MEETING MINUTES

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG) Teleconference
Tuesday, Sept 1st, 2020 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Summary of Actions & Decisions:

- **ACTION:** Send feedback on items, updates, and/or actions they would like to see addressed in future versions of CAST by **COB September 9th** to Whitney Ashead (asheadw@chesapeake.org) and Matt Ries (Matt.Ries@dcwater.com).
- **DECISION:** The July WWTWG meeting minutes were approved by the workgroup.
- **ACTION:** WWTWG members are requested to share their feedback by scheduling a meeting slot in the Doodle Poll as soon as possible
- **ACTION:** Matt Ries and Whitney Ashead will synthesize findings from interviews with WWTWG members. The findings will be presented at the next WWTWG call (Nov. 4th).
- **ACTION:** All jurisdictions, please provide Jeff Sweeney (Sweeney.jeff@epa.gov) biosolids data from any previous year post-2013, not just the immediate last progress year. The biosolids data requested in the template includes; county, NPDES, month, year, total acres receiving biosolids, total acres of nutrient management lands receiving biosolids, total dry pounds (or tons) applied to the land in each county, percent moisture content of pounds applied, nutrient concentrations of dry pounds applied.
- **ACTION:** Gary will have offline conversations with jurisdictions on data reporting and then come back to the workgroup to discuss strategies and findings at a later date.
- **ACTION:** Email Megan Thynge (Thynge.Megan@epa.gov) if you would like to be part of the point source application distribution list and want to see when the presentations are available or if you would like to review the application sooner.

10:00 AM **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements** – Matt Ries (DC Water), Chair

- Roll Call
- Brief Introduction
- **Announcement:** Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) leadership team is also seeking input from its source sector workgroups on other issues and needs they would like to see addressed in either CAST 2021 or future versions of the model.

ACTION: Send feedback on items, updates, and/or actions they would like to see addressed in future versions of CAST by **COB September 9th** to Whitney Ashead (asheadw@chesapeake.org) and Matt Ries (Matt.Ries@dcwater.com).

DECISION: The July WWTWG meeting minutes were approved by the workgroup.

10:10 AM **Brief Overview of Workgroup Member Feedback**

- Matt Ries and Whitney Ashead met with several workgroup members and received a range of feedback on agenda topics and the direction of the workgroup. Final findings will be synthesized and presented at the next WWTWG meeting.

ACTION: WWTWG members are requested to share their feedback by scheduling a meeting slot in the Doodle Poll as soon as possible

10:20 AM **Biosolids Reporting for the CAST21 Model** – Jeff Sweeney (EPA)

- **Summary:** Jeff Sweeney discussed biosolid reporting for the CAST21 Model. Biosolids have been an input to the model for the past few versions. However, new information from jurisdictions has largely not been provided since 2013. The Chesapeake Bay Program Office requests annual updates on biosolids and is open to discussing any barriers to providing this information to ensure consistent reporting.

ACTION: All jurisdictions, please provide Jeff Sweeney (Sweeney.jeff@epa.gov) biosolids data from any previous year post-2013, not just the immediate last progress year. The biosolids data requested in the template includes; county, NPDES, month, year, total acres receiving biosolids, total acres of nutrient management lands receiving biosolids, total dry pounds (or tons) applied in each county, percent moisture content of pounds applied, nutrient concentrations of dry pounds applied.

10:45 AM **Characterizing CSOs** – Gary Shenk (USGS Chesapeake Bay Program Office)

- **Summary:** Currently 4 of 64 CSO communities have great and detailed CSO data. For the other 60 counties, rainfall data is used combined with concentration assumptions to find data. Better data would allow the Chesapeake Bay Program Office to start a long-term plan to implement that. Workgroup members are requested to share how their CSOs are characterized and how flows are being measured.

Discussion/Questions:
Discussion to determine if there are ways, we can try to get at this beyond the estimation methods that Gary laid out.

