



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The USWG approved the Stream Restoration Verification Memo.

Action: June 24 is the final deadline for the group to approve or object to the proposed revisions to the outfall restoration memo from MDOT SHA. If approved, Tom Schueler will revise the memo and the USWG will be asked to approval the final Outfall Restoration Memo at the July USWG meeting.

Action: Final comments on the Outfall Restoration Memo are due by COB July 2.

Action: USWG members interested in participating in the IDF curve development GIT funding project should contact Tom Schueler (watershedguy@hotmail.com) and David Wood (wood.csn@outlook.com) to get involved.

Decision/Action: The USWG approved moving forward with the Strategy for Crediting Enhanced Treatment in Bioretentions and Ditches.

10:00 Welcome and Review of April Meeting Minutes.

Tom Schueler, Acting Chair. Attach A.

10:05 Announcements and Updates

- BUBBAs Winners
 - Best overall award goes to LimnoTech, BioHabitats stream restoration project in Hillcrest, DC. Congratulations to DOEE!.
 - Other category winners: Education and outreach -- Hampton Roads; sustainable-- Martinsburg VA Medical Center; habitat creation -- Fairfax county, Residential BMP—a series of RiverSmart projects installed on a slope in DC.
- Fall CSN Webcast Schedule:
 - Starting up again in late August or early September. More updates will be provided at the next meeting and on the newsletters and websites.
- Shoreline Management Update:
 - WTWG has taken up this issue. WTWG will make the change that was requested by VA to update the nutrient calculation for shoreline management. The USWG will be updated when that change is made.
 - Dianne McNally asked for background.
 - David wood: The shoreline management BMP was originally just for sediment and had no nutrient credit. Last year, nutrient concentrations were added to that practice. A couple months ago, VA staff raised a comment that the credit was not being properly calculated. The WTWG discussed the issue and how to resolve it.
 - Tom Schueler: This is more of a housekeeping issue, but an important one given how much shoreline management VA is planning to do.

- Phase 3 WIP Plans Submitted by Bay States:
 - EPA still reviewing draft Phase III WIPs. State representatives to USWG may be asked to describe their final WIPs for the urban sectors once final WIPs are complete this fall.
- Michelle Williams will be leaving the Chesapeake Bay Program, and WQGIT staffer Allie Wagner will be staffing this group after June 27.

10:15 Stream Restoration Verification Memo Tom Schueler, CSN (Attach B and C)
 The comment period for the memo expired on June 1. A slightly revised memo is provided in Attach B and a summary of the memo and comments received can be found in Attach C.

Decision Requested: USWG members will be asked to approve the Stream Restoration Verification Memo.

Discussion:

- Tom Schueler: Our approval today ends the process, since this is just guidance on verification.
- Marty Hurd asked if there were questions about using default values for estimating and taking measurements? The expert panel report used default values, which made them seem acceptable to use the defaults.
 - Schueler: That is the group that David is coordinating, and David will give an update today. That was not in the scope of our committee.

Decision: The USWG approved the Stream Restoration Verification Memo.

10:35 Status of Outfall Restoration Memo K. Coffman/R.Cole, MD SHA (if available)
 MD SHA summarized their efforts to reach consensus among the group on the recommendations for outfall crediting, and next steps.

Discussion:

- Tom Schueler: There was some controversy at the April USWG call related to the environmental aspects of outfall restoration projects. SHA has been working to coordinate discussion offline, and I invite other USWG members to weigh in if you have additional comments today.
- Ryan Cole: A big focus of the memo revisions was to provide better definitions, including predictive indicators of severe erosion, qualifying conditions, no longer allowing credit if there is an issue with creation of new aquatic organism passage, no longer credit for non-sustainable practices and definitions. That focus will be reflected in the final document—especially the definitions and qualifying conditions. We will make photos available to support the definitions, and we will collect outstanding comments to finalize the document.
- Tom Schueler asked other USWG members to give their responses. Erik Michelson is also on record as being supportive.
 - Christina Lyerly: Ray Bahr had to step away but he could provide responses offline. He will next give his approval or objection by next Monday.
 - Ted Brown supports the changes.

