

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**  
**WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

MARCH 11, 2019 CALL SUMMARY

**Meeting Materials:** [Link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions:

**Decision:** WQGIT approval of Dianne McNally, EPA, as interim Chair of the Milestones Workgroup, pending formal nomination and approval of a full chair at the next Milestones Workgroup call.

**Action:** WQGIT leadership and staff will determine an updated timeline to allow for a one-week extension for finalization and WQGIT review of the draft final management strategy, workplan and logic table. On Tuesday, March 12, the WQGIT and Management Board will be notified of the updated review period for the management strategy and logic table/workplan revisions.

**Action:** Information and opportunities to provide feedback on FY2019 WIP assistance funding priorities will be distributed via email to the WQGIT.

1:00 Welcome/Confirm Call Participants/Workgroup Updates –WQGIT Co-Chairs

*Announcements:*

- Upcoming events:
  - SRS Biennial Retreat: March 13-14
  - STAC Workshop, “Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units” (AEIOU): March 20-21
- There will be a second WQGIT call on March 25. Topics include formulating research guidance on BMP climate resiliency, and results of geographic isolation runs. Climate change item is a PSC directive to understand climate impacts on BMP performance. Phase III WIP schedule not feasible, so alternatives for addressing climate impacts need to be determined.
- Additional announcement: potential reconvening of verification committee for BMP progress review. This request was made to the Management Board. Dana Aunkst recommended a path forward to wait until 2018 progress is concluded, and reconsider afterwards if verification committee or action team should be convened to work out existing issues.
  - James Davis-Martin concurred on this approach
  - Power: Dana also felt that it would be premature to reconvene the committee now, since the first progress review using the verification protocols is not yet complete. Dana’s email also recommends full Partnership buy-in on reconvening the verification committee, following an action team’s development of a clear charge and direction for the verification committee to focus on.
  - Linker: Climate impacts to BMPs is also going to be something that will have to be addressed in milestones, progress and verification in the future.

1:10 Milestones Workgroup Membership – Jason Bernagros, EPA CBPO

Suzanne Trevena, EPA, will no longer chair the Milestones Workgroup and has recommended Dianne McNally, EPA, as acting chair. Dianne will open the formal nomination and chairperson approval process at the next Milestones Workgroup meeting.

**Decision Requested:** WQGIT approval of Dianne McNally, EPA, as interim Chair of the Milestones Workgroup, pending formal nomination and approval of a full chair at the next Milestones Workgroup call.

#### *Discussion*

- Ted Tesler asked if there is still a need for the Milestones Workgroup, or if the group should be sunset.
  - Dianne McNally: The only outstanding issue is to finalize the Milestones guidance. We need to schedule another call, but that may not happen until after the draft Phase III WIPs are available.
  - Ted Tesler: If there will be guidance developed then that's a good reason to have the Milestones workgroup to do that. Historically EPA has led this group, so PA would support Dianne's chairmanship.
- Dinorah Dalmasy: So it sounds like we will keep the workgroup for now.
- Dinorah Dalmasy called for WQGIT approval of Dianne McNally as interim Milestones Workgroup Chair.

**Decision:** WQGIT approval of Dianne McNally, EPA, as interim Chair of the Milestones Workgroup, pending formal nomination and approval of a full chair at the next Milestones Workgroup call.

#### 1:30 Responses to WQGIT Comments on SRS Documents –Jason Bernagros, EPA

Jason reviewed responses to WQGIT comments on sections of the Water Quality management strategy and logic table pertaining to the 2017 and 2025 WIP outcomes. Scott reviewed responses pertaining to the WQ Monitoring Standards and Attainment outcome. Recommended actions resulting from comments and responses were presented for discussion and approval.

**Decision Requested:** WQGIT approval of responses and recommended actions for final edits to the management strategy and workplan for the WQGIT.

- Dianne McNally: Questions about tracking local goals development and implementation—done through CAST?
  - Lucinda Power: It doesn't have to be tracked through CAST necessarily, but there will need to be some form of documentation and tracking of local planning goals implementation.
- Dianne McNally asked what the next steps are. Would next steps be including changes to the materials?
  - Jason Bernagros: Good question. For performance targets that were added, those addition we would accept. For using the responses to finalize the document, we are accepting most as-is. Are you asking to see the MS and workplan/logic table with edits incorporated?

- McNally: Yes.
- Jason: The answer is yes, you will be able to see the final materials with these comments and responses incorporated.
- Dinorah Dalmasy asked about the timeline for including final materials, review and submittal to the Management Board.
  - Michelle Williams: Draft final materials will be posted online by March 25 for public input period. Final materials will be submitted to the Management Board in late April.
  - Jason Bernagros: We have a compressed timeline so we would like for the WQGIT to review final materials once they are posted online March 25.
- Nicki Kasi: I am not comfortable with allowing public posting of materials before we can review them in the WQGIT. We need more time to review the final materials.
- Dalmasy: Perhaps we could table this decision for March 25 to finalize the documents within the WQGIT before public posting.
- Bernagros: It sounds like we will need some time to work through outstanding comments offline with PA representatives.
- Kristen Saunders: The Management Board extended the deadline to allow all cohorts to complete materials at the same time, to allow better coordination for all the internal CBPO staff to post materials and keep track of deadlines. Any changes will be more difficult for CBPO staff to manage.
- George Onyullo: I think a week is a reasonable time frame for us to review materials.
- James Davis-Martin: I agree that this is a bad time for WQGIT to be going through this process, and we have not been able to prioritize SRS during this update. We do need a little time.
- George Onyullo: An additional 1 week to review might allow jurisdictions to better prioritize review since the deadline will be very soon.
- Nicki Kasi asked for draft final versions of SRS materials to be available to the WQGIT membership a week before public input period begins. Nicki recommended not to wait for additional feedback from PA and just finish the document in time for a week's review.
- Dianne McNally requested both the clean version and the redline version (Track Changes) once draft final changes are completed.
  - Bernagros: We can do that.
- The final draft materials can be available by March 15, to start WQGIT review by March 22 and final changes from this review to be incorporated March 25-March 29. The WQGIT will request an additional week extension of submission of final SRS materials to the Management Board. The extended public input period will be April 1 – 19, with final materials to Management Board by April 26.

