

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1st, 2023

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

[Meeting Materials](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Action: The group will provide feedback on the Animal Mortality BMP Technical Appendix to Auston Smith (smith.auston@epa.gov) via email.

Decision: The WTWG approved the [May Meeting Minutes](#).

Decision: The WTWG approved the Transportation Settlement Emission Reductions as a planning BMP and the decision to initiate a process to compete for funding for an Expert Panel to investigate quantifiable benefits of relevant emission reduction BMPs so they can be credited toward annual progress assessments.

Decision: The WTWG approved the formal recommendations to address the concerns described in the PSC Decision 3 charge to the WQGIT.

Meeting Minutes

10:00 **Introductions and Announcements** – Cassie Davis, NYSDEC (15 min).

- **Decision:** The WTWG approved the [May Meeting Minutes](#).
- **Nominations for new At-Large members** – Cassie Davis, NYSDEC
 - Cassie went over the At-Large nominees and explained that voting would take place at next month's meeting.
- **Previous and Upcoming CAST Webinars** – Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting
 - Helen explained that CAST webinars would be on a summer break for the next couple months. The latest webinar, about trends over time tools, has been posted [here](#) under "Scenario Analysis". In that webinar, Helen walked through each tool and explained how they can be used to assess how we got to where we are.
- **Progress Update/Announcements** – Jeff Sweeney, EPA
 - Jeff explained that they are finalizing the latest progress scenario which usually means it is posted on Chesapeake Progress. When the scenario is posted, the results and numeric data will be available publicly on CAST.
- **WQGIT Updates Phase 6 CAST Schedule** – Ruth Cassilly
 - Ruth gave an update on the options for the Phase 6 CAST release schedule since they were relevant to later agenda items. Ruth explained that the goal was to vote on an

option at the WQGIT's July meeting.

Option 1: CAST23 released in September 2023 (tentative) as the model of record for evaluation of 2025 Progress. CAST25 would be the last update to Phase 6 and then work would begin on Phase 7.

Option 2: Release CAST23 in September 2023 (tentative) as the model of record for evaluation of 2025 Progress and begin work on Phase 7 immediately after the release of CAST23 (no CAST 2025).

CAST23 would be the model of record for either option and released sometime between August 2023 and September 2024. There would potentially be two additional BMPs (Oyster Restoration and Animal Mortality Management) in CAST23 although it would NOT include the 2022 Ag Census or 2022/23 High-Res Land Use data. The animal mortality BMP discussion is prioritized in the hopes that it would be incorporated into CAST23. The 2025 progress evaluation would be completed in late 2026 with interim planning targets. Ruth went on to explain that if Option 2 was chosen, the lack of a CAST25 release could affect the expert panel process for the VW BMP as part of Phase 7 development. Choosing Option 2 would also have ramifications for PSC Decision #3 because the lack of CAST25 could change the timeline and possibly the approach to the safeguard recommendations for Phase 7.

Discussion:

[Jeff Sweeney](#): I think the next version of CAST, which hopefully will be released in August/September (CAST23), will also include changes to the entire BMP history that has been submitted over the past few years for progress assessments.

[Bill Keeling](#): So Jeff's statement is that you don't have to create a new history, it's just an opportunity to provide one?

[Jeff Sweeney](#): Correct.

[Jessica Rigelman](#): Just to clarify, you have provided a new BMP history through 2022 progress submissions and that is what will be used in this version of CAST. We don't have to update from here on out, but the history will be updated based on 2022 progress submissions?

[Bill Keeling](#): I was thinking more down the road in terms of Phase 7 and recalibration. We want to avoid having to submit 6 or 7 versions like in Phase 6. That's a lot of work.

[Scott Heidel](#): Will the new BMP history also include BMPs not counted in the 2022 progress?

[Jessica Rigelman](#): We pulled a fresh BMP history after PA made updates so it will include any of those, but I can confirm dates if you want.

- **Other announcements?**

- [Jeremy Hanson](#): I wanted to quickly plug the webinar WQGIT is hosting Tuesday, which will be part of a quarterly webinar series we're doing. The topic will be accounting frameworks and it should be of interest to this group. The webinar will be recorded.

- CMAQ presentation scheduled for August - Lew Linker and Gary Shenk EPA, USGS

10:15 **Animal Mortality BMP Overview** – Auston Smith, EPA (25 min)

Auston went over feedback received on the Animal Mortality BMP Technical Appendix and an updated timeline for its potential approval.

Action: The group will provide feedback on the Animal Mortality BMP Technical Appendix via email.

Discussion:

The group discussed various minor issues with the Technical Appendix which were then addressed, including the nutrient percentages for the new BMP.

10:40 **Quantifying the Effects of Transportation Settlement (e.g., Volkswagen) Actions as a Planning BMP** – Jeff Sweeney, EPA, All (25 min).

Jeff provided an update and overview of next steps regarding the proposed Transportation Settlement BMP, briefly reviewed the proposal for how the planning BMP will be accounted for in CAST and gave an overview on Expert Panel protocols and funding availability needed to address crediting the BMPs in annual progress assessments.

