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Chesapeake Bay Program
Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 2, 2022
10:00 AM to 11:00 PM
Calendar Page: [Link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Action: The WTWG will review the April and May minutes and if no additional comments are received, they will be considered final.

Action: Hilary Swartwood will add Bill Keeling's feedback to the April minutes (post meeting note: completed).

Action: WTWG members are encouraged to send CAST Webinar ideas to Helen Golimowski (helen@devereuxconsulting.com).

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Action: The WTWG leadership will send out the link to the menti poll for WTWG members to prioritize future meeting topics (post-meeting note: email sent)

Agenda

10:00 AM – **Introductions and Announcements** – Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC

- Approval of April and May Meeting Minutes– Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC
 - **Action:** Review meeting minutes and if no comments will be approved.
 - **Bill Keeling:** for April: discussion- animal waste problems with animal "counts" not accounts - really about USDA reporting. Stems on clean out frequency of poultry houses as to how they design the system and the operation. It's highly variable (post meeting note: added to the April minutes).
- 2021 Progress Finalization and the Reducing Pollution Indicator – Vanessa Van Note, EPA
- BMP Summary Report changes were made
- Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Modeling Request
 - Presented at WQGIT on May 23rd and gave an update on the modeling dredging BMP. Will be reviewed by Modeling WG and treated like a regular BMP report. WTWG will review the technical appendix.
- CAST Webinars – Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting
 - Last Month's CAST webinar is now posted (Tree BMPs in CAST).
 - Taking a summer break. If anyone has any topics for CAST Webinars, please reach out to Helen Golimowski.
 - **Action:** WTWG members are encouraged to send CAST Webinar ideas to Helen Golimowski (helen@devereuxconsulting.com).
- IDDE Retirement Date – Jess Rigelman, J7 Inc.

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- *The USWG has a BMP called Advanced Grey Infrastructure Nutrient Discovery Program that has a retirement date on that, which was scheduled for 2020 Progress, but they moved it to 2021 Progress. It was not submitted by any jurisdiction at any point. As part of the report, there is a second option to report it that was added into NEIEN for CAST21 of actual reporting of pounds reduced. The new BMP for reporting actual reductions will part of the proposed changes for CAST22. Even though this BMP is being retired, there will be a new option to report this.*
 - *Ted Tesler: where would the new practice be coming from and why do we need to keep having it?*
 - *Olivia Devereux: IDDE is something that all jurisdictions do because it's a permit condition requirement. Most jurisdictions do not report it to the CBP for TMDL credit. There was an expert panel that requested it as a BMP so it's there.*
 - *Ted Tesler: so, the sector was okay with it being retired? But now they want it to be reinstated?*
 - *Olivia Devereux: No, there was an initial goal to have different criteria not just having a program. But now that we have gone several years the programs are supposed to be established so now you only get credit under different criteria nut just having a program.*
 - *Norm Goulet: It really isn't a new one. It's just one is being retired in terms of what a locality could do. It was originally supposed to be sunsetted in 2020 but we renewed it for one more year hoping people would take advantage of it, but no one did. This goes back to the beginning of expert panels. The original ask was for reductions in wet flows. We ran into a little problem with EPA. They push back on the original expert panel because these are permit conditions and you can't credit for something you are supposed to be doing any ways. The net step was to expand upon what a locality could do in the area.*
 - *Bill Keeling: the calculation reduction part was also objected to because the loads are currently implicitly captured the calibration. It creates a situation where you're explicitly calculating something that's implicitly caught.*
 - *Olivia Devereux: That was a region 3 complaint was that we can't have something illegal modeled because it's illegal and shouldn't be happening, which is why SSO's are not the in model, for example.*
 - *Action: Jess Rigelman and Olivia Devereux will send what is proposed for the new appendix to the WTWG.*
- Other announcements

10:15 AM – Chesapeake Bay Program Content Management System Update – Vanessa Van Note, EPA and Hilary Swartwood, CRC

The Chesapeake Bay Program is updating their content management system (think of this as the “backstage” to the CBP website where all the mechanisms for uploading and editing content exist). As part of this update, they are looking for feedback on how to improve organization’s homepages (link to [WTWG Homepage](#)). Please keep in mind that the web development team is unable to do any group specific requests at this time. Feedback must be applicable for all groups (ex. add option for categories to the “publication” section to make it easier to locate specific documents).

