

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**  
**WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**  
**SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2013 CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES**

**ACTION ITEMS & DECISIONS**

**FOLLOW UP:** Lucinda Power will add to the WQGIT outlook calendar a discussion on crediting conservation (point of contact: Sally Claggett) for the winter 2014 timeframe.

**ACTION:** The WQGIT will defer a final decision on whether to approve the formation of an Agricultural Forecasting Subcommittee until the 10/21 WQGIT call.

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome/Confirm Call Participants and Updates**

- Russ Baxter, WQGIT Chair, welcomed everyone to the call and confirmed call participants.
- The draft recommendations for the On-Site Systems Expert Panel were distributed to the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup and the Watershed Technical Workgroup on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Comments are due by September 13<sup>th</sup>, and the WQGIT is expected to discuss the Panel Report during our November call.
- Please note that our October call has been rescheduled to the following day, Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, because of the Monday holiday. In addition, the call on the 15<sup>th</sup> will be devoted to discussing the following Agricultural BMP Panel Reports: Conservation Tillage, Nutrient Management, and Cover Crops.
- We will be holding a second WQGIT call on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> to accommodate the other agenda items we had originally planned for, which include a discussion on the air-water exchange method from Lew Linker and additional information on shallow water assessments in open water designated uses from Peter Tango.
- Please also note that our November call will be rescheduled to Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> because of another Monday holiday.
- Matt Johnston (CBPO): The WQGIT-approved stormwater performance standards will be available for states to report into NEIEN for this year. However, Scenario Builder will not be simulating the BMP this year; rather, load reductions will be simulated for the BMP outside of Scenario Builder if any jurisdiction submits it.
- Johnston: An email went out to the progress contacts with a draft set of 2013 land uses, septic numbers and animal populations for this year's progress run. Jurisdictions have been requested to respond by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Sally Claggett (USFS): Recommend that the WQGIT consider discussing crediting conservation in the near future.
  - Baxter: WQGIT can take up this issue after December.

**FOLLOW UP:** Lucinda Power will add to the WQGIT outlook calendar a discussion on crediting conservation (point of contact: Sally Claggett) for the winter 2014 timeframe.

**2. Briefing on Eastern Shore Groundwater Model Results**

- Ward Sanford (USGS) gave an overview of the soon to be released results on how long it takes nitrogen to move through groundwater on the Eastern Shore. ([Presentation link](#))

- Baxter: How does eastern shore groundwater compare to other regions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed?
  - Sanford: Expect the response times would be similar in other regions.
- Baxter: What causes uptake efficiencies to improve?
  - Sanford: This data does not indicate which processes cause nitrate uptake efficiency data to improve through time. One possible cause is the change in method of fertilizer application.
  - Johnston: Could the increase in N uptake efficiency be related to practices?
    - Sanford: Yes.
- Beth Horsey (MDA): Recommend accounting for geographic discrepancies with fertilizer sales, knowing that fertilizer may not always be used in the same county that it is sold.
  - Sanford: Did not have additional fertilizer information for this work.
- Lew Linker (EPA): Are atmospheric nitrogen and septic system nitrogen included in the mass balance?
  - Sanford: Atmospheric is included to some extent, because of the forest areas. Septic loads are not included directly, but they do show up indirectly in the concentrations.
- Gary Shenk (EPA): Cautioned that we should not compare a target from one model to predictions from another model. These targets are the eventual load reduction from implementing the practices and are conceptualized as implementation targets. The Partnership Watershed Model expresses what is expected to happen with the assumptions of stationarity and no lag-time. When the system is non-stationary, it means that either the eastern shore needs to do more to meet the TMDL targets, or that all areas need to do more, which is a partnership decision.
- Lee Currey (MDE): Recommend that the WQGIT pay close attention to groundwater lag times during the midpoint assessment and model calibration.
- Sanford is continuing to model groundwater in other regions of the watershed.