Decision requested: The WTWG will be asked to vote on whether to approve Transportation Settlement Emission Reductions as a planning BMP and to initiate a process to compete for funding for an Expert Panel to investigate quantifiable benefits of relevant emission reduction BMPs so they can be credited toward annual progress assessments.

Decision: The WTWG approved the Transportation Settlement Emission Reductions as a planning BMP and the decision to initiate a process to compete for funding for an Expert Panel to investigate quantifiable benefits of relevant emission reduction BMPs so they can be credited toward annual progress assessments. The breakdown of votes is below.

DC	Endorse
DE	Stand aside
MD	Endorse
NY	Endorse
PA	Endorse
VA	Stand aside
WV	Agree with reservations

EPA	Endorse
Norm (At- Large)	Stand aside

11:15 **Charge from the Water Quality GIT/Principal Staff Committee on Phase 6 Data Processing Protocols** – Ruth Cassilly, UMD/Coordinator (40 min).

Ruth reviewed a recent proposal to revise the Phase 6 CAST Release Schedule, presented to the WQGIT in May as Option 2, and how it relates to our completion of PSC Decision 3. She then reviewed the WTWG’s recommendations developed in response to the Decision 3 charge, summarized in the Draft CAST Updates Review Process Document.

Decision requested: The group will be asked to approve formal recommendations to address the concerns described in the PSC Decision 3 charge to the WQGIT-safeguarding the process for incorporating data into CAST and assessing the reasonability of modeling results after CBP protocols are applied.

Discussion:

Chris Brosch: I wonder if we have better terms to use than inputs; maybe there are other terms available so that it accommodates all the pieces we want to look at.

Ruth Cassilly: We have to be careful about promising to review things that are Phase 7 issues because this is a Phase 6 update schedule. This would come into play if we did CAST25 which would be a Phase 6 version of the model. There are things we know are the way they are because they can’t be adjusted in Phase 6, so I want to be cognizant of not setting up false expectations.

Chris Brosch: The PSC decision had nothing to do with Phase 6 or Phase 7. The guidance on what falls into what bin has come from CBPO. My suggestion is that inputs should also be considered with intermediate products from the simulation. Some type of process data that informs the load that comes out of CAST needs to be included in the same line as inputs. Reviewing it doesn’t hurt if we find out that it’s another input that isn’t up for grabs, then the inputs that we have updated and have started to change the spread. That’s a discussion that needs to happen, just like anytime somebody proposes doing something that might affect the calibration. That’s why one the modeling workgroup and WTWG exist.

Dave Montali: I like this. After going through two of these pitches, I think the problem was that there wasn’t enough time. There was a construct that said if we followed our approved protocols and there weren’t any data issues then you can’t really argue about illogical results. So, all of those things have been addressed. With respect to IET, when I had an issue, those things were done, and it was explained to me. This formalizes that. I don’t have any objection to

the new input.

Decision: The WTWG approved the formal recommendations to address the concerns described in the PSC Decision 3 charge to the WQGIT. The breakdown of votes is below.

DC	Endorse
DE	Endorse
MD	Agree with reservations
NY	Endorse
PA	Endorse
VA	Stand aside
WV	Endorse
EPA	Endorse
Norm (At-Large)	Stand Aside

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 6th, 2023, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Participants

Alana Hartman, WV DEP
Ashley Kelly, DoD
Auston Smith, EPA
Bill Keeling, VA DEQ
Cassie Davis, NYSDEC
Chris Brosch, DDA
Clint Gill, DDA
Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA
Emily Dekar, USC
Eugenia Hart, Tetra Tech
Gregorio Sandi, MDE
Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting
Jackie Pickford, CRC
Jeff Sweeney, EPA
Jeremy Hanson, CRC
Jessica Rigelman, J7 Inc.

Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE
Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal
Kimberly Dagen, SRBC – for PA DEP
Leon Tillman, USDA
Lori Brown, DE DNREC
Mallory Howdyshell, WV DEP
Mark Dubin, UMD
Matthew Kofroth, LCCD
Nicole Christ, MDE
Norm Goulet, NVRC
Ruth Cassilly, UMD
Samuel Canfield, WV DEP
Sarah Lane, MD DNR
Scott Heidel, PA DEP
Sushanth Gupta, CRC
Tom Butler, EPA

Tyler Trostle, PA DEP

Victor Clark, Farm Freezers LLC

Acronym List

BMP: Best Management Practice

CAST: Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)

CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program

CBPO: Chesapeake Bay Program Office

CMAQ: Community Multiscale Air Quality Monitoring System

CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium

[DC] DOEE: DC Department of Energy and Environment

EPA: [U.S.] Environmental Protection Agency

LCDD: Lancaster County Conservation District

NVRC: Northern Virginia Regional Commission

NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

PSC: Principals' Staff Committee

UMD: University of Maryland

USC: Upper Susquehanna Coalition

VW: Volkswagen

WQGIT: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

WTWG: Watershed Technical Workgroup