1. What additional features would you like to see on the page?
2. Is there any additional functionality that you would like to see added or improved upon?

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3. The current available sections are Upcoming Meetings, Scope and Purpose, Publications, Projects, and Related Links. Is there another section/more information you would like to see added?
4. How could we make this page better?

Captured on Jamboard

10:30 AM – Recap and Follow Up from Scope and Purpose the WTWG [orientation guide](#) Discussion - Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC

Vanessa Van Note will recap our discussion on the Scope and Purpose of the WTWG on whether any changes need to be made. She will then follow up with the group to see if there is any additional feedback. In addition, we will briefly discuss the role of the WTWG in Phase 7 development.

Discussion Summary:

Lisa Beatty: include emailed comments in the minutes regarding suggestions for scope and purpose and effective meetings.

Bill Keeling: I have a completely different remembrance of things. I find it interesting to see that there is supposed to be more participation from the WTWG, but we haven't had any presentations so far. What I remember is that they would give presentations expecting decisions and we would have a lot of questions. As I remember, the parts of our charge that had a us looking at equity between sectors and the technical aspects of the efficiencies, we were told we didn't need to do that. We only needed to focus on tracking and reporting and the technical appendix. I would like to see in light of whether we keep the current protocol or the new protocol, what is the WTWG really going to have in its purpose and charge? And if we are brought something that hits technical reef and sinks, maybe it shouldn't be approved.

Alana Hartman: if we are going to be only a tracking and reporting group – could you clarify?

Bill Keeling: what I remember from Matt Johnson was that we were only supposed to be a tracking and reporting and technical appendix group. That's how I remember the BMP expert panels devolving into during Phase 6.

Greg Sandi: I agree, we were told to back off on a lot of those comments as well.

Alana Hartman: during that time, I was the chair, and we were required to approve Panels in quick succession, and we decided that someone from WTWG should always be on the panels going forward.

Bill Keeling: But that hasn't always worked well. If you have someone on a panel that hasn't been a member for very long, it takes a long time to get a handle on what is going on. Therefore, VA suggested that the WTWG be included at key points during the process to make sure that there aren't a bunch of technical questions at the end. I just don't think the current protocols worked as well as they thought it should and I don't know if the new revisions will work either. I think that really impacts our purpose, scope and charge is, especially related to expert panels.

Norm Goulet: it seems like the WTWG scope and purpose has changed with every model evolution. Our comments on the new protocol was that it's not working and that the expert panel coordinator needed to come to the WTWG. We found that even with one WTWG member on an expert panel, they didn't always understand the nuances of tracking and reporting in other jurisdictions. Then we would get to the end of the panel, we would find it wouldn't work for a specific jurisdiction. It looks like a lot of our suggestions have been discounted for one reason or another. I don't think the new one will work any better than the new one. In terms of Phase 7, I think we need to ask for regular updates and we need to stick our nose in where we need to stick our nose in.

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In terms of the land use stuff, we need to rely on the LUWG to come update us. There's been push back from the states at the GIT level and there hasn't been a lot of traction there. The Modeling WG is under STAR and the WQGIT has a limited role because of that. I don't know what roll WTWG will have considering that WQGIT doesn't seem to have much of a role.

Cassie Davis: We will send the menti link out to you to fill out to prioritize future agenda topics. The remaining slides were going to focus on the purpose. I think our conversation we had today was important for our scope and purpose.

From Pennsylvania (copied from email sent on 06.02.2022):

- WTWG Agenda – Suggestions for Upcoming meetings topics
 - Timely manner of agenda, meeting minutes, and presentation materials.
 - Establish time protocol
 - Not having timely information delays decisions
 - Completing presentations with Baywide specific data break it down to jurisdiction and the nutrient reduction (where applicable) instead of only acres or other unit of measure.
 - Develop impactful communication materials for publication to external and local stakeholders that contain definitions up front, high level graphics, and summary slides.
 - Continue the conversation with excess at a deeper jurisdictional level
 - Update Conversion factors like broilers
 - Intertwined with Land Use
 - PA provided a detailed land use excess report that we would like to see explored as this may be a multi-jurisdictional issue
 - Coordination with Ag Modeling Team

Action: The WTWG leadership will send out the link to the menti poll for WTWG members to prioritize future meeting topics.

