

Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder Workshops— Initial Ideas and Schedule for Discussion with the Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

February 14, 2011 WQGIT Conference Call

BACKGROUND

A number of partners and stakeholders have expressed strong interest in getting trained in using Scenario Builder and its application within the development of the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). This paper outlines some initial ideas and overall schedule for hosting such a set of workshops as formally requested by the Chesapeake Bay Commission in December.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase the understanding of Scenario Builder and how it works
- Introduce a Scenario Builder Estimator tool currently under development
- Train colleagues on how they can apply Scenario Builder themselves
- Get feedback on how to improve the existing Scenario Builder documentation
- Get feedback on needed improvements to Scenario Builder into the future

INTENDED AUDIENCES

We are recommending a focus on two separate, primary audiences to start with:

1. “Lay” local planners, managers, WIP writers, and interested parties; and
2. “Technical” modelers and staff charged with responsibility for supporting WIP development, WQGIT workgroup members, and WQGIT members.

WEBINAR/WORKSHOP APPROACH

What:

1. A **‘lay audience’ webinar** for Scenario Builder describing the main assumptions of the tools. Planning for 2-hour target duration including sufficient time for questions and answers with Scenario Builder Team.
2. A **‘technical’ webinar and workshop** covering the Scenario Builder data sources and assumptions with a goal of achieving transparency. The webinar will serve as a good primer/companion to the Scenario Builder documentation. This will include all the aspects of the lay webinar, but with more specific details. Planning for a half day workshop including extensive time for questions and answers with Scenario Builder Team.

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Where:

Total of four webinars (two ‘lay’ and two ‘technical’) to be performed at two locations in the watershed selected to maximize convenience for audiences across the watershed to attend in person and to anyone with an Internet connection. Specific locations to be determined—suggestions welcome.

Those participating in person will benefit from continued discussion and the opportunity for ‘live’ demonstrations following the formal webinar.

When:

Summer dates timed to come after release of revised state-basin allocations and before the draft Phase II WIPs are due. Specific dates to be determined—suggestions welcome.

Based on feedback from partners and stakeholders, additional webinars can be scheduled into the future.

How:

The webinars will be designed, built and performed by a Scenario Builder team with support from a Tetra Tech team. Ideally, the lay webinars will be performed before the technical webinars so the Scenario Builder and Tetra Tech teams can receive feedback informing the detail and delivery of the more specialized technical webinars. Archived versions of the webinars will be posted on the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership’s web site for future use and reference.

WQGIT FEEDBACK REQUESTED

- 1) Does this overall proposed approach—lay and technical audience oriented webinars/workshops hosted this coming summer—make sense?
- 2) Any specific changes to the proposed approach that should be made before proceeding forward?
- 3) Recommendations for locations for the live audience webinars?
- 4) Recommendations for specific weeks to target this coming summer?
- 5) Recommendations for content of an interactive workshop portion?