



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)
Conference call**

Thursday, January 4, 2018
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Call-in number: 866.299.3188 **Code:** 267-5715

Adobe Connect: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wtwg/>

Calendar Page: [Link](#)

Meeting Minutes

Summary of Actions and Decisions:

Decision: The WTWG approved the draft November meeting minutes.

Action: The WTWG is asked to review the draft BMP reference sheets available online and provide comments and feedback to Jeremy Hanson (jchanson@vt.edu)

Decision: Barring volunteers from the WTWG, Ted Tesler will continue in the WTWG chair position for the 2018 calendar year.

10:00 AM - Introductions and Announcements- Ted Tesler, PADEP or Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO

- Jeremy Hanson: Jeff Sweeney has volunteered to represent both the WTWG and the Modeling Workgroup for the Wetlands REC panel.
 - Jeff Sweeney: I was on the first wetlands panel, and it's not unprecedented for one person to represent two groups on the panel.

Decision: The WTWG approved the draft November meeting minutes.

10:10 AM – Progress Year and Crediting Duration – Jessica Rigelman, J7 LLC

Jessica discussed rules for crediting duration for BMP progress submittals.

- Ted Tesler: Thank you for the update, I think that makes sense.

10:20 AM – 2017 Progress in Phase 5.3.2 – Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO

Jeff briefed the WTWG on the status of 2017 progress using the Phase 5.3.2 modeling tools.

- Sweeney: Please let me know if you have any questions about progress submittal. There is an extension for VA and DC for WW progress reporting. Please note that the process for submitting progress for Phase 5.3.2 is different than the process for submittal in Phase 6. There is data available for BMPs for progress reporting in BayTAS.
- Tesler: What data pull is for Version 1? Is that the first data pull?
 - Sweeney: Yes, that was the first version of data you've submitted. If you have made changes to your data since your December 1 submission, you will see that in Version 2 when we do our next data pull. Sucharith will be sending out that announcement this week when Version 2 is available.

- Ted Tesler asked when the milestones would be due, and the different deadlines for programmatic and numeric milestones.
 - Sweeney: It was decided that only programmatic milestones would be done for the 2019 milestone period.
- Alana Hartman: Do you know numeric BMP milestones or loads—how does EPA evaluate?
 - Sweeney: For numeric milestones, we look at WQ data first, then load trends at gauging stations. Then we look at BMP implementation levels vs your WIP, and then we look at model loads. For programmatic milestones evaluation, we look more at what your programmatic accomplishments are that you've planned for.
 - For this progress, we are running in two versions of the model, and the results might be different in Phase 5.3.2 vs Phase 6. Some might fall behind in the transition from Phase 5 to Phase 6 and some might get a boost. We are sticking to the original plan, where we use Phase 5.3.2 for the Midpoint Assessment—where you are with respect to the 60% reduction, in the context of Phase 5.3.2.

10:45 AM – Phase 6 Scenarios and PSC Direction – Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO

Jeff covered the schedule for Phase 6 scenario development. A discussion among participants included accommodating decisions from the recent PSC meeting – Phase III WIPs, current progress, and Conowingo. (same presentation as 2017 progress)

- Sweeney: In most cases, we are in good shape, but in some jurisdictions, there are outstanding issues with NPS BMPs. We did not show the PSC any 2016 progress, as we are not quite done with developing that scenario.
- Hartman: Have other states submitted progress for 2017?
 - Sweeney: The first priority is Phase 5.3.2 2017 progress, and after that we need progress in Phase 6 for 2017.
- Tesler: For Conowingo, I don't know that there was a group identified for this implementation plan steering committee. We also don't know how Conowingo BMPs will be tracked.
 - Hanson: There will be a call in February for a coordinator for the Conowingo implementation plan. There is also the question of how Exelon should be involved in this Conowingo restoration.
 - Sweeney: It will be difficult to separate some of the land based BMPs for Conowingo from the rest of the BMPs.
 - Tesler: There might be a whole separate tracking exercise in NEIEN or the model.
- Jess Rigelman: This isn't quite the same as federal facilities, but federal land uses now have a specific space in Phase 6. We are working internally to see if we can add a separate code for submitting Conowingo BMPs as opposed to the Bay TMDL.
 - Sweeney: As an example, PA's Growing Greener program is one of several restoration programs and sources of BMP implementation tracking. There might be some kind of distribution of implementation effort. The other question is still how you distribute those 6 million lbs. of nitrogen. This idea came up because it was difficult to agree what the loads responsibility will be among the jurisdictions.
 - Tesler: The question of funding and resources available is also a big one.
- Tesler: What BMPs will we see in Phase 6?
 - Sweeney: We will have 14, 15 and 16 up in CAST.

- Jeremy Hanson: There is a new set of draft reference sheets for the BMP quick reference guide. Please contact me (jchanson@vt.edu) if you have any questions or need access to the folders.
 - Tesler: Thank you, these are exactly what we were hoping for.
- Tesler: Do you have a completion date?
 - Hanson: All the important BMPs should be done in 2-3 months. I have some other ideas for the larger BMP guide that may take beyond May 2018, but the reference sheets will be done and be able to be used by May.
- Alana Hartman: We might also want to discuss land conservation and how to track it in NEIEN and verify that in the future.
 - Sweeney: We've been discussing that. There will be options in WIP development to choose some of these sub-scenarios in this conservation plus scenario. You would then be planning for more forest in 2025 than you would otherwise have. So you would be offsetting load increases by that conservation. Tracking land use conservation is done by imagery, so that conservation will be tracked through our imagery analysis. We will need to discuss that in this group. There may not be expert panels, but this group does need to review the technical aspects of using these BMPs in CAST.
- Rigelman: We have begun the work to create these conservation practices in CAST as policy-land use BMPs. Likely that won't be in CAST until March. Olivia Devereux will also be discussing this at the WTWG in February.
- Sweeney: 2025 as a base condition is available now as the historical trends.
 - Rigelman: Current Zoning will be available by late next week, now that the LUWG has approved the new methods. This CZ scenario will be more accurate than historical trends.
- Discussion of new leadership:
 - Ted: I am willing to continue as chair, but please let me know if anyone is interested in filling the position.

Action: The WTWG is asked to review the draft BMP reference sheets available online and provide comments and feedback to Jeremy Hanson (jchanson@vt.edu)

Decision: Barring volunteers from the WTWG, Ted Tesler will continue in the WTWG chair position for the 2018 calendar year.

12:00 PM – Adjourn

Participants:

Ted Tesler, WTWG Chair
 Jeff Sweeney, WTWG Coordinator
 Michelle Williams, WTWG Staffer
 Jess Rigelman, J7 LLC
 Norm Goulet, NoVA Regional Commission
 Alana Hartman, WV DEP

Alisha Mulkey, MDA
Jeremy Hanson, VT
Emily Dekar, USC
Lori Brown, DNREC