



Responding to the
PSC Request
to Improve the CBP
Monitoring Networks:

NTN WG Status
update

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NTN WG Meeting

May 18, 2022



Recap: Interaction with Principal Staff Committee



- PSC request to enhance monitoring (Jan 2021)



- STAR-STAC leadership team conducted a CBP monitoring review (March 2021-February 2022)



- Draft report delivered and CBP community review (March-April, 2022)

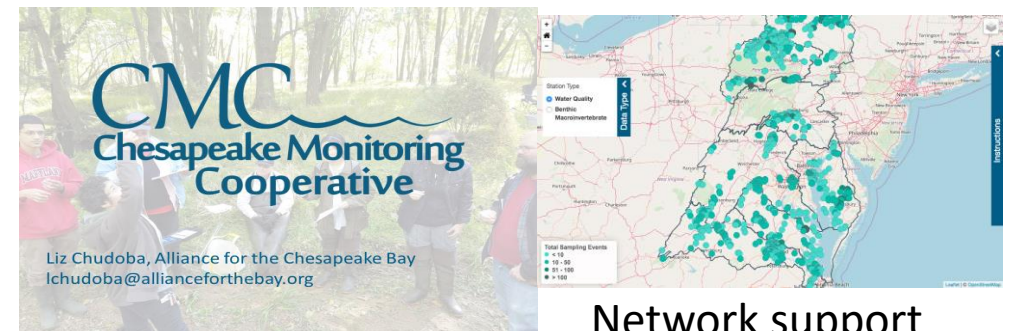
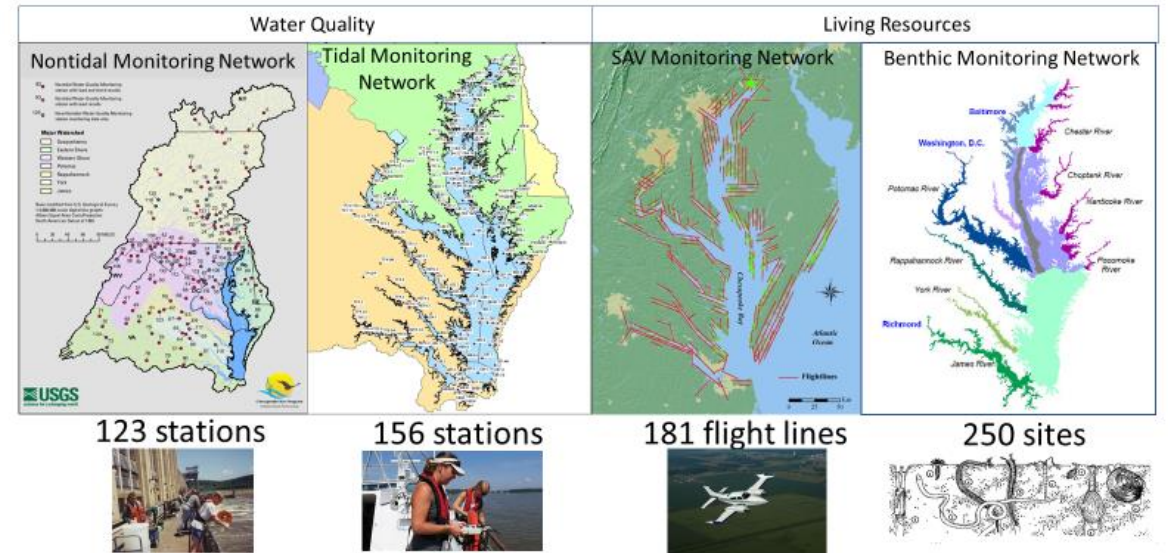


WORK IN PROGRESS

- Response to comments (underway May-June 2022)

- Report finalized (May-June 2022)

