

WQGIT F2F Meeting September 25-26, 2017

Decisions & Recommendations to the PSC



Scenario Year for Phase III WIP Planning Targets

WQGIT Decision

- Use **2010** as the scenario year for establishing the draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- Further modeling analysis is needed to understand why E3 and No Action increased in certain areas in future years, which informs any changes to levels of effort.

2025 Growth Projections

WQGIT Decision

- Use the CBLCM and MD Land Use Model to establish growth projections, with the opportunity to provide data or alternative modeling approaches in future years, which will be vetted through the Partnership approval process (starting with the Land Use Workgroup).

WQGIT Decision

- Drop the historical trends scenario and instead focus on the current zoning scenario, as zoning decisions have shaped historical trends and local jurisdictions are more likely to accept a scenario that includes their zoning information.

2025 Growth Projections

WQGIT Decision

- Implement minor refinements to the CBLCM that are recommended by the LUWG by October 31, 2017, coordinating with the USWG, WWTWG and AgWG.
 - State and local partners will review the tabular and spatial data by October 31, 2017 so the LUWG can discuss at their first November meeting and deliver the dataset to the CBPO modeling team by November 15, 2017.
 - Historical trends data will be in CAST by October 2, 2017.
 - State and local jurisdictions can begin running Phase III WIP scenarios on historical trend projections by October 2, 2017.
 - Current zoning data will be in CAST by January 2018.

2025 Growth Projections

WQGIT Decision

- The LUWG will continue working on alternative future scenarios identified during the Local Government Forum – current zoning plus and conservation plus (formerly “utopian”) scenarios.
- The LUWG will continue investigating ways to incorporate the conservation plus scenario into CAST to allow users to pick and choose which components of that scenario to use.
- Priority is to get the conservation plus scenario done by January 15, 2018. It will then go into the modeling system six weeks after that date (so it will be available in CAST by March 2018).

2025 Growth Projections

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC

- Use 2025 growth projections (Current Zoning + animal numbers and crop mix) as base conditions for the Phase III WIPs.
 - This approach explicitly accounts for growth in the Phase III WIPs.
 - States can use 2017 (current) as a baseline and run the Phase III WIPs on 2025 growth projections to understand what's changing in each source sector as a result of forecasted growth.
 - This current baseline will help inform the description in the Phase III WIPs of the policies, BMPs and/or programs in place to address that growth.

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC

- Update the growth projections every 2 years with the best available data to inform the development of the two-year milestones.
 - Allows for adaptive management to changing growth patterns and trends as we approach 2025.
 - Need to be clear about what new data has been incorporated into the projections on this two-year basis, and what has changed as a result of incorporating this new data.

Climate Change

Decision Point #1: Approve policy approach to guide jurisdictions' development and implementation of their Phase III WIPs.

WQGIT Recommendation to PSC:

- Language changes on the policy options have been requested, including the removal of qualitative policy component Element A related to Phase III WIP development. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup will revise the language.

Climate Change

Decision Point #2: Establish “minimum” standard for implementation in jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs.

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC:

- Did not reach consensus on adopting the quantitative policy component - Use the 2025 climate projection scenarios as base conditions (informed by CBWM climate modeling results) in the establishment of the jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs.
- The CBPO Modeling Team will provide 2025 climate change projections to give each jurisdiction an understanding of how their level of effort may change.
- Any changes to the modeling scenarios as a result of using 0.17 M sea level rise in the 2025 climate projection, compared to using 0.3 M, will be presented.
 - This information will be available by the time of the December 19-20, 2017 PSC meeting.

Climate Change

Decision Point #2: Establish “minimum” standard for implementation in jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs.

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC:

- Did not reach consensus on adopting qualitative policy component Element B and Element C, as further discussions are needed.
 - Pros and cons of each quantitative and qualitative policy component will be developed.
- If the level of effort to achieve the quantitative reductions are relatively low, consider adopting the quantitative approach in addition to any qualitative component.
 - Should the quantitative component be adopted, consider the possibility of post-2025 implementation to address any changes in levels of effort (note: the WQGIT did not reach consensus on recommending post-2025 implementation).

Climate Change

Decision Point #3: Establish the level of flexibility among jurisdictions for implementation of climate change policies that exceed minimum standards.

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC:

- Provide the jurisdictions with the flexibility to also address climate change quantitatively in the Phase III WIPs and 2-year milestones, if the Partnership adopts only the qualitative policy component.

Conowingo Dam

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC:

- There is a need to address Conowingo now, as we know it's already a changed condition and Partnership decisions should inform the Clean Water Act 401 certification discussions between Maryland and Exelon.

