

Water Quality GIT

October Face-to-Face Meeting:
Decisions & Next Steps

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November 13, 2014 Management Board Meeting*

Today's Objectives

- Recap of key decisions & discussion from the October 7-8, 2014 WQGIT F2F meeting.
- Discussion of the proposed decision leads and detailed schedule for the midpoint assessment priorities – **seeking Management Board approval.**
- Development of an outlook/planning calendar for WQGIT, Management Board, and PSC meetings (coming soon).
- Requests for specific briefings on midpoint assessment strategic issues (e.g. land use, monitoring).

WQGIT F2F Meeting Objectives

1. Clarify overall priorities, identify steps to move forward, and outline a schedule.
2. Clarify overlaps and intersections among MPA work efforts.
3. Reach decisions regarding proposed Phase 6 land uses and confirmation of MPA priorities.

Over 70 attendees gathered at Liberty Mountain Resort, PA to discuss the midpoint assessment and achieve agreement on the path forward for its priorities.

Summary of Key Decisions Reached

- Approval of proposed land use classifications.
 - Additional overlays will be added; associated loading rates may modify Phase 6 land use classifications.
- Approval of 2014 land use projections for milestones and progress.
- Agreement on overall critical path and next steps to move forward with midpoint assessment priorities.
 - A detailed timeline and the identification of decision leads has been submitted for Management Board review and approval at this meeting.

MPA Roles and Responsibilities

***Purpose:** To clarify the role of the WQGIT, STAR, and Modeling Workgroup in the midpoint assessment decision-making process, and understand what decisions will be decided by whom.*

- WQGIT approved proposed set of roles for STAR, Modeling Workgroup, and WQGIT.
 - The Modeling Workgroup is responsible for producing modeling products, which are used to elevate water quality issues.
 - STAR reviews many of the products/analyses produced by the Modeling WG.
 - The WQGIT is the policy-oriented decision making body.

Next steps: STAR Co-Chairs will seek an expanded STAR membership with a focus on getting more jurisdictional representatives on their group.

Use of Monitoring/Factors Affecting Trends

***Purpose:** To discuss progress to date and next steps on the use of monitoring data in nontidal streams and in the estuary to measure progress and work underway to analyze trends of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in the watershed.*

The WQGIT identified the following “next steps”:

- Examine the scale at which to explain the monitoring trends work (e.g. specific source sectors and/or most localized level);
- Help jurisdictions assess trends in certain geographic areas where progress is being made and where further improvements are needed;
- Identify ways to use monitoring data to more clearly illustrate the connection between implementation of practices and the impact of those actions; and
- Strengthen communication of monitoring data.

Revised Modeling System Structure- Phase 6

Purpose: *To review efforts to date in transitioning to Phase 6 and improving modeling accuracy of the hydrologic network, and improving model transparency and confidence.*

- WQGIT members were asked to draft questions/needs in regards to uncertainty analysis and provide them to the Modeling Workgroup Co-Chairs.
- Updates, decisions, and assumptions of the Modeling Workgroup will be documented and posted online:

WQGIT's midpoint assessment website:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/water_quality_goal_implementation_team

Improved Land Use

***Purpose:** To review the proposed set of new land use classifications and to provide an update on local land use information received to date; future land use projections; and progress for development federal land boundaries.*

- The WQGIT approved the proposed land uses.
 - Forthcoming decisions by the Modeling Workgroup on each set of associated land use loading rates may lead to modifications in the final Phase 6 land use classifications.
- The WQGIT approved adopting the updated 2014 land use projections.
- The WQGIT decided to add a protected lands overlay and update an MS4 overlay.
- The WQGIT agreed to support continued development of the stream corridor land use/overlay by the Land Use Workgroup through USGS.
 - A final decision will be made by the WQGIT at a later date.

Conowingo Dam

***Purpose:** To discuss the Modeling Workgroup's collaboration with the USACE LSRWA study for the assessment of trapping capacity behind dams, and greater representation of local impoundments and reservoirs throughout the Phase 6 Watershed Model.*

- The Modeling Workgroup will consider new data from LSRWA report due March 2015 to determine if and how CBP models could be enhanced to consider the effects of the Conowingo Dam's state of dynamic equilibrium
 - WQGIT will need to make decisions about how to achieve potential additional needed load reductions due potential impacts on standards attainment in several segments.
- The Modeling Workgroup will further develop options for how it can address the thousands of impoundments throughout watershed mapped by Sparrow within the Phase 6 Watershed Model.

Next steps: Call for data on small reservoirs from across the watershed.

James River Chlorophyll-a

***Purpose:** To provide an update on the status of the James River Chlorophyll-a criteria assessment.*

- The WQGIT approved the standing request for a STAC sponsored independent scientific peer reviews of the proposed revised chlorophyll a criteria for the tidal James River, the James River watershed model, and the James River tidal water quality model.
- The WQGIT agreed to continue to proceed forward with the schedule and process as presented.

Future Decision: The WQGIT will discuss how the models/information will be used/incorporated into the current Chesapeake Bay Program modeling system.

Model Data Processing & Modeling Baseline

***Purpose:** To provide an update on the list of potential updates to Scenario Builder based on impacts to modeled nutrient and sediment loads, with a particular focus on fertilizer and manure application.*

- The WQGIT decided that obtaining biosolids data from wastewater treatment facilities is still a midpoint assessment priority.
- The Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee will revise their schedule to ensure adequate time to address all issues by October 2015.
- They will also determine if and where they could use additional resources—staff, contractor, and funding—to better ensure it can deliver on its lengthy list of products and delivered as presented at the meeting.
 - Curt Dell, Chair, and Matt Johnston, Coordinator, will work directly with Rich Batiuk, EPA CBPO, on addressing those resource needs.

Watershed Model Calibration Methods

***Purpose:** To discuss revisiting the Watershed Model calibration methods with the goal of improving local watershed results, including regional factors.*

- The Modeling Workgroup will be continually updating the prototype as information is provided to them, so the sooner the information is given to them the sooner it can be incorporated and tested. This way the model will begin to look more and more like the 2016 Phase 6 final model product over time.
- The WQGIT decided that the Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration and review schedule will form the core schedule upon which the rest of the midpoint assessment schedule will be based.
- Lucinda Power will take the lead in ensuring that work and deliverable schedules match up with the Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration and review schedule. She will incorporate all other midpoint assessment deadlines and decision points into the calibration/review schedule.

See detailed schedule for Management Board approval.

Historic Data Cleanup

Purpose: *To provide an overview of the schedule driving the cleanup and how it relates to the schedule for the Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration.*

- The WQGIT agreed that the seven watershed jurisdictions will focus their historic BMP database clean-up from 2000 to the present.
- Jurisdictions will still be encouraged to clean-up their entire BMP data record to support both Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration and ongoing work on explaining the long term monitoring data trends in the watershed and tidal waters.
- The CBPO modeling team will focus on historic data from 1985-1999.

Next Steps

- Brief the Management Board (today's meeting) and the PSC (December 2014) on WQGIT F2F meeting outcomes and decisions.
- Development of Decision Leads document (for Management Board and PSC approval).
- Development of detailed midpoint assessment timeline (for Management Board and PSC approval).
- Development of outlook calendars for WQGIT, Management Board, and PSC for informational briefings and decision points.
- Briefing for the PSC on land use information.

PSC Briefing on Local Land Use Data

- Purpose: to raise awareness of local data collection efforts to date; where data gaps still remain and challenges encountered to acquire this data; and a request for PSC assistance in collecting this local information.
- The Land Use Workgroup has been working since 2013 to collect and incorporate local land use information into the Phase 6 modeling tools.
- This local data will strengthen our partnership's modeling tools and build creditability with our local partners.

Timeline for Local Data Collection

- Phase 1 (Feb 2013 – Sept. 2014)

- Collect readily available land use and related datasets from localities via a formal request.

- Phase 2 (Oct. 2013 – September 2014)

- Identify gaps in the types and locations of data receive, and re-prioritize data needs.

- Target localities for additional data collection and solicit directly to their agencies.

