

## **Exploring TMDLs for Toxic Compounds in the Greater Baltimore Region Prospectus for a Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership Workshop (proposed for August 3, 2017)**

The Federal Urban Waters Initiative (UWI) is a multi-partner effort initiated in 2011 to reconnect urban populations with their waters, and to demonstrate the environmental, social, and economic benefits of environmental and landscape restoration activities in cities and their surrounding metropolitan areas. A consortium of federal, state, and local agencies and a variety of non-government organizations and academic institutions and groups comprise the partners in the Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership (BUWP). Since 2014, the BUWP has operated a team of agency, NGO, and academic partners to explore the needs for more coordinated environmental monitoring in the Baltimore Region. Recently this team has organized itself around the goal of promoting Actionable Science, scientific efforts that are designed and produced in a manner that can be more directly used by planners and decision-makers.

Through its collaborative work, the partnership has recognized a need to evaluate monitoring assets in the Baltimore region and has held well-attended workshops in both 2014 and 2016. These workshops identified knowledge gaps and brought individuals from the partner organizations together to explore technical and regulatory environmental issues of common interest. All of the political jurisdictions in the Baltimore Region have to deal with two major mandates 1) the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) requirements and 2) NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits and their associated monitoring requirements.

In recent meetings in early 2017, the Actionable Science Team has identified monitoring for TMDL-designated toxic compounds as an issue that needs to be further explored.

### **Workshop to Explore TMDLs for Toxic Compounds in the Greater Baltimore Region**

The Actionable Science Team of BUWP proposes to hold a workshop to explore a variety of technical and regulatory issues related to TMDLs for toxic compounds in the summer of 2017. Our intention is to bring together agencies, academic institutions, research consortiums, environmental consultants, and NGOs that perform TMDL-designated monitoring or related research for toxics in the Baltimore metropolitan region, including Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Carroll County, and Harford County. The Actionable Science Team also welcomes participants from other jurisdictions from beyond the metropolitan Baltimore area.

### **Goals of Workshop**

- 1) Explore the issues and problems that MS4 jurisdictions have with designing the sampling and data collection programs required to collect environmental data on TMDL-listed toxic compounds.
- 2) Review the state of knowledge with remediation methods for TMDL-listed toxic compounds, particularly polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs).
- 3) **Bring researchers, environmental consultants, and other monitoring organizations together with representatives of the jurisdictions to discuss how to improve these monitoring programs and how to develop a more coordinated regional perspective on the occurrence and distribution of the TMDL designated toxic compounds.**
- 4) **Discuss known and suspected sources of these toxics and what can be done to remediate them and mitigate their migration to waterways and sediments.**

### **Who Should Attend**

We envision the workshop being attended by 30-50 individuals representing federal, state, and local agencies, selected academic and nongovernment organizations, and environmental consultants that are conducting toxic compound monitoring and research programs in the Baltimore metropolitan region. We expect to have staff from the Maryland Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, the

Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Baltimore City, and all the surrounding county jurisdictions. We also are inviting speakers and interested researchers from universities in the Mid-Atlantic Region and researchers working in the Baltimore Ecosystem Study. We are also hoping to attract a few people from the business community.

### **Time and Location**

We propose to hold the workshop in Baltimore on August 3, 2017 at the U.S Geological Survey office on the campus of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The USGS office has conference room facilities that could host a full day workshop of this size. Arrangements can be also made for remote participation in the workshop.

### **Organization**

The planning committee for this workshop includes the following individuals:

Steve Stewart, Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability  
Robert Summers, KCI Technologies  
Leonard Schugam, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Peter Tango, USGS and EPA Chesapeake Bay Program  
Robert J. Shedlock USGS  
Michael Galvin, Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership Ambassador