

PHASE III WIP LOCAL AREA TARGET TASK FORCE

Last Updated February 24, 2016

Action (from WQGIT Meeting, December 15, 2015): “Lucinda Power will work with WQGIT members on drafting up a proposed charge and schedule for convening an ad-hoc Task Force with cross-sector representation that will frame out the options for a WQGIT recommendation regarding the development of local area targets for the Phase III WIPs. That charge and timeline will be presented to the WQGIT in January 2016.”

Charge (Approved February 22, 2016 with changes included below):

To make recommendations to WQGIT regarding whether the Phase III WIPs should include local area targets (LATs) and, if so, options for how these targets could be expressed in different jurisdictions. The Task Force will address findings from the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Stakeholder Assessment, including the goal of raising awareness of local partners’ contribution toward achieving the Bay TMDL; the technical capacity of the Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Program modeling suite; how local implementation addresses local conditions, needs and opportunities, such as local water quality; and the availability of tools to assist in the development and optimization of local implementation strategies. The Task Force will consider jurisdictions’ efforts and methods to develop LATs as part of the Phase II WIPs and recent work to establish federal facility targets. Task Force recommendations will inform the Phase III WIP expectations.

Examples of Possible Local Area Targets

Given the variations in local government structures, predominant source sectors, and other conditions in each Bay state and D.C., LATs could be expressed differently throughout the watershed. State A may set LATs for conservation districts in terms of acreages of BMP implementation that need to be achieved, such as forest buffers on 1,000 acres and cover crops on 15,000 acres. If a conservation district wants to shift BMPs, then it must use CAST to show it is still achieving equivalent nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions. State B might develop a model ordinance with provisions for erosion and sediment control, urban nutrient management, post-construction performance standards, and retrofit requirements that, if fully implemented, would achieve State B’s urban WIP goals in each locality. State C might give each county a nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment cap and ask the county to develop a strategy for how each sector will work together reduce pollution to meet the cap, using CAST to assess the impact of management actions. State D might not set county-level LATs since it is collaborating with a coalition of conservation districts to develop its Phase III WIP strategy, and the coalition is ensuring that local partners are aware of their role to meet the statewide WIP. The LAT Task Force would evaluate different options for LATs that would inform local implementation. Each LAT option would include sufficient detail to fully explain how each type of LAT could be developed, assessed, and utilized.

Time Commitment of Task Force

Task Force members will convene for monthly conference calls from April - September 2016 to provide the WQGIT with initial recommendations. Members may choose to replace some calls with in-person meetings. The Task Force will likely reconvene for monthly calls when the Phase 6 Watershed Model is complete in early 2017 to finalize recommendations by March 2017.

Proposed Schedule *(related deadlines in italics)*

- March 24, 2016: Task Force membership nominations due to Katherine Antos (antos.katherine@epa.gov). Nominations should include name, affiliation, brief background. Nominees should be willing to serve on Task Force
- March 28, 2016: WQGIT reviews Task Force membership. If excess nominees, WQGIT may ask signatory members to select subset of nominees to serve on Task Force and finalize membership by April 11, 2016
- April – September: Task Force has monthly conference calls and/or possibly meetings to develop initial recommendations for WQGIT
- *EPA begins seeking feedback on Phase III WIP expectations in summer/fall 2016*
- Fall 2016 – Early 2017: Task Force reconvenes as necessary to refine recommendations based on future Beta versions and final Phase 6 Watershed Model
- March 2017: Task Force delivers final recommendations to WQGIT
- *No Later Than June 2017: EPA releases Phase III WIP expectations, with partnership input*

Proposed Membership

- EPA
- States: likely 1 member from each state and DC given any LATs would likely vary by state
- Local representatives: Representation from regulated and non-regulated agriculture, urban and wastewater sectors through the following: LGAC member, Local Leadership Workgroup member, conservation district, PDC, city, township, borough (not this level from every state, but to ensure capturing range of scales), federal, watershed group, industry and/or trade groups. Mix of elected officials and senior staff
- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- UMD EFC
- Modeler
- Federal, state, local communications staff