



MINUTES

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)

Teleconference

Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Summary of Action and Decision Items

ACTION: WWTWG members should send comments on the November WWTWG meeting minutes to David Wood (Wood.DavidM@epa.gov) by COB December 15. If no comments are received, the minutes will be considered approved.

ACTION: MWCOG will lead an effort to provide better information to improve how biosolids are represented in the Phase 6 Watershed Model in time for the final calibration. The summary table will be revised to reflect this ongoing effort.

DECISION: The WWTWG endorsed the inclusion of the six proposed wastewater source loads and asked for further investigation into the methodologies for how they will be incorporated into the Phase 6 Modeling tools.

ACTION: WWTWG members and interested parties who would like to nominate someone for at-large membership, should send the nominee's name, affiliation and a 1-page CV or bio describing their qualifications to David Wood (Wood.DavidM@epa.gov) by COB December 15.

ACTION: WWTWG will confirm their at-large members and discuss options for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair during their January meeting.

ACTION: Please send any comments on the draft charge for the boat pump out BMP expert panel, as well as any further panel membership nominations to Ning Zhou (Zhou.Ning@epa.gov).

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements—*Tanya Spano (Chair)*

ACTION: WWTWG members should send comments on the November WWTWG meeting minutes to David Wood (Wood.DavidM@epa.gov) by COB December 15. If no comments are received, the minutes will be considered approved.

Implementing New Wastewater Loads – *Ning Zhou, VT*

- Ning provided an update on the proposed methodologies for including nutrient sources from rapid infiltration, spray irrigation, biosolids and non-traditional onsite systems in the Phase 6 modeling tools.

Discussion:

- Tanya Spano (MWCOG): I will ask for endorsement of each wastewater load source individually.
- Ning Zhou (VT): We did not receive any further feedback on the summary table following the November meeting. If we approve moving forward with these load sources, we have the ability

to tweak the methodologies in the future. If down the road there is something we need to modify, there is an opportunity to do that.

- Spano: So we are asking for WWTWG approval to move forward with pursuing these load sources, not approval of any specific methodologies. My first comment is to please remove “sludge” from the biosolids column, they are different things. Also, I have a problem with having the model calculate the plant uptake for biosolids. It is based on manure, and is inaccurate for biosolids and that needs to be addressed. We need to explore those methodologies.
 - Dave Montali (WV DEP): I have heard those concerns about the nutrient spread protocols being used for the beta version of the Phase 6 Watershed Model and how biosolids should not be lumped with manure and spread. While that is the way it is going to be in the beta version of the model, it can be improved upon in the first 9 months of 2016. If folks feel strongly about it, we can pursue that. I don’t think the words in the summary table are wrong, maybe we can just put a caveat after “simulated as fertilizer” to say that other methods are being considered or just that simulating application as fertilizer is the current default.
- Spano: Does the workgroup agree with the recommendation that we pursue this and find a way to replace the default assumptions?
 - Allan Brockenbrough (VA DEQ): I can agree with that.
- Spano: MWCOG can bring forward information and presentations to the WWTWG on how to improve how biosolids are represented in the Phase 6 Watershed Model. We can get that conversation started.
 - George Onyullo (DOEE): I agree with that approach.
 - Dave Schepens (DE DNREC): Delaware has no objections.

ACTION: MWCOG will lead an effort to provide better information to improve how biosolids are represented in the Phase 6 Watershed Model in time for the final calibration. The summary table will be revised to reflect this ongoing effort.

- Andrew Gaul (PA DEP): Were extractive lands considered for biosolids application?
 - Montali: In West Virginia, we prescribed biosolids as being applied to agricultural lands. I don’t know if the Scenario Builder team has considered the potential for extractive lands to receive biosolids.
 - Spano: That is definitely something that should be considered.
- Montali: As far as the BMP crediting row for biosolids being “no”, there is nutrient management to consider.
 - Zhou: I was told that the nutrient management BMP has not considered credit for these biosolids applications at this point.
- Ron Furlan (PA DEP): Will this group define what biosolids are? It is not defined in the state regulations and it is becoming an issue. I am hesitant about calling it biosolids not sewage sludge, because technically there is no definition for biosolids.
 - Spano: I will stand corrected, and if we need to use the sludge term, that is fine.
- Spano: Any questions or concerns about how spray irrigation on agriculture land is characterized?
 - Schepens: The BMP crediting row has “no” for both spray irrigation on ag and for non-ag spray irrigation. In the Phase 5.3.2 Model, all community systems would be operating on a more efficient basis, so I think the rapid infiltration and large onsite should be “yes”.
 - Spano: It sounds like there is a need to look at the language for BMP crediting, because that must not be quite right. As we look at these loads, there is a separate question about credits for any additional treatments.

