Minutes
Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)
Teleconference
Tuesday, June 7, 2016, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Summary of Action and Decision Items

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the May minutes as-written.

ACTION: Virignia DEQ will do a check for any potential operational explanations for the dramatic change in loads from the Westvaco facility, and report back to the WWTWG by June 28th.

DECISION: The WWTWG has conditionally approved the Modeling Workgroup's proposed process for adjusting loads from the Westvaco wastewater treatment plant for 1984-1996 based on monitoring data, in order to improve the accuracy of the model calibration. If Virginia DEQ identifies compelling evidence that this adjustment would result in an obvious misattribution of loads, the WWTWG will re-evaluate the decision.

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the Biosolids Task Force Recommendations for use in the Beta 3 Model calibration.

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

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the May minutes as-written.

Covington Industrial Point Source Historical Data – *Gopal Bhatt, Penn State*

From 1984-1996, the Westvaco industrial wastewater treatment plant in Covington, VA reported an estimated default discharged load, causing a large disparity between observed river water quality monitoring data and point source discharge data in a stretch of the James for that time period. The Modeling Workgroup would like to adjust the loads from that source in the years 1985-1995 based on the monitoring data in order to achieve a better model calibration.

Discussion:

- Tanya Spano (Chair): What changed that allowed you to suddenly get the data?
    - Ning Zhou (VT, Coordinator): They likely had no monitoring activities for phosphorus back in time, so they provided a default value. Once the monitored data came into play, it was added in.
    - Gopal Bhatt (PSU): The phosphorus concentration was assumed. You'll notice that the loads vary because they did have some monitored flow data. We need to specifically label what was observed and what was assumed. We are not proposing to modify anything that is actual observed data.
        - Spano: That needs to be clear in the model documentation, how those assumptions are made.
- Spano: In terms of calibrating the Model, you were seeing actual loads that were higher than what the Model was predicting, and the Westvaco is the obvious source?
    - Dave Montali (WV DEP): Correct. In the period post-2003, you see a pretty good match between the Model and the observations. I think there were phosphorus reduction

activities post-2002. What was assumed to be the concentration post-2002 seems to have been too low.

- Spano: Any observations or concerns from Virginia representatives?
    - Matt Richardson (VA DEQ): This seems really reasonable. I would like to review it with our decision makers here, but it seems very reasonable.
- Spano: We had it listed as an action item, but I think it is reasonable to provide time for Virginia to review. Are other jurisdictions alright with the analysis and proposed solution?
- Greg Busch (MDE): I think this makes a lot of sense. Is there operational evidence to support this? It seems there is plenty of other evidence, but we would expect to see something like a huge phosphorus decrease around that time period.
    - Zhou: I asked Matt about this facility data earlier this year. I think there was something going on at the facility because when we back-cast, the concentration seems abnormally high. There has to be some sort of process change since the early years for this facility. Even a spill or something abnormal.
    - Bhatt: We have good evidence that suggests this, but it would be good to know if there was some kind of management action in place that allowed for the phosphorus reduction over time.
- Montali: There wasn't a lot of monitoring of these in the early years, so there were a lot of assumptions made. This is different because it really effects the calibration. It would be interesting to know if there were manufacturing process changes, or if there was actual treatment that occurred, but I don't have any problems with this method. If this group says it looks good, but after consultation with Virginia you find that we were wrong, we have an opportunity to change it before the Model become finalized.
- Spano: I think there has to be some effort to find a way of verifying that there is an operational explanation for this. I think it is incumbent upon Virginia to check and see.
    - Richardson: I agree, I will do what I can over the coming week or so.
- Spano: The other part is the precedent. We make decisions about defaults because we can't monitor everything and we need to have comfort that those assumptions are close to reality. This is an order of magnitude difference between an assumption and reality, and there is evidence that it is dramatically impacting the calibration. We have multiple lines of evidence and a solution, so it all makes sense. I want to make appropriate changes, but not open everything up to questioning.

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Biosolids Task Force Report – *Matt Johnston, UMD*

Matt provided an overview of the Task Force's recommendations for how to address biosolids in the Phase 6 Watershed Model.

DECISION: The WWTWG approved the Biosolids Task Force Recommendations for use in the Beta 3 Model calibration.

New Source Data Collection and Cleanup Update – *Ning Zhou, VT*

Jurisdictions were asked to provide updates on their data collection plan and efforts for the new sources, such as spray irrigation, rapid infiltration and large onsite systems.

Updates and other business

- Attenuation Panel Update
- Boat Discharge and Pump-out Panel
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Panel
- Point Source Data Project
- Facility Upgrade Status
- Point Source QAPPs

Adjourn

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
George Onyullo	DOEE
Adion Chinkuyu	DOEE
Greg Busch	MDE
Rashid Ahmed	NYSDEC
Geoffrey Maduka	PA DEP
Gopal Bhatt	PSU
Matt Richardson	VA DEQ
Angela Redwine	VDH
Dave Montali	WV DEP