**Action:** WQGIT leadership and staff will determine an updated timeline to allow for a one-week extension for finalization and WQGIT review of the draft final management strategy, workplan and logic table. On Tuesday, March 12, the WQGIT and Management Board will be notified of the updated review period for the management strategy and logic table/workplan revisions.

2:30 Updated BMP Cost Estimates in CAST – Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting

Update on the BMP costs in CAST. Olivia discussed the basis for the costs and review the new data for BMPs that previously did not have cost information.

2:45 Agricultural Conservation Practice Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Supported by the USDA –Dean Hively, USGS, and Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting

Dean presented selected findings from the report, “Providing Information on Implementation of Agricultural Practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed” ([link](#)). Data on USDA-supported agricultural conservation practice implementation was collected from 2007-2017 and analyzed at the HUC8 and county scale. This talk is part of a series of presentations selected from proceedings of the Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT) under STAR. This is mainly a compilation of public aggregated datasets of implementation, and not a lot of detailed analysis yet.

*Discussion:*

- James Davis-Martin asked about a potential translation of NRCS practices to CAST?
  - Olivia Devereux: States report NRCS and ag BMPs through NEIEN. NEIEN translates to the CBP BMP name. Some of those are more intuitive than others. However, we have tried to update that system a couple of times. The decision a few years ago was not to make any changes, and the stopping period prevents us from making changes between milestone periods. The question is if we change it, what should we do for the history? That’s a Partnership decision and USGS cannot make that decision.
  - Davis-Martin: If we know there are defects in the way these data are translated, we should do our best to update that.

3:25 Update on CSN-Coordinated Stream Restoration Activities– Tom Schueler, CSN

David briefed the WQGIT on progress of the four ad-hoc committees to review and update stream restoration crediting protocols. Group 1 is stream restoration verification guidance; group 2 is crediting outfall restoration; Group 3 is sediment crediting protocols; Group 4 is Floodplain Reconnection and Hyporheic Exchange. Group 4 is still in research phase—this is the group that may change protocols the most based on new and emerging research. Each memo will have a 30-day review and approval period in the Urban Stormwater Workgroup, and an updated guidance document will be developed for practitioners and implementers.

*Discussion:*

- David Wood included a plug for BUBBAs (Best Urban BMP in the Bay Awards), including Best Stream Restoration project. WQGIT participants are asked to spread the announcement through their networks. Deadline for submission is April 5.
- Sally Claggett asked if there was enough available literature to develop guidance for floodplain reconnection.

- Wood: The original Rosgen method of stream restoration has a lot of literature to document that approach. New literature is mainly focused in the floodplain reconnection field. A lot of emerging research in erosion rates and nutrient dynamics is not yet published but researchers on the committees have been able to share data and initial findings.
- Claggett: Note that Rosgen approach is on its way out. There is also new research to indicate that legacy sediment removal is not necessary for forest establishment or sediment reduction. So there should be some cost benefit reconsideration of legacy sediment removal.

3:45 FY19 WIP Assistance Funding –Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO

Lucinda discussed and solicited feedback from the WQGIT on potential focus areas for funding.

*Discussion:*

- Lucinda Power: More information and opportunities to provide feedback will be available via email.

**Action:** Information and opportunities to provide feedback on FY2019 WIP assistance funding priorities will be distributed via email to the WQGIT.

3:55 Adjourned

Call Participants:

James Davis-Martin, VA DEQ  
 Dinorah Dalmasy, MDE  
 Jason Bernagros, EPA  
 Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO  
 Michelle Williams, CRC  
 Allie Wagner, CRC  
 Dave Montali, TetraTech  
 Dean Hively, USGS  
 Dianne McNally, EPA Region III  
 Ed Dunne, DC DOEE  
 Emily Dekar, USC  
 Cassandra Davis, NYS DEC  
 Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting  
 Lew Linker, EPA CBPO  
 Loretta Collins, UMD  
 Joan Smedinghoff, Alliance for the Bay  
 George Onyullo, DC DOEE  
 Jason Keppler, MDA  
 Jen Sincock, EPA Region III

Jennifer Starr, Alliance for the Bay/LGAC  
Marcia Fox, DNREC  
Chris Brosch, DDA  
Lauren Townley, NYS DEC  
Ted Tesler, PA DEP  
Nicki Kasi, PA DEP  
Alana Hartman, PA DEP  
Carl Friedrichs, VIMS  
Marel King, CBC  
Karl Berger, MWCOG  
Sara Diebel, DOD  
David Wood, CSN  
Norm Goulet, NoVA Regional Commission  
Scott Phillips, USGS  
Pat Gleason, EPA  
Sally Claggett, USFS  
Peter Tango, USGS  
Jessica Blackburn, CAC  
Kristen Saunders, UMCES  
Jeremy Hanson, VT