- Zhou: The “no” is probably a little misleading, and we can find other terminology. It has to do with how Scenario Builder treats the loads. If you report the concentration, the pounds entered into Scenario Builder would already account for any concentrations that are lower than a traditional system.
- Spano: I ask that we plan out upcoming meetings to have more detailed conversations on these issues. We are agreeing that we want to better quantify these loads. We have conceptually agreed to these, but there is more information needed. Can we accept the fact that these are issues that need to be looked at going forward? We need to work on details for how to quantify them. Anyone opposed to that approach?
 - No opposition was raised.
- Marya Levelev (MDE): In regards to BMP credits, maybe we can say “TBD”. We are getting credits for BMPs on septic systems, so maybe there is a similar process for getting BMPs on these other loads as well.
- Spano: Are rapid infiltration basins or large monitored onsite systems relying on default data?
 - Montali: Nutrient speciation will probably not be available, so there will probably be some kind of estimation in addition to the calculation.
 - Schepens: Yes, there may be some defaults needed.
- Spano: Any other concerns related to the rapid infiltration?
 - No concerns were raised.
- Spano: Is everyone comfortable with the large monitored onsite systems (LMOS)?
 - Schepens: LMOS could have advanced treatment units or some other technology prior to discharge.
 - Spano: So there are some relationships there that need to be reflected. We need to ensure we understand where the loads are being pulled from. Any other comments on LMOS?
 - No concerns were raised.
- Spano: For the boat discharge, we are waiting for the expert panel to make these decisions.
- Spano: Do we have confirmation that the WWTWG is comfortable with moving these new load sources forward according to what we have just discussed?

DECISION: The WWTWG endorsed the inclusion of the six proposed wastewater source loads and asked for further investigation into the methodologies for how they will be incorporated into the Phase 6 Modelling tools.

WWTWG Governance – *Tanya Spano, Chair*

- On November 9, the WQGIT approved the WWTWG’s proposed membership definition. Tanya asked signatories to confirm their primary and alternate members, and issued a call for at-large members.

Discussion:

- Spano: The WWTWG Governance was endorsed by the WQGIT on November 9. The WWTWG will continue to follow the same decision making protocols as the WQGIT.
- Spano: Can our signatories on the line please confirm that the draft list of primary and alternate signatory representatives is accurate?
 - Brockenbrough: We would like to list Angela Redwine (VDH) as the Virginia alternate.
 - Schepens: We will likely have a different alternate, I will follow-up.
 - Onyullo: We will have an alternate.

- Rashid Ahmed (NYSDEC): I will be the primary member for New York, and will send in an alternate.
- Montali: Please list Megan Browning (WV DEP) as West Virginia's alternate.

ACTION: WWTWG members and interested parties who would like to nominate someone for at-large membership, should send the nominee's name, affiliation and a 1-page CV or bio describing their qualifications to David Wood (Wood.DavidM@epa.gov) by COB December 15.

ACTION: WWTWG will confirm their at-large members and discuss options for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair during their January meeting.

Updates and other business

- Zhou: For the boat pump-out BMP expert panel, I was told that the report can be a memo-style report as long as all of the elements required by the protocol were included. We will not need support from Tetra Tech for this panel. We have a proposed list of panel members. We hope to have 1 representative from each jurisdiction. The workgroup needs to approve the panel charge and membership, which is based on the scope that we previously approved for the task force.

ACTION: Please send any comments on the draft charge for the boat pump out BMP expert panel, as well as any further panel membership nominations to Ning Zhou (Zhou.Ning@epa.gov).

Adjourn

Next conference call:

January 5, 2015

List of Call Participants

Name	Affiliation
Tanya Spano (Chair)	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Ning Zhou (Coordinator)	VT, CBPO
David Wood (Staff)	CRC, CBPO
Dave Schepens	DE DNREC
Allan Brockenbrough	VA DEQ
George Onyullo	DOEE
Greg Busch	MDE
Marya Levelev	MDE
Lana Sindler	MWCOG
Angela Redwine	VDH
Rashid Ahmed	NYSDEC
Andrew Gaul	PA DEP
Dharmendra Kumar	PA DEP
Ron Furlan	PA DEP
Megan Browning	WV DEP
Dave Montali	WV DEP