Conowingo Dam

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC:

- Remove the options of “All Basins” and “Susquehanna + MD + VA” assuming responsibility for addressing Conowingo Dam.
 - Not cost-effective, increases load due to incorporating more non-effective basins, negatively impacts WV, DE, and DC.
- Present the “Susquehanna + most effective basins” option for PSC consideration.
- However, **show all scenario options for comparative purposes.**

Conowingo Dam

WQGIT Recommendation to the PSC:

- Assign the loads associated with Conowingo infill as a local planning goal(s), separate from the jurisdictions' Phase III WIP planning targets.
- MD, PA, NY, and Exelon would need to determine how to account for reductions equivalent to the load associated with Conowingo infill, coming up with a multi-strategy approach.
 - Strategy can go beyond looking at just load reductions – for example, N:P exchanges, dredging, USACE Comprehensive Plan, contribution(s) from Exelon.
 - Implementation beyond 2025 may be necessary given the impacts to levels of effort.
- Consider a letter from the PSC on expectations for addressing increased loads associated with Conowingo infill as part of the Clean Water Act 401 certification.

Draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets

- Run the Phase III WIP planning targets on Phase 6 relative effectiveness with current conditions, which will assign loads to each state-basin.
 - Further investigation is needed to understand the implications of the Conowingo alternatives on the relative effectiveness aspects of the planning target methodology.
- Further investigation is needed to explain differences in Phase 6, as compared to Phase 5.
 - Why WIP attainment decreased significantly for WV, NY, MD and DC.
 - Why WIP attainment increased significantly for DE and VA.

Next Steps for Final Phase 6 Calibration and Partnership Decisions

During the months of October and November...

- Complete final calibration of the Phase 6 Water Quality Sediment Transport Model and the Phase 6 Watershed Model to determine the new assimilative capacity of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Re-run Phase 6 geographic isolation scenarios.
- Need to see what changes there are to the assimilative capacity due to the (1) effects of (a) Conowingo, (b) climate change, and (c) both; (2) run 0.17 M SLR through final Phase 6 models and (3) other refinements incorporated into the modeling tools.
- Finalize current zoning + animal numbers and crop mix scenario for 2025.
- Re-run necessary scenarios on final calibrated Phase 6 models.
- Build understanding of the calibrated Phase 6 model scenario results, re-evaluating the scenarios used for key decisions/recommendations at the WQGIT F2F meeting.
- Conduct sensitivity scenarios for tidal wetland loss.

Upcoming PSC Meetings

- **PSC decided to not meet on October 30-31, 2017.**
 - They will instead have a one-hour conference call on October 30.
 - No WQGIT-related items are scheduled for the agenda at this time.
- **PSC will have their two-day retreat on December 19-20, 2017.**
 - This is instead of the December 13 meeting to allow more time to review final data and presentation materials.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** The WQGIT will have a joint meeting with the Modeling Workgroup on December 4-5 in prep for Dec 19-20 PSC meeting.

Upcoming 2017 PSC Decisions

- **Decisions and Presentations for December 19-20, 2017 PSC Meeting**
 - **Presentation** of modeling results of Conowingo scenario options using final calibrated Phase 6 modeling tools, with a comparison of scenario options to the jurisdictions' draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
 - **Decision Requested:** (1) Who should be responsible for addressing the additional load due to Conowingo; (2) how should it be allocated; and (3) by when should this additional load be addressed?
 - **Presentation** of modeling results of climate change impacts (precipitation change, temperature increase, and sea level rise) using final calibrated Phase 6 modeling tools, with a comparison of scenario results to the draft Phase III WIP planning targets to show any changes to levels of effort.
 - **Decision Requested:** (1) how should climate change considerations and impacts be factored into the Phase III WIPs and (2) by when?

Upcoming 2017 PSC Decisions

- **Decisions and Presentations for December 19-20, 2017 PSC Meeting**
 - A **presentation** of each jurisdiction's 2025 growth projection will be provided.
 - **Decision Requested:** Does the PSC concur with the WQGIT recommendations to (1) use 2025 growth projections as base conditions for the Phase III WIPs and (2) update these projections every two years?
 - **Decision Requested:** Approval of the final calibrated Phase 6 suite of modeling tools.
 - **Decision Requested:** Approval and release of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets for Partnership review.

October 3, 2017 PSC-Approved Revised Midpoint Assessment Schedule

- **First week of December 2017**
 - Modeling Workgroup and WQGIT recommendations on (1) how to address Conowingo; (2) climate change in the Phase III WIPs; (3) Phase 6 suite of modeling tools; and (4) draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- **December 19-20, 2017**
 - PSC meeting to make final decisions on how to address Conowingo Dam and climate change in the Phase III WIPs; approval of the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools; and release of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets for 4-month Partnership review.
- **December 22, 2017 – April 20, 2018**
 - Partnership review of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- **May 7, 2018**
 - Release of the final Phase III WIP planning targets.
- **February 8, 2019**
 - Draft Phase III WIPs posted on jurisdictions' websites for partner and public stakeholder review.
- **June 7, 2019**
 - Final Phase III WIPs posted on jurisdictions' websites