- Liz Ottinger: I wasn't on the calls with SHA, but I will get you my response by the end of this week once I have a chance to review.
- Alison Santoro: I'm happy with the changes but I need to confer with Sarah Lane first.
- Schueler: We will keep June 24 as the deadline for the group to approve or object to the memo. If approved, I will revise the memo and we will take it up in July for final approval. The memo has been open for comments since April and we did not get any comments. We can reopen specific parts if that's the will of the group, but we will not be opening the whole memo for comments again. We need comments by July 2 on the outfall restoration memo.
 - MDOT SHA agreed.

Action: June 24 is the final deadline for the group to approve or object to the proposed revisions to the outfall restoration memo from MDOT SHA. If approved, Tom Schueler will revise the memo and the USWG will be asked to approve the final Outfall Restoration Memo at the July USWG meeting.

Action: Final comments on the Outfall Restoration Memo are due by COB July 2.

10:45 Status of Other Stream Protocol Groups D. Wood, CSN

David summarized the progress being made by two groups that are revising protocols 1, 2 and 3, and discuss their work objectives for the summer and early Fall.

Group 3: The Prevented Sediment group is focusing on alternative modeling and monitoring approaches to calculating prevented sediment to determine what guidance can be provided. Also looking at default values for concentration and bulk density and discuss revising those numbers and guidance for collecting that data onsite. Also looking at making revisions to the 50% removal value for the prevented sediment practice, if defaults will largely be replaced with measurements. Also looking at guidance for non-Rosgen designs to be the focus for the next meeting. There will be 3-4 more meetings before wrapping up. Bank armoring will also be worked out before the group closes.

Group 4: The Floodplain Reconnection group is still on hiatus. Still waiting on completion of the wetland BMP panel report, and research in PA in Big Spring Run. Group 4 will come back together at the end of this summer, and will wrap up by the end of 2019, once Group 3 wraps up.

Discussion:

- Cecilia Lane asked about wetlands BMP panel:
 - Jeremy Hanson: This is for wetland enhancement, rehabilitation, and creation—primarily for agricultural areas and some urban, but will not affect current practices for wet ponds and wetlands.

11:00 USWG Plan to Address Climate Change and Stormwater T. Schueler/ D. Wood

Attach D/E

CSN summarized recent discussions at the Stormwater Retreat and CBP Management Board on developing better tools to help local governments improve climate resiliency in their stormwater design. CSN discussed a draft proposal for WQGIT funding to develop IDF curves for the DC Metro area (Attach D), and broader effort by the CBP and CSN to coordinate efforts on integrating climate resiliency into stormwater design (Attach E—not available this meeting, will be posted for the July USWG meeting). USWG members will be asked for feedback.

Discussion:

- David Wood: the ad-hoc group on climate change and urban stormwater has been on hiatus but is coming back now. The PSC charged the CBP with addressing climate change directly, asking CBP to look at impacts of climate change on BMP effectiveness and meeting TMDL goals, including stormwater design and stormwater management. We had a panel discussion on this at the CB Stormwater Retreat, KC Filipino moderating. There is a lot of interest in updating IDF curves and adjusting BMP design specification, floodplain changes, etc. We are looking for where there are pilot projects who we can partner with to make progress.
- Wood: The IDF curve GIT funding proposal is an attempt to pilot some curve development in the DC area, in hopes that this will be adopted Bay-wide in next several years. There is still some discussion on how large of a geographical area that would cover, but that depends on the funding that is available. The WQGIT has passed that along, and it will be voted on in the cross-GIT selection process later this summer.
- Schueler: There is a financial commitment from the CBP to support CSN, and we hope that the GIT funding project will be selected. The WQGIT seemed supportive of this project. In the meantime, please let us know of any resources on climate change and stormwater that you come across. We also may put together a small advisory group for this project, so please let us know if you are interested in getting involved.
 - Jeremy Hanson asked what the committee will be focused on.
 - Schueler: That will be broader to discuss all issues of climate and stormwater.
- Cecilia Lane: Are there some STAC workshops tackling these climate issues?
 - Wood: We have been discussing with Gary Shenk and Lew Linker on the modeling aspects of this issue. We will be coordinating on a larger scale, which takes the STAC recommendations and findings as a piece of the larger picture.
 - Wood: There is emphasis that we are designing for water quality and not flood control, but there is consensus that we need to update things like our rainfall statistics.

