

Partnership's Chesapeake Bay Tidal and Non-tidal Monitoring Networks:

Addressing Near term Funding Shortfalls and Long Term Network Funding Strategies

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Decisions Requested Today

- Direct STAR's tidal and non-tidal workgroups to develop options for temporary adjustments to the monitoring networks to align with available 2013 funding.
- Direct STAR to work with STAC on setting up a 'mini' monitoring realignment process to enable the Partnership to make decisions on changes to the networks for ensuring long term funding.

Highlights of the 2012 Monitoring Network Reviews

Good News

- Year long series of monitoring network reviews with each of the seven watershed jurisdictions yielded only minor requests for adjustments to the network.
- Our collective tidal and non-tidal monitoring networks have now all reached a level of maturity where they can be fine-tuned to ensure they are meeting management needs and requirements.



Network Reviews: 2012 Summary Snapshot



Programming status/future interests	MD	VA	DE	WV	PA	NY	DC
2009-2013 Establish and maintaining new sites in the watershed							
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					



Programming status/future interests	MD	VA	DE	WV	PA	NY	DC
2009-2013 Establish and maintaining new sites in the watershed	<p>Strategic, gap filling growth to 126 sites Ag. Urban focus. small watersheds</p> <p>STAR requests in 2012 to agencies yielded no additional support.</p> <p>Requesting reallocation of 55K in MD and VA 117e grants. In progress.</p> <p>Documented requests. Budget-limited to advance these requests.</p> <p>A fuel cost supplement is added to MD and VA requests. Other challenges remain.</p> <p>Coordination is underway between USGS and SRBC on the path forward.</p> <p>ICPRB completed an exploratory analysis in 2012.</p>						
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Support recalibration of the benthic IBI for the Bay assessments							
New watershed long term water quality monitoring network sites supporting the TMDL							
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)							
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Monitoring Network Funding Challenges

Across All Monitoring Networks

- EPA CBP funding challenges under sequester
- Lab costs - Implementation of NELAC Standards increases sample cost
- Economic circumstances leading to cuts to monitoring investments

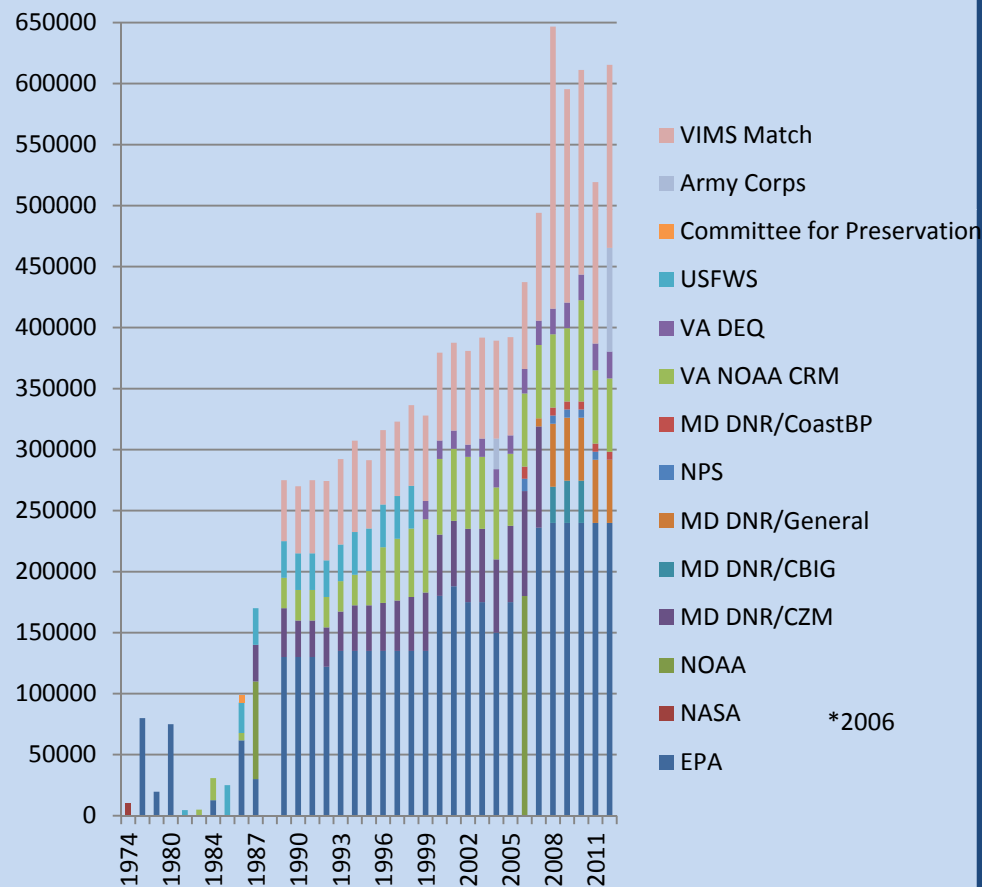
Across Tidal Monitoring Network

- Boat fleet: aging/offline (fire)
- Fuel costs – a 2.5x increase in <10 yrs.
- Recession impacts – e.g., MD phytoplankton costs lost; VA state funds for shallow water monitoring not renewed
- Fewer federal funding partners – e.g., SAV aerial survey

