

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Tidal and Non-Tidal Monitoring Networks and Assessments: Findings of 2012 Partner Visits

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nontidal Work Group Meeting
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Outline

- 2007-2009 Monitoring Realignment:
 - Background review of Management Board role and decisions.
- 2010-2012 transition and implementation monitoring update
- 2012: How did we do meeting 2009 recommendations?
- 2012 Partner meeting findings
 - Target decisions for next steps in the Bay and basin monitoring networks.



2012 Water Quality Monitoring Program Review Continuing the Adaptive Management Process

- CBP visited watershed partners
- Assessed their updated program status
- Collected visions for next steps



Partnership Meetings: Summary Snapshot



Programming status/future interests	MD	VA	DE	WV	PA	NY	DC
2009-2013 Establish and maintaining new sites (Approximately 30)							
Reinstate phytoplankton monitoring support in the Bay	Tidal						
Support recalibration of the benthic IBI for the Bay assessments	Tidal	Tidal					
New watershed long term water quality monitoring network sites supporting the TMDL	1	≤5 2° to 1°	1 BMP	4-5		5-6	
Address funding for programming challenges (e.g. aging boat fleet, rising gas costs, QA support, NELAC stds raise lab costs, nontraditional partner support, analyses, threatened gages, etc)	Tidal + NT	Tidal + NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Interagency site swaps to improve monitoring efficiency					NT		
Stream health stressor id analyses		NT					

Anticipated Management Board Decision Request

- Request STAR review the partner meeting findings.
 - STAR to develop and provide a prioritization list for implementing new stations.
 - STAR provide suggestions for prioritizing partner requested actions across the monitoring networks.
 - STAR returns recommendations to the Management Board for consideration and approval in Summer 2013.

Thank you 😊



State by State rundown of 2012
monitoring program status and
feedback on visions for the future

Maryland

- Watershed -

Issue:

- In 2012, the Sassafras River was planned for the next priority water quality monitoring station for expanding their nontidal network.
- In-state funding was eliminated from DNR that supported 3 new watershed network stations in 2011.

Action:

- The 61K planned for starting up the Sassafras River was directed for maintaining the 3 'yearling' stations.
- Sassafras R. is first priority for MD for additional funding.

Maryland

- Tidal

Issue:

- Phytoplankton programming supporting the Bay-wide Phytoplankton IBI reporting has been completely defunded.
 - Samples collected from 2012 need \$50K for processing.

Action:

- A letter was developed through TMAW and supported by STAR requesting funding support from NOAA, USFWS, CBPO to process the 2012 samples.

Maryland

- Tidal
Issue

- Benthic IBI identified need for recalibration.

- Action

- The recalibration has been tasked with Jackie Johnson as lead working with the benthic assessment leads in 2013.
- The issue is on the CAP WG issues list to be completed and presented in the next technical water quality addendum.

Virginia

- Watershed
 - Proposing up to 5 sites for storm sampling to go from 2° to 1°
 - Interest in analysis of Stressor i.d.
- Tidal
 - Welcome Cindy Johnson as VADEQ Monitoring Director.
 - Equipment needs: 3 regional offices in need of boats.

West Virginia

Meetings

- Watershed Monitoring Review plus 2 days of WIP meeting input.
- 4 new stations up and running

Issues

- 4-5 more stations would provide near complete load coverage and some process-oriented evaluations.
 - Mon Mtg Top 3: New Creek, Little Cacapon River, Sleepy Creek
 - WIP Mtg Top 3: Opequon Crk, Lower Opequon Crk, Tuscarora.



Delaware

- 2 network sites.
 - No other suitable sites to add to the network.
- Bucks Branch, Pocomoke River – key BMP effectiveness assessment site. (Clune et al. USGS).
- Realtime monitoring complementing network monitoring for Nanticoke R. @ Bridgeville
- **Issue:** No network-wide protocols for evolving realtime water quality monitoring.



Pennsylvania

- **Issues**

- 2 river flow gages are threatened by budget cut support. Gage network stability after this FY is a concern.
- Opportunities for efficiencies between agencies if we can coordinate site swap activities (USGS/PADEP/SRBC)

- **Actions**

- Any additional budget support will first support maintenance for threatened gages.
- Prepare site swap adjustments in the new grant cycle

New York

- Opportunities beyond existing network sites:
 - 5 sites in the Binghamton region: assessing the impact of the urban ecosystem
 - Elk Creek - presently there is load estimation without storm sampling. High community interest site.

Washington DC

Issues

- Extended period of site selection due to challenges monitoring urban streams.
- Site lists exchanged between USGS and DC
- Pilot monitoring initiated

Actions

- November call discussing site selection preferences and challenges to finalize DC sites.
- Meeting planning in progress for finalizing site selection.

General Program Challenges

- Lab costs to support going to NELAC QA standards.
- Rising gas costs
- Aging boat fleet
- Integrating nontraditional programs
- Data/QA management expansion

Upcoming Decisions and Actions (TBD - draft notes)

- Diversification of funding to *maintain* our networks. Challenges:
 - Rising gas costs.
 - Flow gages threatened by budget cuts annually though not equitably across the watershed.
 - NELAC standard lab efforts enhance costs.
 - Aging boat fleet on the Bay.
 - Growing need for QA support for the program
 - Balance of monitoring and analyses.