CBP Partnership Monitoring Networks: Annual Monitoring



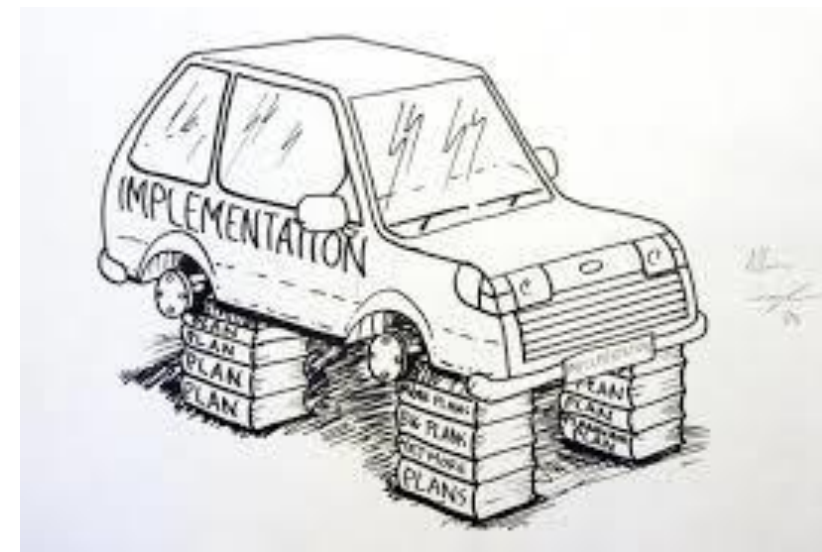
Major report review comments

- Majority of jurisdictions plus federal agency partners provided comments (Thank you! Really helpful!)



Major report review comments

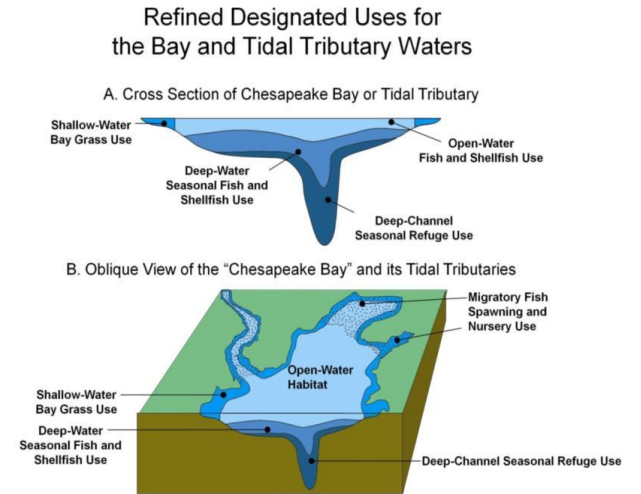
- Comment highlights
 - Better identify priorities
 - Provide more details on activities aligned with monitoring (such as data management)
 - Implement recommendations and pay for monitoring



Better identify priorities

Initial priorities have been identified

- Nearterm priorities
 - Maintain existing monitoring networks
 - Address regulatory requirements:
 - CBP outcomes for Attainment of WQ standards
 - Monitoring for CBP outcomes that are behind schedule
- Extended priorities:
 - Expand support for watershed outcomes that don't currently have monitoring



Provide more details on activities that align with monitoring

The report provides an a la carte menu of choices to enhance monitoring



- Priority data collection needs were the focus of this review
- Data management, analysis and reporting were recognized as important, however, addressing these needs was not the emphasis of the review per the PSC request focus on the networks.
 - However, these important elements are being included in the discussions of implementing any new monitoring and sustaining existing programming

A meeting is being organized with State/DC representatives to work together with the investment menu (subset of line items shown from the report)



Tidal Water Quality \$

- Program maintenance
- Hypoxia network 8 arrays
- 4D water quality interpolator
- Nutrient limitation surveys



Nontidal Water Quality \$

- Program maintenance
- Conowingo Continuous monitoring
- River input continuous monitoring
- Small watershed studies



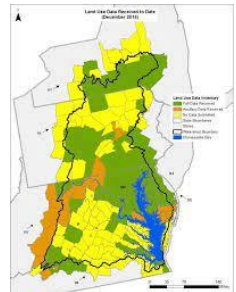
• Tidal SAV assessment \$

- AI satellite image interpretation
- Automated Polygon method development
- Sentinel site network
- Assessment calibration
- Pilot study of proposed satellite assessment on spring grasses



• Land Use Land Cover \$

- High resolution imagery



• Community Science \$

- Database enhancement for SAV
- SAV and nitrate field monitoring



* And there is more!

First read: EPA dollars



- At the May 17, 2022 PSC meeting, CBPO Science Director Lee McDonnell announced EPA investment of approximately \$1.5M towards monitoring maintenance, network developments and enhancements.
- Details of EPA's plan for distribution of that funding is not yet available.



