

Water Quality Trends and Shifts in the Pollutant Source Sectors: Policy Implications for the Partnership

Questions for the PSC Members for Feedback and Direction

Watershed Trends

What additional information would you like to see on the following:

- Trends for specific watersheds or locations
- Why the more recent river input trends in nitrogen and phosphorus loads are either flattening out or increasing
- Causes of the increasing trend in phosphorus at Conowingo Dam when upstream stations are showing downward trends
- Other additional information

Tidal Trends

What additional information would you like to see on the following:

- What additional pollutant loads are needed before we see more tidal water quality responses
- What are the time lags for tidal water quality responses to pollutant load reductions from the watershed
- Other questions

SAV Trends

What additional information would you like to see on the following:

- Local and regional SAV trends over the past 40 years
- Challenge we are facing with fully restoring eelgrass to the Bay
- What additional improvements in water clarity are needed to see the next significant increase in SAV acreages
- Other findings described here

The Changing Shape of Our Watershed Pollutant Sources

What additional information would you like to see on the following:

- What additional reductions are coming from the Clean Air Act
- What more is possible from the wastewater sector/from septs
- What further reductions from agriculture are likely by 2025
- What further reductions from urban stormwater are likely by 2025
- Other questions

Resulting Policy Challenges

What additional information would you like to see about the following identified policy challenges facing the Partnership:

- River input loads flattening out, increasing in the past decade
- Highest yielding areas are in the lower Susquehanna, Eastern Shore, and middle Potomac
- Wastewater, atmospheric dep close to tapped out
- Agriculture being asked for most of the remaining reductions
- Pennsylvania agriculture on the hook for a significant portion of all the remaining reductions
- Phosphorus saturated soils, groundwater lags hinder timely water quality responses