**Chesapeake Bay Program Update**

 **Management Board Meeting**

**Thursday, February 9, 2012**

**CBPO Calendar**

February 16 Principals’ Staff Committee Meeting, (Washington, DC)

March 1-2 Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting (Charlottesville, VA)

March 1-2 Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting (Washington, DC)

March 30 Final Phase II WIPs due

Apr 10-12 Environment Virginia Symposium

**TOPIC UPDATES**

**Update on Draft Phase II WIPs and 2012-2013 Milestones**

As part of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, EPA received draft Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) that were due on December 15 from all seven Bay jurisdictions. The draft Phase II WIPs are the next step forward in the committed collaboration between the Bay jurisdictions and EPA to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The jurisdictions’ plans are expected to identify how they are working with local partners to have measures in place by 2017 that will achieve 60 percent of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions needed to restore the Bay. EPA and the Bay jurisdictions have committed to having all pollution control measures in place no later than 2025 that are needed to fully restore the Bay.

EPA has also received from six of the seven Bay jurisdictions the final 2012-2013 milestones that were due on January 6. EPA expects these milestones to identify near-term actions to implement jurisdictions' WIPs and meet the Bay TMDL allocations.

EPA is providing feedback to each jurisdiction on the draft WIP and the final milestone submissions, noting both strengths and areas that merit further improvements. EPA will assist the jurisdictions as they refine and finalize their Phase II WIPs, due March 30, 2012. The jurisdiction plans and milestones can be accessed through EPA's website [www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl](http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl), which provides links to the plans where they are posted on jurisdiction websites. EPA will post information on its evaluation of the WIPs and milestones the week of February 21.

**Executive Order 2012 Action Plan and 2011 Progress Report**

The Federal Leadership Committee agencies have submitted the FY2011 Progress Report and FY2012 Action to OMB for final review. OMB is expected to complete their review within a week. Following any final edits, both documents will be released for public comment and the Federal Officer Directors (FOD) will schedule a briefing for Management Board members. The FOD strongly encourages CBP Partnership members to provide comments on both documents.

**CBP Budget Update**

As noted previously, funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program has been steady. In Fiscal Year 2012, the program received $57.4 million, representing a $3 million increase over FY 2011. EPA expects that funding for state implementation and accountability grant programs will remain the same in FY 2012 as in FY 2011. EPA expects that the President's budget request for FY 2013 will include an additional increase for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Congressional appropriations hearings on EPA's budget are scheduled for Feb. 28 and 29 in the House of Representatives and March 1 and 14 in the Senate.

**Trading Program Assessments Report**

As noted previously EPA has developed state-specific, assessments of water quality offset and trading programs based on interviews with the jurisdictions and other stakeholders. The final assessments, including EPA's response to the comments received from the jurisdictions, will be transmitted to the states in mid-February and to interested stakeholders shortly thereafter. The observations and recommendations in the assessments are expected to inform the ongoing development of offset and trading programs, a key component of the Watershed Implementation Plans. EPA expects the findings in the assessments to be addressed in the final Phase II WIPs due in March 2012, as appropriate. For additional information, contact Patricia Gleason in EPA Region 3 (215-814-5740, gleason.patricia@epa.gov).

**New Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Website**

A new and improved CBP website debuted the week of January 30. This redesign elevates our web presence to among the very best environmental websites - indicative of a program that is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in estuarine science and policy. A few highlights:

* Reworked content through much of the site
* new “Issue” pages that provide a holistic approach to interpreting the issues that are in the forefront of Bay policy and science
* An updated Bay Field Guide including image galleries, videos and even sounds for some of the bay critters – better life history info for students
* Better integration of news, photos, videos and other information

Please check out the site at [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)

**Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns**

On February 8 the Chesapeake Bay Trust, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Maryland unveiled an expanded Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns grant initiative to help cities and towns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed accelerate greening efforts that improve watershed protection, community livability, and economic vitality. Building on the success of the initial round of grants, this public-private partnership will award more than $400,000 in 2012, double the funding from 2011.

The grant program is open to local governments and non-profit organizations in urban and suburban watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland, D.C., Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia who are interested in pursuing green streets, green infrastructure, and green jobs as part of their community or watershed planning.

Grant assistance up to $35,000 is available for infrastructure project planning and design, and up to $100,000 for implementation and construction. The strongest proposals will incorporate innovative green infrastructure and best management practices that maximize cost-effectiveness.

The request for proposals is available at [www.cbtrust.org](http://www.cbtrust.org/) with a deadline of March 9, 2012 for all applications. The Chesapeake Bay Green Streets- Green Jobs-Green Towns Academy will also host a webinar: “Tools for Greening Chesapeake Bay Communities”

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 15. To register visit: <http://mp118885.cdn.mediaplatform.com/118885/ml/mp/4000/5345/5417/12575/Lobby/default.htm>

**State Video Conferencing for Water Quality**

EPA has provided video teleconferencing equipment to our jurisdiction partners to enhance communications and collaboration. Please contact Greg Barranco (barranco.greg@epa.gov) in the Chesapeake Bay Program to identify the point of contact in individual jurisdictions.

**Recent Events**

Jan 5 Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting

Jan 6 2 Year Milestones Due

Jan 21 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Stewards Academy Conference