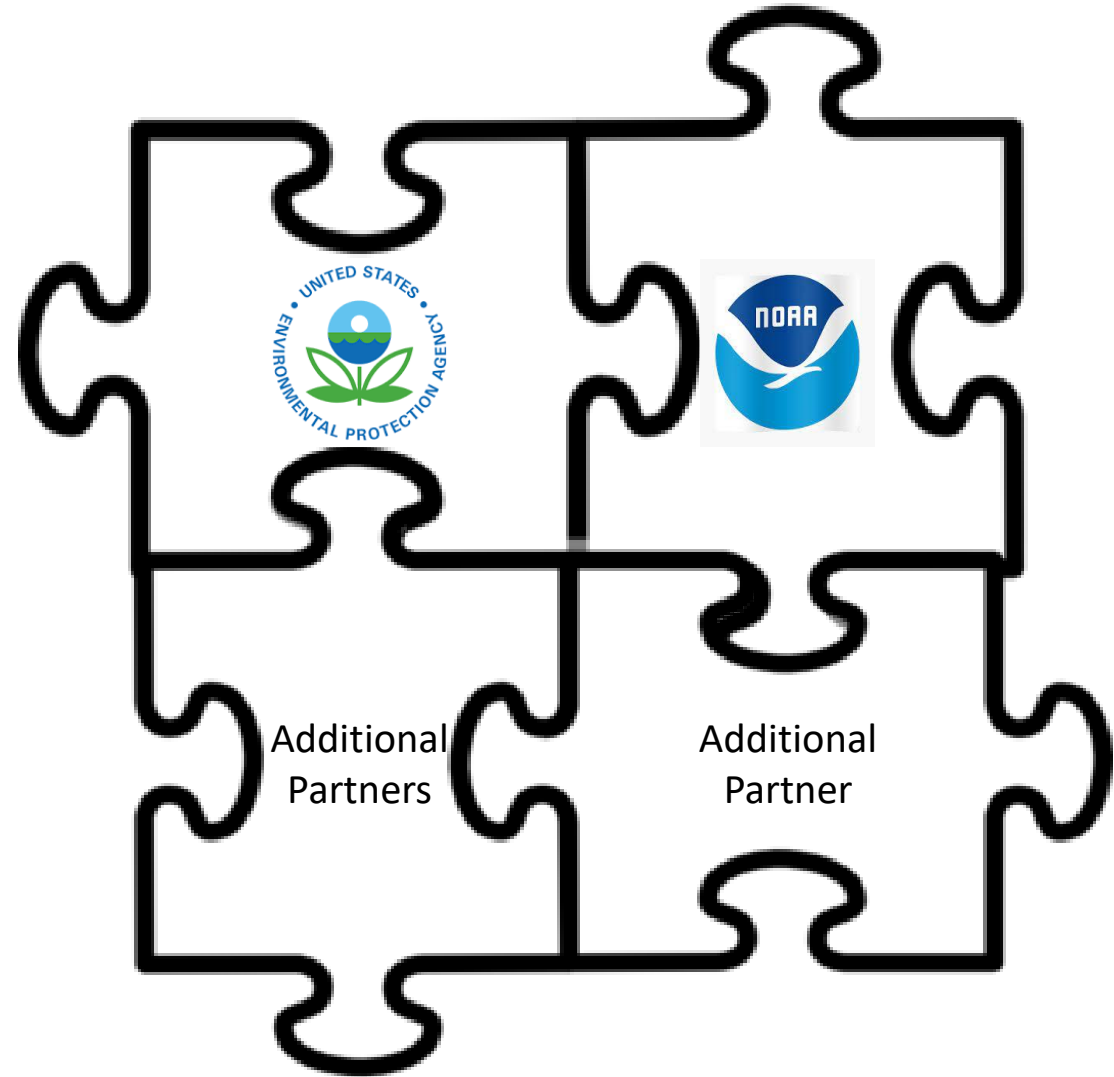
First read: EPA dollars

- It's fair to say that EPA's dollars alone are an important and major new investment into our monitoring programs unlike any since 2011-12 (EPA \$2M into NTN support)
- However, recognize that the priority items in need of support expressed in the report total over \$5M
 - EPA does not have the capacity on its own to address all the funding needs identified in the report
- We should anticipate a mix of program elements where some will 1) see a gain in EPA support and 2) others remain at present EPA support levels



Implement recommendations and pay for monitoring

- Need a *multi-partner approach* to invest in gaps.
- Partners can identify which monitoring items they want to support
- Example: Hypoxia collaborative



Several partnerships are already developing for identified priority investments!



Satellite-based SAV assessment



Hypoxia network



Continuous water quality monitoring at Conowingo Pool (Marietta)



Summary

- Thanks again for the ongoing support!!!
 - Double check that we get comments addressed for the final report.
- New investments are occurring, partnerships are already developing to tackle needs identified in the report.
- Details about funding distribution from EPA are anticipated soon.
 - Results of EPA distributions will affect our need for discussions about NTN integrity - reduction or growth, and new/newer network support for other elements of our work (e.g. RIM ConMon)
- We will keep you updated in the most timely manner we can to allow us the most time to act upon the status of monitoring funding investments.

Kick-off meeting: based on CBP needs assessment

Core Networks now. More networks to come.