10:50 AM – **Prioritizing Future Agenda Topics** – Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC

The WTWG will be given an opportunity to prioritize future agenda topics based on our [menti results](#) from last meeting.

1100 AM – **Meeting Adjourn**

Next Meeting: July 7, 2022 from 10:00 to 12:00 PM

Webex Chat Summary

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:09 AM

The 2025 WIP Outcome: <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/outcome-status>

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:09 AM

The RPI will be posted here: <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans>

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:11 AM

That is my understanding as well, Cassie. I have not seen the protocols revisited at the GIT for a formal approval.

from Cassie Davis to everyone: 10:12 AM

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/water_quality_goal_implementation_team_conference_call_may_23_2022

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from Olivia Devereux to everyone: 10:13 AM

<https://cast.chesapeakebay.net/Learning/FreeTrainingVideos>. The Tree BMPs webinar was excellent! It is under Develop a plan.

from Helen Golimowski to everyone: 10:13 AM

helen@devereuxconsulting.com

from Hilary Swartwood to everyone: 10:22 AM

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1mzzpFqnWIFERAJhPIOQcjWY_MvZta983bnBoUBOxO4U/viewer?f=0

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:24 AM

If you click on the link above, you will be able to edit the Jamboard from your computer. You can navigate to each of the four questions once Jamboard is opened on your computer.

from Alana Hartman, WVDEP she, her to everyone: 10:29 AM

partnership-wide comment: it would be nice to see STAC workshops on the main calendar page. They use a completely different website for their documents and upcoming workshops.

from Clare Sevcik DNREC to everyone: 10:31 AM

I also posted that! Agreed, Alana. I added that to page 4 of the jam board

from Normand Goulet USWG, NVRC to everyone: 10:33 AM

honestly the calendar is about the only aspect of the website that I use

from Lisa Beatty, PA DEP to everyone: 10:35 AM

Like Alana said the calendar page is the "go to" and I like how it is set up.

from Katie Brownson, USFS to everyone: 10:36 AM

I already put this in the google survey, but I don't really like that we rely on the calendar for so much file storage- it can be hard to find documents if you don't remember what meeting something was shared at

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:53 AM

We want to make sure that we are setting clear expectations for the WTWG moving into the model phase development. So, if you have input on how the WTWG contributed to Phase 6, please feel free to share!

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:53 AM

Good point, Bill. Cassie and I will reach out to the WQGIT leadership.

from Nicole Christ to everyone: 10:57 AM

As a new member, I agree with Bill it takes a bit to adjust to work groups

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:59 AM

It definitely does, Nicole! If you would like to talk about what could have made things easier for you, please feel free to send us an email.

from VVANNOTE to everyone: 10:59 AM

Hi everyone, we would like to respect everyone's time and end the meeting as close to 11:00 as we can (as mentioned in Hilary's agenda email this week). For the final agenda item, we were just going to do a menti meter to prioritize the future meeting discussions (from the responses collected at the May meeting/the ones Cassie summarized in the presentation). Please take some time in the next week (deadline: June 9th) to rank the topics in order of importance to you and the organization you represent. Use this voting link:

<https://www.menti.com/rea4huixdk> or go www.menti.com and input 8307 8257. We will send out an email with this information. Thank you!

from Gregorio Sandi to everyone: 11:00 AM

I agree with Norm and Bill, we need more input especially on data requirements that are expanded by expert panels.

Call Participants

Hilary Swartwood, CRC

Alana Hartman, WV DEP

Bill Keeling, VA DEQ

Cassie Davis, NYSDEC

Clare Sevcik, DNREC

Emily Dekar, USC

Jeff Sweeney, EPA

Greg Sandi, MDE

Jordan Baker, HRG Inc.

Lorena Kowalewski, DOEE

Katie Brownson, USFS

Nicole Christ, MDE

Ruth Cassilly, UMD

Tom Butler, EPA

Norm Goulet, NVRC

Vanessa Van Note, EPA

Leon Tillman, NRCS

Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting

Lisa Beatty, PA DEP

Ted Tesler, PA DEP

Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA