

Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2017 Midpoint Assessment

A Critical Path Forward

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CBP Principals' Staff Committee Meeting

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Today's Objectives

- Where are we now in the Midpoint Assessment process
 - Key strategic issues & decision timelines
- Upcoming face to face WQGIT meeting on October 7-8, 2014
- Feedback requested for future briefings on Midpoint Assessment

What is the Midpoint Assessment?



- Review of progress towards meeting the 2017 60% interim target & 2025 Bay TMDL goal
- Optimize implementation of Bay jurisdictions' WIPs and ensure we're on track for development of Phase III WIPs
- Gather, review, and incorporate new data and science into the Partnership's decision support tools



What is the Midpoint Assessment?



- In October 2012, the WQGIT identified and approved specific priorities to address under the midpoint assessment, including:
 - Model refinements (e.g. Phase 6)
 - New land use classifications
 - Refine decision support tools for WIP implementation
 - Bring in analysis of monitoring trends to better represent progress to date



Midpoint Assessment

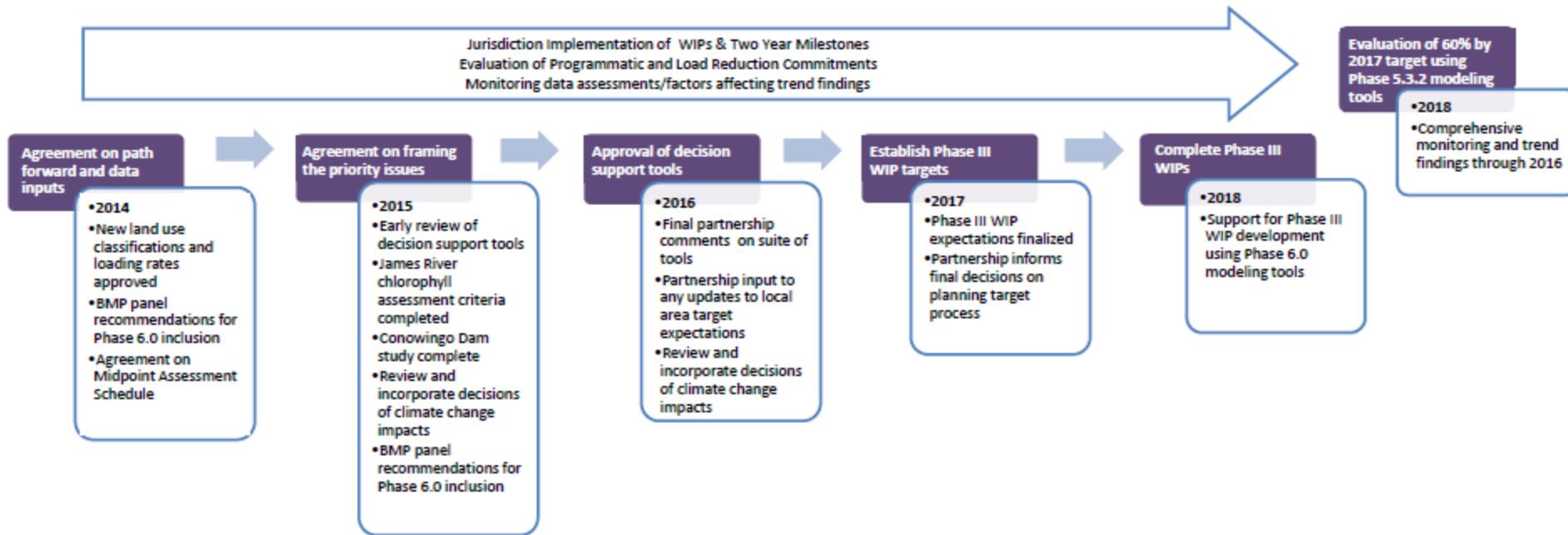
Guiding Principles



1. Continue implementation, tracking progress and reporting results, with stable tools through at least 2017
2. Enhance decision support and assessment tools to enable successful engagement of local partners
3. Incorporate new or refined BMPs and verification of practices into existing accountability tools and reporting protocols
4. Address emerging issues (e.g., climate change)
5. Prioritize midpoint assessment actions and use adaptive management to ensure goals are met



Midpoint Assessment Timeline



Strategic Issues



- 1. New Land Use Classifications & Loading Rates:** Improve the resolution of land uses in the Partnership's decision support tools, including the relative loading rates of nutrients and sediments
- 2. Incorporate BMP expert panel and workgroup recommendations** with a focus on adding BMPs and updating current BMPs to enhance the evaluation of progress
- 3. Phase 6 Decision Support Tools:** Enhance decision support tools to improve transparency, accuracy, and confidence.

Strategic Issues



4. **Climate Change:** Update the Partnership's decision support tools to reflect climate change considerations.
5. **Conowingo Dam:** Factor in the additional nutrient and sediment loads given the Conowingo Dam/Reservoir have reached dynamic equilibrium and are contributing to Bay water quality impacts.
6. **James River Chlorophyll-a Criteria Assessment:** Determine appropriate criteria in order to protect designated uses in the tidal James River.
7. **EPA provides expectations for scope and content of Phase III WIPs** based on input from the Partnership.

Midpoint Assessment Schedule: Short Term

2014	2015	2016
Review and approval of new land use classifications (Oct 2014)	Review of proposed land use loading rates (Spring 2015)	Climate change studies conducted by Penn State, UMCES, EPA, and JHU (through 2016)
Review and approval of BMP Expert Panels (ongoing)	Final land uses & loading rates into Phase 6 WSM (Oct 2015)	Incorporate climate change considerations into Phase 6 (Dec 2016)
Agreement on Midpoint Assessment schedule and decision making process (Oct 2014)	All BMPs approved and incorporated into Phase 6 Watershed Model for calibration (Oct 2015)	Partners factor in VA's James Chlorophyll-a assessment findings; initiate evaluation of changes to allocations
Studies and monitoring underway for Conowingo Dam/Reservoir	James Chlorophyll-a criteria assessment complete (Dec 2015)	Draft Phase 6 watershed model complete; partnership review initiated (Jan 2016)

Midpoint Assessment Schedule: Long Term

2017	2018
Partnership approves Phase 6, other Partnership models (Summer 2017)	Evaluate progress and attainment of “60% by 2017 goal” using Phase 5.3.2 and integrating monitoring information (Spring 2018)
Partnership decisions on offsetting effects of Conowingo	Jurisdictions’ draft Phase III WIPs due (June 2018)
Partnership decision on how and when to incorporate responses to climate change assessments	Jurisdiction’s final Phase III WIPs due (Dec 2018)
EPA sets Phase III WIP planning targets for 2025 with partnership input	Development of 2018-2019 two-year milestones (early 2018)
EPA provides expectations for scope of jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs (June 2017)	Based on Phase III WIPs and Midpoint Assessment, there may be a need to modify the Bay TMDL (early 2019)

WQGIT October 2014 Meeting



- Clear understanding of where we need to be by 2017 and what steps need to be taken, and by whom
- Evaluating the 60% by 2017 goal – information needed to help inform this assessment
- Full buy in on midpoint assessment schedule and decision making processes



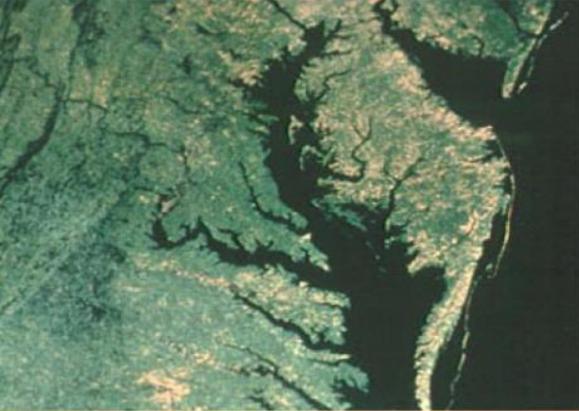


Feedback Requested:



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How frequently and on what specific issues would you like to receive more detailed briefings throughout the Midpoint Assessment process?



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Thank you!
Additional Questions?