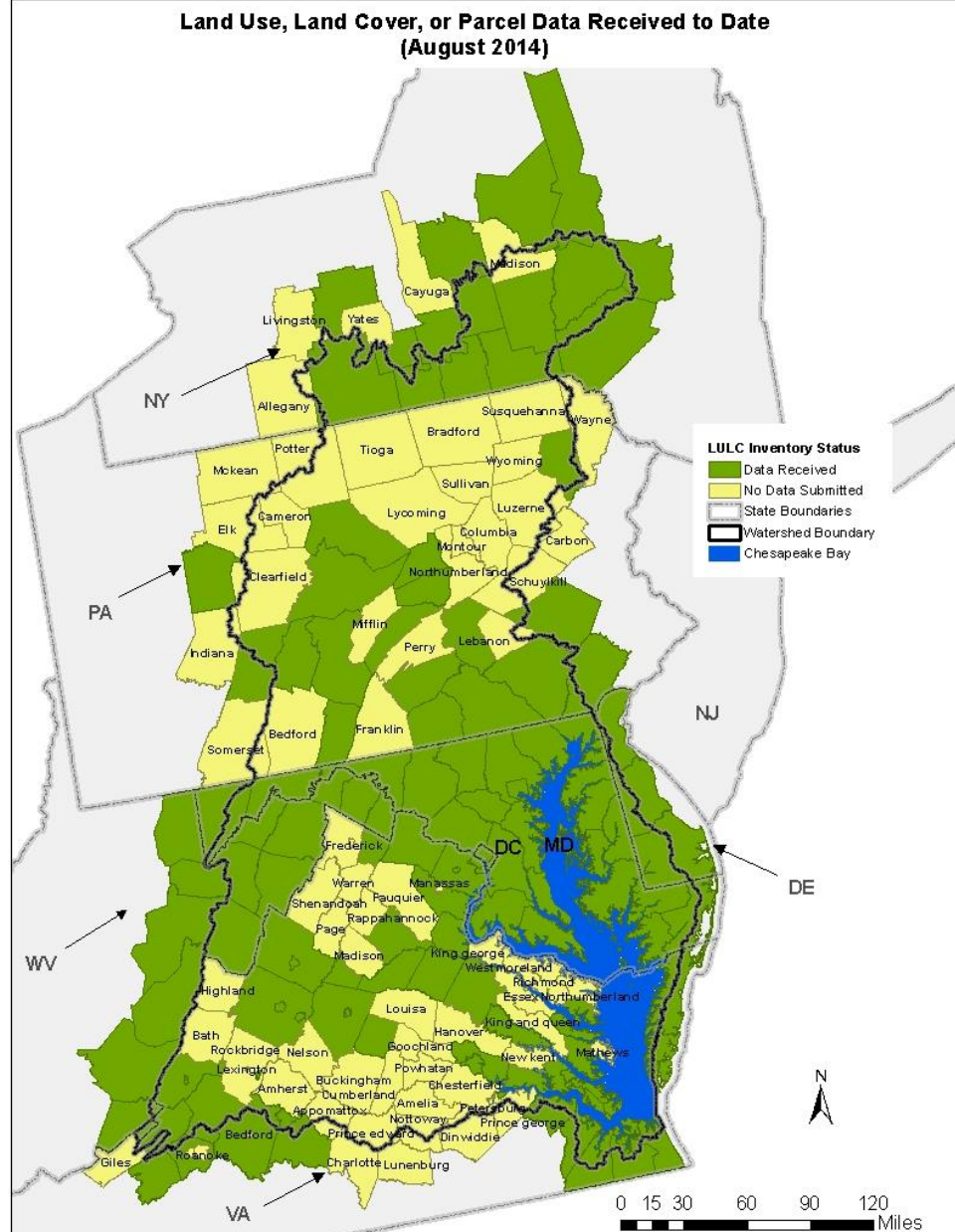
- Phase 3 (October 2014 – May 2016)

- Solicit and accept updates to data from localities.

- All local data from jurisdictions must be submitted by May 31st, 2016.

Status of Local Data Collected

- We currently have about 70% of the population in the Bay watershed covered (land use, land cover, zoning, or parcel).
- We have wall-to-wall land use coverage in MD, DC, and WV (with the hopes of full VA coverage by 2016).
- It is the rural counties where we've received little to no information – these are key areas where we're requesting Management Board and PSC assistance.



Land Use Data Next Steps

- State-specific profiles will be developed to illustrate coverage and data gaps. A condensed summary will also be provided of who was contacted and the timeline for wrapping up this work, given the overall timeline of the midpoint assessment (see detailed schedule).
- Management Board ask: We are requesting that you work with your PSC member on sharing these state profiles when they become available and discuss some initial strategies for capturing additional missing land use data.

Thank You!

Questions?