Action: USWG members interested in participating in the IDF curve development GIT funding project should contact Tom Schueler (watershedguy@hotmail.com) and David Wood (wood.csn@outlook.com) to get involved.

11:30 Strategy for Crediting Enhanced Treatment in Bioretention and Ditches. Attach F1 and F2

CSN summarized research summaries to boost nutrient removal within existing bioretention areas, swales and ditch systems, and will present its strategy to develop guidance for boosting credits over the summer.

Discussion:

- Tom Schueler: In 2017, a Roadside Ditch Management team drafted a memo that was approved by the USWG to refine some crediting guidelines. However, there wasn't enough research out at the time for the roadside ditch team to look at all crediting options. Since then, there has been a lot of work on biochar, a group did a National Runoff Reduction Review to look at design enhancements, in 2019 some enhancement specs were released by Dave Hirschman (?). This memo outlines an approach for crediting these enhancement retrofits, and a group would be put together to develop a memo for these practices. This would be split roughly between new practices with these enhancements, older practices where enhancements were added as an amendment, amendments to roadside ditches, and new media in grass swales. It would generally follow the model of the recommendations of the roadside ditch management team. We are not proposing to create a new stormwater performance BMP, this is just an amendment to existing practices as a retrofit. Not a new expert panel, just expanding the retrofit options available right now.
- Cecilia Lane asked if this is intended to support eventual revisions to the states' stormwater manuals.
 - Schueler: Yes, but it would be an optional resource for jurisdictions to use as they consider adding these retrofits and need to revise their stormwater manuals.
- Tom will put together a credit technical synthesis report for this group.
- CSN will coordinate with researchers and stormwater agencies as a first step. CSN will take nominations from the USWG and other experts through early September 2019. This group will be anticipated to cover 2-3 conference calls and present their recommendations to the USWG in late 2019.
- Additionally: The Farm Ditches BMP Expert Panel Recommendations will be out this fall.
- Schueler: You may notice that the roadside ditches memo does not address all the crediting options that the group recommended. David Wood will be facilitating a second group looking at ditch elimination adjustment and stabilization. Those are a low priority since they are just for sediment, and that will be complete in early 2020.
- No objections heard. The Enhanced Treatment in Bioretention and Ditches Strategy will go forward for development.

Decision/Action: The USWG approved moving forward with the Strategy for Crediting Enhanced Treatment in Bioretentions and Ditches.

12:00 Adjourn

Call Participants:

Tom Schueler, CSN
David Wood, CSN
Michelle Williams, CRC
Margot Cumming, CRC
Jeremy Hanson, VT
Cassandra Davis, NYS DEC
Ray Bahr, MDE
Christina Lyerly, MDE
Shannon McKendrick, MDE
Ryan Cole, MDOT SHA
Allison Santoro, DNR
Audra Lew, MD State Parks
Alex Foraste, City of Rockville
Ruth Minish-Hobson, DEQ
Allan Brockenbrough, DEQ
Marty Hurd, Fairfax County
Sebastian Donner, WV DEP
Randy Greer, DNREC
Liz Ottinger, EPA Region 3
Dianne McNally, EPA Region 3
Julienne Bautista, DC DOEE
Cecilia Lane, DC DOEE
Ted Brown, Biohabitats
Natalia Sanchez, UMD
Mark Symborski, Montgomery County Planning Department (MD)
Nathan Forand, Baltimore County
KC Phillipino, Hampton Roads Planning District
Jessica Martin, EPA Region 3
Kate Bennett, Fairfax County VA
Brenda Morgan, Anne Arundel County WPRP (MD)
Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville MD