



Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

Conference Call Summary

Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:00AM – 12:30PM

Event page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18324/>

1. EPA Technical Assistance Manual for Onsite Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- Maureen Tooke updated the workgroup on the current status of the TA Manual and provided an overview of comments received from the states through June 29, 2012
- The presentation briefly outlined the report and its attachments [Maureen's presentation and the draft of the Manual (including attachments) are available at the event URL above]
 - Maureen noted that the nitrogen treatment standards for onsite systems in the current draft are consistent with EPA's *Guidance for Federal Land Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*
- Mark Nelson reviewed notable state comments on the draft manual(the week before), including:
 - Discrepancy between testing center and onsite influent characteristics needs to be considered and addressed [see slide 11]
 - Concerns were expressed with regards to:
 - Feasibility of inventory/inspection for existing systems;
 - Installation of new technologies and upgrades of existing systems
 - Funding for routine nitrogen sampling for onsite alternative systems
 - Is routine testing necessary for approved systems?
 - Is there adequate staff for ongoing inspections?
- A key issue that has yet to be reconciled is that there are related yet different needs/requirements for addressing on-site systems, including:
 - Regulatory oversight of the systems (at a local/state level) versus
 - How these systems/loads and reductions are to be accounted for in the WSM – and linkages between this and the BMP Verification Protocol issue (see agenda item #2) versus
 - The potential for allowing 'credits' within the state/local WIP process.
- **The Work Group agreed that an off-line discussion (in particular between VA and MD representatives) would be helpful to address the related issues and see if some recommendations could be developed.**
- **Maureen and the EPA requests input from workgroup members and interested parties on concerns listed above, in addition to comments on:**
 - Presentation of treatment goals for onsite systems
 - How to leverage the WG's analysis of BMPs and incorporate it into the Manual
 - Approaches for onsite system inspection and tracking of nitrogen upgrades to achieve credit for improvements
- **EPA also requests suggestions on how to facilitate a reciprocity process among the States for technology approvals**

2. BMP Verification Protocols

- Ning Zhou reviewed the draft BMP verification protocols for Non-sig WWTPs, CSOs, and onsite treatment systems. The draft protocols were developed by Rich Batiuk and CBP staff based on feedback from the jurisdictions. The presentation is available on the event webpage.
- Tanya and others expressed the need for caution to make sure that this verification protocol does not duplicate or complicate the existing regulatory process that already accounts for how CSOs and their loads are reduced - especially since these loads are not significant in the larger Bay context, the programs are already fully regulated and scheduled to be reduced across the watershed, and by their nature the systems are not designed to specifically address nutrient reductions.
- The Work Group suggested that EPA utilize existing documents, plans, and procedures to avoid creation of a new process – as had previously been endorsed by the Work Group/vetted with the CBP several years ago.
- Dave Montali and others stated that septic BMP inspection frequencies should come from the expert panel recommendations and be considered separately from the frequency of the BMP annual reporting.
- Another draft of the verification protocols will be reported to the BMP Verification Subcommittee in September, thus **comments from WG members on the draft Non-sig, CSO, and onsite protocols are due by August 24th**
 - **During their review, Work Group members are asked to consider how the BMP verification protocols should/could be integrated with EPA's proposed Onsite Manual development.**
- **A discussion about the technical points of the CSO protocols and verification processes will be scheduled during the interim (i.e., before August 24th), if possible**

3. Septic Expert Panel Update

- Vic D'Amato briefly updated the WG on the progress of the Panel and its subpanels, including the BMP evaluation methods under development
- Vic hopes the recommendation for PRBs can be written within next few weeks (i.e., by the end of July); unsure exactly when the Panel will wrap up, though the Panel will update the WG as details emerge.

4. Wastewater Reporting System

- Marty Hurd briefly summarized the reporting system and process, noting that the integration tasks [slide 4] are taking more time due to re-modeling and reconfiguration requirements
 - He expects the data to be exported sometime this fall/late summer
- **Marty will provide another update on the next conference call; no action requested at this time**

5. Miscellaneous Updates

- **Supplemental Wastewater Indicator**
 - Ning reviewed the supplemental indicator spreadsheets with the participants

- Tanya suggested that the current title may be misleading as the WWTPs in question cannot themselves ‘meet water quality’
- Allan Brockenbrough suggested an alternative title “Meeting TMDL Allocations “that seemed to be more accurate/more appropriate.
- **Tanya will work with Maryland on a potential title change (as they were no longer on the call).**
- **Jurisdictions were asked to view the indicator to ensure that their information is accurate**
 - Download/view the detailed version of the spreadsheet from the [event page](#), or click [here](#)

Progress Runs

- Ning commented that the Bay Program is preparing for the 2017 model recalibration effort; historical data for non-significant facilities is a lingering problem
- **STAC Wastewater Technologies Workshop**
 - Tanya and Charles Bott briefed participants on the Wastewater Technologies workshop held on May 16th, which was sponsored by the Bay Program’s Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), the Wastewater Treatment WG itself, the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), and others
 - The workshop focused on applied research on nutrient reduction technologies – primarily focused on nitrogen reduction technologies, as next step from traditional technologies that tend to be energy-, chemical-, and concrete-intensive (e.g., the use of side-stream processes).
 - Key recommendations/needs identified during the workshop were:
 - To retain regulatory flexibility in order to allow these technologies to be truly evaluated/utilized;
 - To support additional testing of these technologies with the hope that with additional experience they can become more ‘mainstream’; and
 - To find opportunities to collaborate between local/state/federal partners to actually fund these types of projects.
 - Allan attended the event and reported that he felt that it was an excellent workshop.
 - Presentations have been posted on STAC website:
http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=211
 - Once a report is available it will be sent to the WG

Meeting adjourned (12:30 PM)

Participants

Name	Affiliation
Tanya Spano, Chair	Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments
Ning Zhou, Coordinator	Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Molly Harrington	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Jeremy Hanson	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Maureen Tooke	EPA
Joyce Hudson	EPA
Les Reed	EPA
Marya Levelev	Maryland Department of the Environment
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
Rashid Ahmed	New York Department of Environmental Conservation
Jay Prager	Maryland Department of the Environment
Charles Bott	Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Jim Sizemore	Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Marty Hurd	Tetra Tech
Vic D'Amato	Tetra Tech
Mark Nelson	EPA