter	EPA, CBPO