

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM LAND USE WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2019

10:00 AM - 11:30 PM

Meeting Materials: [link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

- **Decision:** The LUWG approved the meeting minutes from June and September.
- **Decision:** The LUWG provisionally recommends option #3.c as the method for producing 2019 Milestone Land Use pending feedback from VA, PA, and MD by Friday, Oct 4.

Welcome, Roll Call, Review of meeting minutes, Action Item Update – K. Berger, MWCOG

- **Decision:** The LUWG approved the meeting minutes from June and September.
- The Chesapeake Conservancy list of priority hydrography areas may come back to the group in November.

Land Use Options for 2019 Milestone Updates – P. Claggett, USGS

- Claggett reviewed the options below for updating the 2019 Milestones.

Options:

1. Update Phase III WIP land use (2014 – 2025) with 2017 Ag Census only
 2. Same as #1 with added updates to Sewer Service Areas (SSAs) and MS4s
 3. Same as #2 with added updates to Population Projections and Population Estimates (Population Estimates will only be updated for counties with new projections)
 - a. Population estimates updated for all counties
 - b. Population estimates updated for counties with new projections
 - c. Population updated for all counties with 2025 projections
adjusted: $*(v_{2019} / v_{2017})$
 4. Same as #3 with added update of land use based on NLCD everywhere
 5. Same as #3 with added update of land use based on NLCD in Virginia and based on High-res Hot Spots elsewhere
- **Decision requested:** Recommend method for producing 2019 Milestone Land Use to the WQGIT
 - Claggett noted that this will go before the WQGIT Oct 15. We need a decision today and based on your decision, we will begin running these data.
 - Claggett noted that the WQGIT decided against requiring numeric milestones for all jurisdictions. This will now move up to the Management Board in October. If numeric milestones are not required, there will be less pressure.
 - Claggett noted that land use change is the metric that will affect loads without the Ag Census data included.
 - Berger clarified that the only thing changing in the numbers presented is the population data.

- Peter: Correct. The differences between milestone land use and WIP land use incorporates everything on the first slide of the presentation. We were using WIP land use (produced in 2017) and now we are using milestone land use (produced in 2019).
- Epstein: I'm unsure if it makes sense to use long-term numbers for PA when the growth was slow for 5 years and then pack it all into the most recent years.
- Claggett noted that looking at the wall-to-wall high resolution, the absolute differences in tree canopy are alarming. The average size of forest loss is not captured in NLCD pixel size, so we have been missing the small amounts of loss that add up. Anne Arundel county has analysis with QA/QC that showed similar results.
- Claggett recommends option 3b or 3c.
 - 3b: This method will use census estimates to inform 2017 instead of projections.
 - 3c: This method will use estimates everywhere for all counties even if they did not provide projections. For those that did not update, we would scale their projections accordingly.
- Onyullo noted that 3c is more consistent than 3b, and that is the main concern.
 - Claggett: There is still inconsistency because only half of the counties have updates. We have always relied on jurisdiction estimates as most accurate, and this method allow us to use those new projections.
- Epstein: 3c sounds like a reasonable accommodation to address my comment earlier. It keeps consistent rules while including updated population estimates. I am skeptical of options 4 and 5.
 - Goulet: I prefer option 2 with an update to the next population data with the next wall-to-wall data.
 - Claggett: The vintage population projections are highly variable. Some jurisdictions update every seven years, and some annually. I believe this option would go against shrinking the cone of uncertainty.
 - Berger: I would like a method in option 3.
- Berger asked the membership their preferences for each option.
 - Option 1: None.
 - Option 2:
 - Goulet prefers option 2 but will support what the group decides.
 - Option 3:
 - Hartman: 3c: This option means no discrepancy between 2017 and 2025 since it will be adjusted.
 - Epstein: 3c
 - Davis: 3c, we would like to use new projections.
 - Brown: 3c, we would like to use new projections.
 - Onyullo: 3c
 - Johns: 3c, would like more time to consider.
 - Christ: 3b or 3c, would like more time to consider.
 - A representative from PA was not present.

- Choi: We have interest in new projections but understand concern for consistent data.
- Berger recommends a provisional decision of option 3c noting that there were several questions and consensus was not fully reached.
 - Claggett understands that members would like more time, but this is scheduled at the WQGIT on October 15. If we can get a definitive decision from MD, VA, and PA by Friday, I can start running the data on Tuesday.
- **Decision:** The LUWG provisionally recommends option #3.c as the method for producing 2019 Milestone Land Use pending feedback from VA, PA, and MD by Friday, Oct 4.

Planning Next Meeting, News, Updates (15 min) – KC Filippino, HRPDC

- Consider a joint a meeting with the Forestry Workgroup on December 4th.
 - The Forestry WG has reached out to plan a meeting to discuss the tree canopy outcome, forest restoration strategy, and riparian buffer goals in light of new land use information.
 - Future agenda items: Have Forestry WG representative prepare us for December meeting, follow up on past action items, 2019 milestone land use results.

Next 2-hour call: November 6th

Next face-to-face meeting: December 4th, 2019

Meeting Participants

Karl Berger, MWCOG
 KC Filippino, HRPDC
 Peter Claggett, USGS
 Allie Wagner, CRC
 Lori Brown, DNREC
 Jessica Elliott, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
 Jenifer Miller Herzog, Land trust alliance
 George Onyullo, DC DOEE
 Arianna Johns, VA DEQ
 Norm Goulet, NVRC
 Nicole Christ, MDE
 Alana Hartman, WV DEP
 Ken Choi, MDP
 Deb Sward, MDP
 Renee Thompson, USGS
 Lee Epstein, CBF
 Rachel Soobitsky, Chesapeake Conservancy
 Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC
 Mark Symborski
 Lucinda Power, EPA