- Virginia
  - In **VA** there are significant reductions but for the most part it is not sewer separation but constructing storage to get more of the flow to the wastewater plant so that load is being transferred to from the CSO sector to wastewater sector and thus VA is not capturing the CSO reduction loads as a result. VA is not sure how to address that or get the information on the timeframe you need for the annual runs. There are also provisions in the state laws so that the CSOs long-term control plans are supposed to be wrapped up in the next 5-6 years. Localities have detailed modeling that resulted in the original allocations which some were allocated to CSOs and some to wastewater plants.

- West Virginia

- In **WV**, the CSO tracking is very simplified. WV does not have great information or models, but the state does have annual reporting of overflows. Our reporting has three options, if there are zero overflows, they have 100% reduction, if there are 6 or less overflows, they receive 85% reduction, and if there are 6 or more overflows then there is a 0% reduction.

- <u>D.C.</u>
  - For **DC** we have the model that predicts a 96% reduction that is currently being built. As it is being built, we are already seeing a reduction of over 90%.

- <u>Maryland</u>
  - **MD** only sends in information when there has been a change and the project has been completely separated. They either have 0% or 100%. Whenever each facility reaches completion there will only be one project that does not reach 100% which would be Cumberland for storage.

- <u>Pennsylvania</u>
  - **PA** can estimate sampling data but cannot estimate concentrations. This would be helpful to the Bay Program Office, but it will not directly be helpful. If PA has pre-construction data and post-construction data, then those time series can be analyzed before and after relative to rainfall received and the difference can be looked at. Together, PA DEP and the CBPO can come up with a method of implementing a reduction due to anthropogenic effects. However, PA does not have the pre-construction data but are aware of storage facilities and improvements that have been made.

- <u>USGS Chesapeake Bay Program Office</u>
  - Gary Shenk wants to ensure everyone is consistent with how CSOs are tracked and that this it is not responding to weather events but instead the construction.

<u>ACTION:</u> Gary will have offline conversations with jurisdictions on data reporting and then come back to the workgroup to discuss strategies and findings at a later date.

11:05 AM **<u>Point Source Data Submission Updates</u>** – Megan Thynge (EPA)

- **Summary:** Updated version of the Point Source application has been created and made progress implementing changes discussed in July. There are still a few additional updates including the ability to use previous years data for facilities

that may be missing the data which will be coming in the next 3-4 weeks. Megan Thynge will schedule sessions to see the changes that have been made.

ACTION: Email Megan Thynge (Thynge.Megan@epa.gov) if you would like to be part of the distribution list to see when the presentations are available or if you would like to review the application sooner.

11:15 AM **Climate Allocation Decisions** – Gary Shenk (USGS Chesapeake Bay Program Office)

- **Summary:** Gary Shenk reviewed the climate discussions from the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) meeting on 08/24, including allocation options that are being thought about for positioning in 2035--the NPS allocation option or the NPS and PS allocation option. The WQGIT has not yet come to a decision but are hoping to reach one shortly. WQGIT is leaning towards a decision that emphasizes reductions in jurisdictions that have in non-WWTP loads. Climate related impacts are estimated to be half of what was originally anticipated and will be re-evaluated in 2025. Climate effects are likely to accelerate overtime leading to higher level of effort.

11:30 AM **Meeting Adjourns**

Participants:

- Whitney Ashead, CRC
- Cassandra Davis, NYS DEP
- Doug Austin
- Dave Montali, WV DEP and Tetratech
- Gary Shenk, USGS CBPO
- Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO
- Krystal Bloom, PA DEP
- Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO
- Lisa Reynolds, COG
- Luisa Lassova PA DEP
- Moshin Siddique, DC Water
- Matt Ries, DC Water
- Megan Thynge, EPA CBPO
- Robin Pellicano, MDE
- Sean Furjanic, PA DEP
- Steve Bieber, COG
- Teresa Koon, WV DEP
- Alice Fulmer, WRF
- Allan Brockenbrough, VA DEQ
- Zach Steickler, PA DEP
- John Rebar, DE DNREC
- Tammy Opilia, PA DEP