### 3. Agricultural BMP Expert Panel Recommendations

- Mark Dubin, Agriculture Workgroup Coordinator, provided an update on the activities and progress of the Agriculture Workgroup's four BMP Expert Panels. The Panel Reports will be presented for WQGIT approval later this fall.
- The Conservation Tillage, Nutrient Management, and Cover Crops panel reports will be presented to the Agriculture Workgroup on 9/26. The goal is to have recommendations from the AgWG on 10/3 and recommendations from the WTWG on 10/7.
- The WQGIT will be discussing these three reports during the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The recommendations from the Poultry Litter Subcommittee will be coming to the WQGIT in November.
- The Conservation Tillage panel will be recommending an approach for continuous no-till, and developing an efficiency that will allow stacking with other BMPs.
- The Nutrient Management panel will be proposing a change to historic nutrient management.
- The Cover Crops panel will be proposing the addition of new species, and recommending nitrogen efficiency reductions for each species proposed.
- James Davis-Martin (VA-DEQ): How do you plan to handle panel recommendations that are not compatible with the model calibration?
  - Dubin: The panels have been working with the CBPO modeling team to ensure that recommendations are compatible with calibration. For example: the cover crop recommendations are being submitted relative to rye. Phase 6.0 modeling

recommendations may have slightly different values because they are not constrained by the modeling calibration.

- Davis-Martin: Concern that the model’s response for Nutrient Management was in the past an unintended consequence of the previous panel’s recommendations.
  - Dubin: The current Nutrient Management Panel is still finalizing their recommendations and will have to make a few more important decisions before the recommendations are complete.

#### 4. Agricultural Forecasting Subcommittee

- Jim Baird, American Farmland Trust, discussed the possible formation of an [Agricultural Forecasting Subcommittee](#), which was recommended at the Agriculture Workgroup’s recent workshop in May 2013, and endorsed by the Agriculture Workgroup at their July meeting.
- The Forecasting Subcommittee will be chaired by Jim Baird and Peter Claggett, and it will fall under the auspices of both the AgWG and LUWG as it concerns both agricultural lands and future land use projections.
- Pat Buckley (PADEP): Not prepared to make a recommendation for or against convening the subcommittee at this time. Note a concern with downscaling, or interpreting data at a difference scale than it was intended to represent.
- Marel Raub (CBC): Concern with the ultimate goal of creating one scenario. Recommend instead improving the ongoing process of forecasting agriculture.
  - Peter Claggett (USGS): Clarified that the intention is to create a suite of scenarios, which help quantify the effect of actions on the trends in agriculture.
- Baxter: Will give WQGIT members the opportunity to confer with others and request a decision at the October meeting.
  - Peter: Will be on the 10/21 WQGIT call to discuss approval of the committee.
- Baxter: How will this group be funded?
  - Baird: Have applied for an RFP from Hughes Agro Ecology Center. Funding is not available until February, currently seeking other opportunities.

**ACTION:** The WQGIT will defer a final decision on whether to approve the formation of an Agricultural Forecasting Subcommittee until the 10/21 WQGIT call.

Adjourned

#### Next WQGIT Conference Call:

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

#### Participants

Russ Baxter (chair)	VA DEQ
Jennifer Volk (vice chair)	U Delaware
Lucinda Power (coordinator)	CBPO
Eric Aschenbach	VDH
Patricia Buckley	PA DEP
Sally Claggett	USFS/CBPO
Peter Claggett	USGS

Lee Currey	MDE
Dinorah Dalmasy	MDE
James Davis-Martin	VA DEQ
Sarah Diebel	DOD
Mark Dubin	CBPO/UMD
Jim George	MDE
Steve Gladding	NYS DEC
Jim Glancey	U Delaware
Norm Goulet	N. VA Regional Commission
Jeremy Hanson	CBPO
Beth Horsey	MDA
Matt Johnston	UMD
Teresa Koon	WV DEP
David Koran	USACE
Jackie Lendrum	NY DEC
Ross Mandel	ICPRB
Beth McGee	CBF
Jamie Mitchell	HRSD
Matt Monroe	WV Dept. of Ag.
Robin Pellicano	MDE
Scott Phillips	USGS
Marel A. Raub	CBC
John Schneider	DNREC
Gary Shenk	EPA/CBPO
Kim Snell-Zarcone	Conservation PA
Tanya Spano	MWCOG
Helen Stewart	MD DNR
Jeff Sweeney	CBPO
Larry Tennity	NRCS DE
Tom Thornton	MDE
Jennifer Tribo	Hampton Roads
Dana York	MDA
Kathryn Zook	USDA office of Env. Markets
Emma Giese	CBPO
Jim Baird	American Farmland Trust
Ward Sanford	USGS
Beth Horsey	MDA
Bill Angstadt	DMAA
Lew Linker	EPA
Ashley Toy	EPA
Karl Blankenship	Bay Journal
Mark Zolanz	EPA Region 3
Pat Gleason	EPA
Jon Campbell	USGS
Bob Shedlock	
Joel Blanco-Gonzales	