



**Wastewater Treatment Workgroup Conference Call
Tuesday October 18, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Delaware Septic BMP Review Update- Schepens

[See presentation](#)

- Montali- Looks like existing systems for individual home does not have to do anything?
- No, may be required to put advanced treatment systems. Will have to meet 20 mg per day. All tidal (1000 ft of water) will require treatment upgrade eventually
- Jay (of MD)- For clarification, septic within 1000 feet critical area will eventually need to retrofit to 20 mg per day. Is there a mechanism if not sold or under construction etc.?
- If larger system that they may have to meet higher standard
- Have you found facilities they can meet standards laid out? We have found some that have, some have not
- Sewage management plan through sewer authority to ensure proper management of systems
- Cost to conventional homeowner is approximately \$3000-\$4000 above cost of system, plus management contract at \$200 to \$300 per year. Totals out to about \$12,000 to \$25,000 (usually more than new construction)
- Outside of critical zone, what are nitrogen requirements?
- Standard regulation unless over 200,000 gallons (advance treatment)
- Spano- come back with update for the group?
- Yes, we can email results as soon as they are in
- White paper on cost will be sent to group when made available
- Funding assistance for those that cannot afford?
- Flush taxes, but we haven't increased fees since 1991

CBPO BMP Review Protocol- Dubin

[See protocol](#)

- Jay- What is the scope? Upgrading septic may qualify as a BMP but are you evaluating technologies?
- May get into the weeds, we want definitions that can apply across types of technologies. We would not take one practice and build out a definition on it unless it is very unique. We are looking to make it general but not generic.
- Schepens- Curious on model, we do have nutrient removal is a BMP, but it only looks at individual systems. Provided we put it in monitored systems we would need to go through reevaluation and establish different efficiencies.
- Likely going to need some way to report it, you need a load to apply reductions against
- Workgroup will be provided w WIP Guidance Letter

Current Septic Load Estimating Method- Zhou

[See presentation](#)

- Phosphorus- assumed 100% attenuation
- Pennsylvania gives 25 pounds per year credit to sewage treatment plants to take septic out of operation. Is that accurate? It comes out to about 8.9 pounds per person times the average number of people per household (2.4)
- Virginia- 25 lbs seems high given 40% reaches plant from drainage field. Looking at flow, consider 50% of peak flow (designed to not overload drainage field) to get average flow
- Needs to be side-by-side comparison of what states to control septic. Ground truth it, correlate existing and WIPs before addressing model changes
- Montali- applying Maryland approach across watershed, what where buffer distances above fall line?
- Buffer from 1 to 100K of stream
- Pass-through rate assumes they operate correctly. Is there any way to consider failing systems?
- Not currently considered but have thought about that for a while, can be incorporated in the future
- Varying pass-through rate based on region, look at soils, groundwater, increase in septic inspectors come with increased failure rates.
- Zhou can run pilot SWAT on small watersheds to compare to current outputs (40%)
- Workgroup asked to send segments of interested to Ning for pilot. (segment with good data)
- Compare to real world measures
- Goulet- SSURGO in Fairfax County compared and found huge differences

EPA On-site System Guidance- Hudson

[See presentation](#)

- Bay specific
- Very draft, should be available to you in next month
- Montali- who in West Virginia is working on this?
- Health Department, we can follow up and provide State contacts to workgroup
- Provide draft when available, link to ChesapeakeStat Page
- Jay- suggestion, it would be good to include cost and benefits

Decentralized Water Resources Collaborative- Pramanik

Delayed to future meeting

Wastewater Workshop Update- Spano and Kilbert

See Materials [A](#) and [B](#)

- moving forward, looking into locations
- Please provide any topics including speakers and projects of interest
- Topic suggested- membrane (added)

Annual Reporting Schedule- Zhou

[See Materials](#)

- Virginia- change is to our advantage
- Montali- Seems ludicrous to have different reporting for different jurisdictions. Calendar year seems logical but leave time to create reports
- Seems uneven and so complicated

- Maybe report on calendar year with three months to do work

Initial Discussion on Illicit Discharge- Spano and Goulet

See [agenda](#) description

- Crosscutting issue for storm water and wastewater.
- 96% of E. coli in Slagg Creek Maryland in dry weather
- In order to figure out how to give credit for corrections, need incentive. These discharges are illegal and need good reason to come clean about problems
- Can they get credit toward WIP or allocation at POTW?
- Goulet- looking into way to give credit for taking loads out of the Bay
- Pennsylvania dealt with illicit discharge, like septic removal (3 pound credit)
- Virginia- no formal position, if connection is within sewage service area, than no credit. Otherwise some credit in new expanding service area
- West Virginia- haven't been involved in discussions but agree with Virginia.
- Worry about passing the giggle test if MS4 permits include it in model (stormwater exemption)
- Goulet- is not significant but if a local government has to do the work they need to get credit for reduced loads

On the Phone:

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