



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

WQGIT 9/10/18 Conference Call

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Deadlines for SRS Materials:

- Management Strategy: September 13
- Logic Table: September 13
- Workplan: Late October

Progress so Far:

Management Strategy

- August 13: Draft Management Strategy presented to WQGIT, and posted for public comment
- August 13- present: comments received on Management Strategy
 - WQGIT discussion August 13
 - WQ Standards, Attainment, and Monitoring team updates
 - WQGIT Member Comments Received: PA, MD
- Management Strategy submitted to Management Board September 13

Progress so Far:

Logic Table and Workplan

- August 13 – present: updates to logic table
 - Logic table submitted to Management Board September 13
- Workplan development delayed:
 - Rough draft for WQGIT feedback September 24
 - 30 day comment period
 - Final workplan to Management Board late October/early November

Factors Influencing Success 2017 & 2025 WIP Outcomes

A. Implementation of Practices

1. Continuing to sustain the capacity of governments and the private sector to implement practices
2. Delivering the necessary financial capacity to implement practices and programs

Factors Influencing Success 2017 & 2025 WIP Outcomes

B. Improved Technical Information

1. Improving the identification of sources and their contributions to nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollutant loads
2. Quantifying the reductions from pollution control practices and verifying their continued performance
3. Enhancing the next generation of decision support tools (Phase 6 & Phase 7; Optimization Tool)

Factors Influencing Success 2017 & 2025 WIP Outcomes

B. Improved Technical Information

4. Revisiting watershed model calibration methods with the goal of improving local watershed results. **Model calibration is complete; factor has been moved to Current Efforts.**
5. Reviewing and updating historical implementation data that has been submitted by the jurisdictions to the CBP partnership, confirming that BMPs are still in place and ensuring that accurate information is included in the modeling tools. **Completed. Ongoing updates of historical implementation with two-year milestones and annual progress submissions; implementation of improved verification practices and programs**

Factors Influencing Success 2017 & 2025 WIP Outcomes

C. Response of Water Quality Conditions to Management Practices

1. Understanding the factors affecting the ecosystem response to pollutant load reductions to focus management efforts and strategies
2. Factoring in effects from continued climate change
3. Assessing the implementation potential of filter feeders for nutrient and sediment reductions
4. Examining the impact the lower Susquehanna dams have on the pollutant loads to the Bay, including changes over time. **Assessments have been completed; factor evolving to addressing impacts from lower Susquehanna dams (e.g. Conowingo WIP)**
5. Conducting a detailed multi-year assessment of chlorophyll in the tidal James River using augmented monitoring and modeling approaches. **Assessment complete; factor evolved to addressing chlorophyll in tidal James.**

Critical Management Actions to Achieve 2025 Goals

- Continue and Increase funding and resource support
- Continue partnership support to accelerate implementation
- Phase III WIP and two-year milestone development and implementation
- Continue crediting of Innovative practices and technologies
- BMP verification program implementation
- Understanding how changing conditions will affect progress
- Explaining water quality monitoring trends and factors affecting trends

Current Efforts and Gaps

Efforts:

- State-specific Phase II WIP commitments have been removed.
- Some Phase III WIP current efforts include:
 - Developing local planning goals to implement Phase III WIP commitments at the local level in the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions.
 - Addressing climate resiliency approaches in the jurisdictions' Phase III WIP narratives
 - Including considerations in planning process for ecosystem services and co-benefits of BMPs in addition to nutrient and sediment reductions.
- Efforts to address the WQS Attainment and Monitoring Outcome (Peter Tango)
- Completed calibration of Phase 6 modeling tools

GAPS:

- Financial Capacity for MS4s and other SW Programs; Financial, technical and regulatory capacity to deliver priority conservation practices to priority watersheds; BMP Tracking, reporting and verification programs

Management Approaches

- Phase I WIPs, Phase II WIPs, Phase III WIPs and Two-Year Milestones
- Chesapeake Bay Accountability Framework
- Phase III WIP Implementation
 - Evaluate BMP performance, siting and design under climate change conditions
 - Technical Assistance & Funding to the Bay jurisdictions
 - Develop and implement a BMP verification program
 - Maintain and update Phase 6 modeling tools; support implementation planning and tracking


Management Approaches

- Approaches Targeted to Local Participation
 - Local Planning Goals
 - Periodic Updates to High-Resolution Land Cover data
 - Collect and analyze local data to understand BMP performance and resilience impacts from local climate change conditions.
- Cross-Outcome Collaboration and Multiple Benefits
 - Optimization tools for cost effectiveness; exploration for optimization for co-benefits
 - Exploration of Ecosystem Services framework
 - Options for toxic contaminants co-benefits of BMP implementation

Management Approaches

B. Enhancing Monitoring

- STAR Team: Project to better measure and explain progress toward water quality improvements
- STAR/Modeling WG/STAC: Approaches to reduce uncertainties in the models
- Additional efforts to enhance monitoring (Peter Tango)



Please contact Michelle Williams (Williams.michelle@epa.gov) and Allie Wagner (wagner.Alexandra@epa.gov) with questions

Questions on Water Quality Standards, Attainment and Monitoring should be sent to Peter Tango (ptango@usgs.gov).