

Stream Restoration FAQ Document Memo

Date: January 10, 2017

From: Tom Schueler, Chesapeake Stormwater Network
and CBP Stormwater Coordinator

To: Chesapeake Bay Program Urban Stormwater Workgroup

Re: Development of an FAQ-style Document for the Urban Stream
Restoration BMP Expert Panel Report

Background and Purpose of Memo

In May of 2013, the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) approved the final recommendations of Urban Stream Restoration BMP Expert Panel. However, due to the complexity of the crediting protocols, the Expert Panel decided to implement a 6-month “test drive” of the report so that states and localities could test the protocols on actual projects and provide feedback in order to clarify and improve the report. The results of the test drive and subsequent revisions to the report were published in an appendix (Appendix G) and approved by the WQGIT in August of 2014.

While the test drive provided important feedback on the protocols and resulted in several revisions to the report, it was a time consuming process that resulting in multiple sets of documentation that led to confusion surrounding how the protocols should be applied in the field and credited in the Chesapeake Bay Program’s suite of modeling tools.

This memo outlines several of the most commonly raised questions regarding the application and crediting of the stream restoration BMP protocols, and a proposal to develop an FAQ-style document that would provide a “one-stop shop” to answer those questions. Urban Stormwater Workgroup members are asked to provide feedback on any additional questions that they feel should be addressed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about the Stream Restoration BMP Protocols generally fall into three broad categories:

- 1) What practices are eligible for crediting under the protocols?
 - a. Includes confusion about whether wet or dry Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance are eligible, whether the protocols apply to ephemeral or intermittent streams, which perennial stream orders are eligible, and how to report unique restoration projects like stream restoration done in conjunction with an inline pond retrofit.

- 2) How are the protocols properly applied to calculate the correct load reduction?
 - a. Includes questions about how to use the interim rate used in the protocols, how to adjust the default rate based on monitored data and how to obtain the nitrate cap in Protocol 2.
- 3) How do the Chesapeake Bay Program modeling tools simulate stream restoration and sediment delivery?
 - a. Includes questions about the application of sediment delivery factors and changes resulting from the Phase 6 Model update.

In order to address these questions, we propose the development of an FAQ-style document that will clearly outline the qualifying conditions necessary to be eligible for credit under the stream restoration protocols, provide design examples for each of the three stream restoration crediting protocols and clarify the final load reduction credits developed by the expert panel and approved by the WQGIT.

In addition, the development of the Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model will result in changes to the way in which streams and sediment delivery are simulated. The FAQ document will describe those changes and how they impact the Stream Restoration BMP crediting protocols.

Request for the Urban Stormwater Workgroup

We are requesting that Workgroup members review the Stream Restoration BMP Expert Panel report and provide feedback in the form of questions or comments on areas of the report that need clarification in order to make the stream restoration protocols more user-friendly.

The intent of this effort is to interpret and clarify the existing protocols and place them within the context of the Phase 6 Model. At this time, we do not propose the re-opening of the BMP expert panel. If there are questions or concerns with the protocols or the supporting science, please feel free to submit them and we will add them to a “parking lot” for when the panel is re-opened for review in 2020.

Please provide your feedback to David Wood (Wood.CSN@outlook.com) by **Friday, February 3rd**. Once all feedback has been compiled, the FAQ document will be developed and presented at a future Urban Stormwater Workgroup meeting for membership review and endorsement.