



## Modeling Lab Action Team Conference Call

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 10:00AM – 12:00PM

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/19544/>

### MINUTES

#### NEXT MLAT MEETING

- The July MLAT Meeting will be a FACE-TO-FACE Meeting.
  - Discussion Topic: Final review of the MLAT Report and Presentation to the Management Board.
  - Date: July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 10AM – 3PM
  - Location: USGS Baltimore Office Conference Room A, 522 Research Park Drive Baltimore, MD 21228
  - Event Webpage: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/20830>

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### *MLAT REPORT*

- **The all sections of the draft report are due to Mark Bennett (cc Amanda Pruzinsky) by COB July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**
  - Incomplete sections by assignee:

##### **Mark Bennett**

- Summary – Will be drafted after all other sections are complete and turned in.
- Guiding Principles – The general principles were written up by MLAT, but Mark is working on a detailed description of each.
- Proposed functions.
- Governance – Mark is contacting Lee Currey to edit the governance government that the other jurisdictions have worked on before finishing the draft.

##### **Gary Shenk**

- CBP GIT list of Modeling Needs – Emailed Lucinda Power for list.

##### **Lewis Linker**

- Review of existing modeling laboratories.

##### **Kevin Sellner**

- Process for establishing – This sections depends on the function and governance, which are not completed.

- Once the full draft has been sent out, MLAT member edits/comments should be sent to Mark Bennett (cc Amanda Pruzinsky) before the July MLAT Face-to-face Meeting. Edits will be incorporated and/or discussed at the July MLAT Meeting.

#### *PRESENTATION TO MANAGEMENT BOARD*

- Mark Bennett will draft the presentation based on the outline discussed at the June Meeting and send it to MLAT Members for review before the July MLAT Meeting. Edits will be incorporated and/or discussed at the July MLAT Meeting.
  - Lewis Linker will also send the draft report to Region 3 for comment after the MB Meeting.

#### **TIMELINE**

*(Note: The timeline is subject to change)*

##### **JULY 2013**

DRAFT REPORT AND PRESENTATION – Draft report and presentation will be sent out to members for internal review before the July MLAT Meeting, 2013.

The report and presentation will be reviewed at the July meeting in preparation for the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Management Board meeting.

##### **AUGUST 2013**

DRAFT FINAL REPORT – Deliverable fall 2013 – Draft final report will be presented to Management Board at August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 MB Meeting.

#### **Function of the Modeling Laboratory**

The discussion will begin by reviewing the two governance options document. The discussion will open up to all MLAT members for comment.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- MLAT members all agree that the Modeling Lab should go forward.
- Two main discussion topics regarding function:
  1. MLAT members all agree that a high priority of the Modeling Lab and the funding of the modeling lab should go towards addressing the significant issues brought up by

the NRC/NAS report: gap in research and model development, and not enough interaction between academic researchers and managers/operational folks.

2. MLAT members all agree that there is a problem regarding the communication of how/when/where the decision is made to “lock down” a current model version. MLAT members all agree that at least some additional funding would be necessary to correct this problem. There is some disagreement about whether this latter problem should be “fixed” via the Modeling Lab. The jurisdictions believe that this could improve credibility by creating a locked down model. The academics believe that the modeling laboratory should focus on the current research gap and the Modeling Team would stay intact and continue to work on their current functions, so that the operations would not take over the laboratory and flexibility would still be available to the partnership.

#### MLAT DECISIONS:

- Instead of two options, we are going to have a recommendation, with an optional add-on:
  - The recommendation will be to fund a modeling lab focused on research with the specifications as MLAT has discussed. At least 1.5M per year, Multi-year RFP or RFS looking for a consortium to step up with capabilities that can be applied according to the governance that is set up for the modeling lab.
  - In addition to this recommendation, the MLAT was divided on the advisability of offering the following additional option: In a separate RFP process, the final assembly and calibration of the watershed model could be performed by an outside group and given back to the partnership as a turn-key product. There would be a small savings in CBPO personnel costs, but it is expected that this option would require additional funds. The final preparation of the watershed model by an outside group may result in a higher degree of confidence, and would also allow for fewer changes to the model during the decision process. The MLAT was divided on whether this restriction of options was a positive or negative effect for the partnership.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Mark Bennett will write up a draft Modeling Laboratory Function document.

#### **Outlining the presentation to the Management Board**

Major themes for the presentation:

- The NAS/NRC recommendation and the MLAT charge
- Justification – Why invest?

- Major functions of the laboratory
  - Research
  - Additional option: Turn-key model
- Governance – structure and needs
- Funding
  - Core and sustainable funding
  - Account – 1.5 minimum for research

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Mark Bennett will send out a draft presentation before the July MLAT Meeting.
- MLAT will present to the Management Board in August.
- Lewis Linker will send the draft report to Region 3 for comment.

#### Other discussion topics

- May need to discuss how the Modeling Laboratory will fit into the new agreement.

#### PARTICIPANTS

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