

**Water Quality Goal Implementation Team  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Conference Call**

**DECISION and ACTION ITEMS**

**DECISION:** WQGIT approval of approach for application of N-P adjustments to adjust basinwide nutrient target loads for efficient distribution of load reduction among major basin/jurisdictions while still fully achieving all water quality standards. WQGIT withholds approval for sediment adjustments.

**MINUTES**

Announcements

- Putting out responsiveness summary on TMDL comments in January
- EPA will be providing contractor support money for Watershed Implementation Plans

Adjusting N and P Loadings between Major Basins within Jurisdictions – Gary Shenk

[Attachment A1 - Nutrient Adjustments Among Basins](#)

[Attachment A2 - Adjustment Ratio Spreadsheet](#)

**Discussion:**

- EPA has not yet determined how EPA would adjudicate between states if the cumulative impact of multiple trades resulted in a violation of water quality standards
- Need to consider how an adjustment impacts another state's or local water quality standards or necessary reduction
- EPA should consider if adjustment of two points is acceptable without consideration of the whole line
- Preferably adjustments would be made by draft TMDL or final TMDL at the latest

Guidelines for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment Adjustments – Lewis Linker, Ping Wang

[Attachment B1 - N-P-S Adjustments](#)

[Attachment B2 Surface Analysis JEE Paper 3-06](#)

[Attachment B3 N-P TRADEOFFS JWRPM Paper](#)

Slide 12

- Would need to run separate assessment for DO and Chlorophyll

**Discussion:**

- Papers included in attachments are based on old model
- Ron Entringer, NY DEC, pointed out that geographically and temporally these adjustments vary quite a bit. Should consider geographically specific adjustments. NY will likely be focusing on P for local water quality.
- Sediment is major consideration for light attenuation; with less sediment and a clearer bay, more nutrients could be allowed
- Adjustments based on global N, P, S reduction. Slide 16 indicates that Phase 5.3 and more sediment modeling must be completed
- Model runs cannot account for various species of nutrients and sediments
- Considering dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll in surface analysis. uncertain if this can be applied to SAV clarity

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Are states interested in doing geographic adjustments, and if yes, what level of adjustment?

DE – minor, not sure for N. Will likely be trading for P

MD – concerned about time, but may be safety valve for very difficult segments; should limit to areas where essential; leave option open for N, P but same concern w/ time constraint

NY – no opportunity for NY for geographic adjustments. Interested in trading between N and P. Too early to determine degree of adjustment

PA – should leave options open to allow for breakthrough in new technology. Too early to say what adjustments we might make

VA – backstop, not envisioning major changes geographically or by nutrient; rather see CBP working on finishing modeling updates than adjustments. Should consider after WIP; do not envision major adjustment for N, P trades

WV – interested in understanding N, P trades. Unsure about degree of changes likely

DC – want N, P trading option. Not sure about degree

#### Maryland Segment-shed Target Load Distribution Approach – Lee Currey

##### Attachment C MD Draft Suballocation Process

- Have not addressed NPS growth. Projected flows for WWTPs are included, but not necessarily changes in land use
- MD may use contract assistance for confirming data for model input and output and help with source sector teams. Would appreciate any help we can get as documentation will be difficult
- 2020 is the date that MD set up milestones to meet Bay allocation goal
- Areas not required to do retrofit do not have Phase I stormwater permit. Not sure about one at the top of map
- Have trading which could be used instead of costly stormwater retrofit. Still need to meet local TMDLs and requirements, which limits opportunities for trading especially in MD
- Sediment distinguished into sand, silt, and clay; could allow sediment to pass through Conowingo dam at desirable time of year for SAV health
- 2008 used to identify current condition. Could be more reduction with current capacity by refocusing perhaps in agriculture; gap in funding between 2008 nutrient load and target, available area, technical expertise, etc. gap analysis will come in Phase II of WIPs
- Default allocations will not be final decision, will be hopefully minor adjustments between MD segments

#### Update on Air Allocation – Lewis Linker

- Bay Program considers multiple benefits of atmospheric deposition reductions
- Spring 2010 for preliminary data set, full emissions data set end of 2010
- Source and sector analysis for reduced nitrogen
- Compare ammonia emissions with losses from watershed model
- Indirectly considering reduction from proposed legislation

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