Across Non-Tidal Monitoring Network

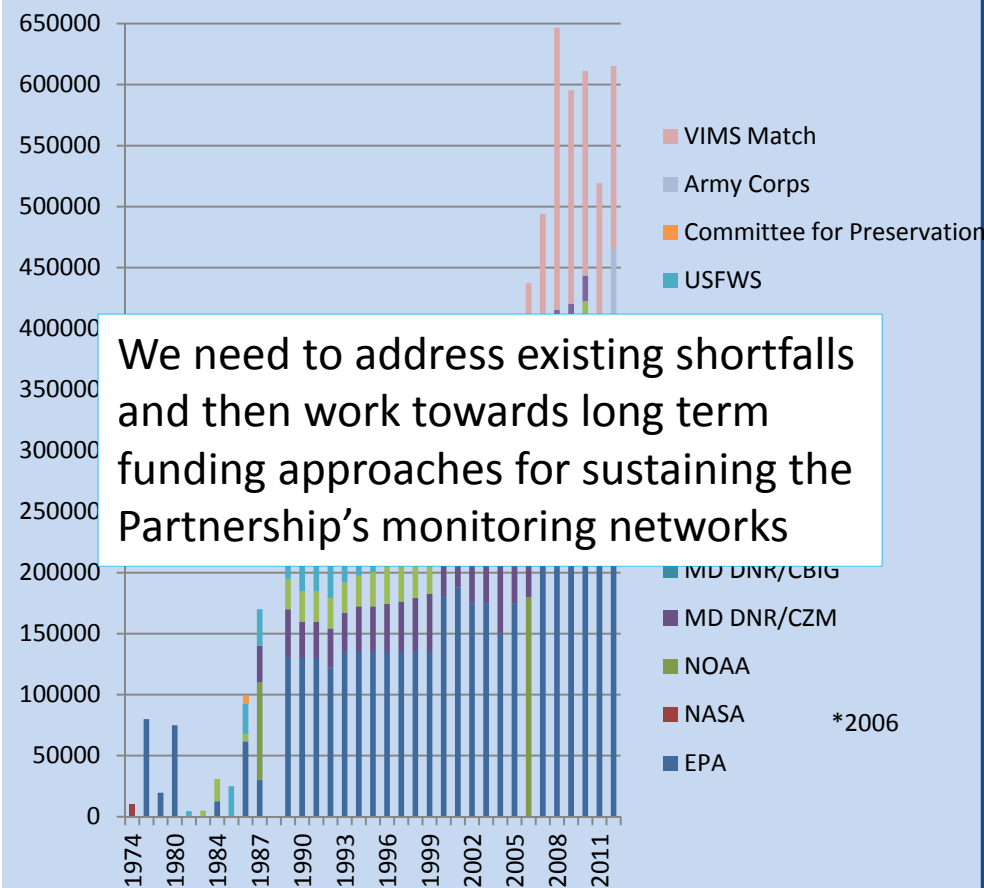
- Under estimation of total costs for full network implementation
- Network expansion funds diverted to cover funding network critical stream gage stations being discontinued due to state and federal budget cuts
- Sequester impacts – e.g., NY lab costs lost April 2013
- Annual budget cuts – e.g., threatened stream gages (example: Unadilla, NY flow gage station)

Example: Baywide SAV Survey



- Stepwise increased costs in response to management-driven requests for products
- Near term challenge: EPA-funding support declined coincident with continued declining State support—shortfall in 2013
- Mid-term challenge: development and commitment to long term funding strategy

Example: Baywide SAV Survey



- Stepwise increased costs in response to management-driven requests for products
- Near term challenge: EPA-funding support declined coincident with continued declining State support: shortfall in 2013
- Mid-long term challenges: increased costs coupled with very intermittent non-EPA federal partner funding contributions

Near term Decisions and Long Term Realignment of Monitoring Network Priorities

We've Made Strategic Adjustments to Our Monitoring Programs in the Past

- 2000-04

Partnership's incremental decisions

- Discontinued toxics monitoring
- Zooplankton monitoring converted into Shallow Water Monitoring Program
- Non-tidal Network was established with signing of MOU

- 2009

Management Board's monitoring realignment decisions produced:

- Streamlined tidal Bay monitoring network
- Enhanced watershed monitoring network
- Expanded data analysis/interpretation support

2009 Monitoring Re-Alignment

“The removal of tidal segments of the Bay from the impaired waters list (delisting) and...

...determining the effectiveness of our management actions...

...are the responsibilities of the partnership and should be the priorities of the monitoring program.”

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Decisions at July MB Mtg

- Make a decision, based on STAR's presented options, for temporary adjustments to the monitoring networks to align with the available 2013 funding.
- Review and approve the proposed 'mini' monitoring realignment process to enable the Partnership to make decisions on changes to the networks for long term funding.

Decisions at Winter 2014 MB Mtg

- Based on findings and recommendations from the proposed 'mini' monitoring realignment process, decide what changes will be made the existing tidal and non-tidal monitoring networks.
- Reach agreement on a long term funding strategy for ensuring continued funding for the Partnership's networks.