

# May Non-Tidal Workgroup Conference Call

June 19, 2013, 1-3pm, Rm 305A



Meeting materials can be found at following website:  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/18866/>

## OBJECTIVES:

- 1) The NTWG will hear updates on Factors Affecting Trends work relevant to the group and the progress of the Lessons Learned Report (UMCES/CBPO publication)
- 2) The NTWG will determine a criteria for assessing the sites that will be cut due to the FY13 funding reduction

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## ACTION ITEMS:

- Send out logistics and info about this workshop planned for the fall. (S. Phillips)
- All jurisdictions will email L. Rubin ([lrubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lubin@chesapeakebay.net)) with recommended cuts, then L. Rubin and J. Blomquist will compile all recommendations into one spreadsheet.

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### Leadership:

Scott Phillips (Chair)	USGS	<a href="mailto:swphilli@usgs.gov">swphilli@usgs.gov</a>
Lea Rubin (Staff)	CRC/CBPO	<a href="mailto:lubin@chesapeakebay.net">lrubin@chesapeakebay.net</a>

### Presenters:

Cristina Lyerly	UMCES	<a href="mailto:clyerly@ca.umces.edu">clyerly@ca.umces.edu</a>
Joel Blomquist	USGS	<a href="mailto:jdblomqu@usgs.gov">jdblomqu@usgs.gov</a>
Peter Tango	USGS	<a href="mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net">ptango@chesapeakebay.net</a>

### Participants:

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## MINUTES

**Update on Project to Explain Water Quality Trends** (*Scott Phillips, USGS and Joel Blomquist, USGS*) S. Phillips and J. Blomquist delivered an update to the NTWG on project(s) to explain WQ trends in the Bay and the Factors Affecting Trends Workgroup.

- *A Journal article is to be released in July:* To explain ground water flow modeling in the Coastal Plains of the Eastern Shore. This article will focus on the expected and observed response in the streams and with lag times to the land surface based on flows through the coastal plain sediments.
- *S. Ator's work on the Approaches to Explain Water Quality Trends on the Eastern Shore:* Work is to be released by the December.
- *Factors Affecting Trends Workgroup (FAT):* Holds weekly conference calls to present and receive feedback on factors affecting trends work.
  - a. If you have ideas for ways to explain change talk to J. Blomquist, D. Moyer, and/or G. Shenk about getting involved in FAT.
- *Gary Shenk got approved for a STAC workshop:* The workshop topic is to explain management effects on water quality trends nationwide by bringing experts from around the country to share their experiences.
  - a. **ACTION:** Send out logistics and info about this workshop planned for the fall. (S. Phillips)
- *MDNR-Principal Investigators Meeting:* This year's focus is on understanding trends in the Potomac Tidal and Nontidal waters. Planned for June 26th at the USGS office in Baltimore, MD.

**Update of Lessons Learned Brochure and opportunity for review** (*Christina Lyerly, UMCES and Liza Hernandez, UMCES/CBPO*) C. Lyerly presented the latest version of the Lessons Learned Brochure. NTWG members will have **through June 28<sup>th</sup> to provide feedback** and suggested

edits for the brochure. The potential release date is September 2013. To view C. Lyerly's presentation please click [here](#). The workgroup will be notified upon release of the final report.

**Discussion of next steps for monitoring funding short-fall** (*Peter Tango, USGS/CBPO and Joel Blomquist, USGS*) P. Tango and J. Blomquist provided an update on the funding issues facing CBP monitoring including the Nontidal network. The workgroup discussed potential criteria for identifying sites to cut from the network and next steps for addressing the funding issues.

- Click [here](#) to view the presentation P. Tango delivered to the Management Board on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

#### **Summary of Discussion, Questions and Concerns:**

- The Jurisdictions are tasked with using reduction targets of 25% less than the FY12 EPA grant funding level, to develop a list of recommended short-term (FY13) station cuts for their jurisdiction using the following criteria:
  - sites that did not address at least two goals of network (as described by the 2009 MRAT process)
  - sites that were recently implemented (2012) as part of network expansion
  - sites that are most costly to operate or that have logistical challenges
- The jurisdictions will present their recommendations at the July NTWG meeting and will discuss as a workgroup how to best address the funding shortfalls for 2013. The recommendations as an outcome of the July NTWG meeting will be presented to STAR and the Management Board for final decision making.
- **ACTION:** All jurisdictions will email L. Rubin ([lrubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lrubin@chesapeakebay.net)) with recommended cuts, then L. Rubin and J. Blomquist will compile all recommendations into one spreadsheet.

#### *Summary of discussion at the NTWG meeting to determine above criteria:*

- Determine the gains from each of the Network sites (i.e. products, trend analysis)
- Does the location provide grounds for keeping particular stations?
  - Urban, Agricultural, BMP implementation
- Long term stations (large data set for trend analysis) vs. newer stations (critically thought out locations to meet evolving monitoring needs)
- Modelers should have an input in discussing station cuts to distinguish how the monitoring data will affect the calibration of the model
- What is the cost savings of eliminating one sampling event per year across the Watershed?
- The NTWG decided it is important to finish monitoring till the end of the current water year for a complete data set for WY2012.

## **Discussion of Approaches for Revising the Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Network to Meet Long-term Fiscal Realities**

J. Blomquist and S. Phillips discussed the pillars at which to discuss the alteration of the Nontidal network, 1) Technical Requirements, 2) Jurisdictional Priorities for Monitoring information, and 3) EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program's commitment to individual partners. They further the discussion with an overview of the 2009 MRAT process and the recommendations that came from that process. To meet the long term funding reductions the Nontidal Network should consider the following: technical merit, equity, short-term and long term goals, current problematic sites, assessing towards the 2025 midpoint assessment, and the possibility of rearranging funds within the network.

*Attachment: [J. Blomquist and S. Phillips – Budget Realities for NTN](#)*

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### Future Items to address at NTWG Meetings

- Overview for potential approaches to explain water quality trends (D. Moyer)
- Trend and load indicator. (D. Moyer, J. Blomquist, K. Hyer, M. Langland)
- Review updated language for the stream health indicator on the webpage. (N. Sylvester, C. Buchanan, J. Johnson)
- Effects of TN methods on data. (M. Ley, T. Shaw, K. McGonigal)
- Stream Health Indicator Action Team Update
- data-weighting relating to the Stream health indicator work (C. Buchanan)
- Calculating BIBI independently from CBP
- Follow up on Automated sampler Action Team