

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

Addressing Near-term Funding Gaps and Evaluating Long-term Monitoring Strategies To Align With Lower Funding Levels.

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CBP Management Board Meeting
July 11, 2013



Outline

- Brief highlights of 2012 CBP monitoring meetings with partners
- Budget issues: near-term challenges
- Request for near-term and long-term Management Board support for:
 - STAR WGs addressing gap closure needs for FY13 available funding
 - STAC representation in a 6-9 month monitoring review to develop recommendations for programming adjustments constrained by new, lower funding levels

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.



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					



Network Reviews: 2012 Summary Snapshot and Addressing Partner Interests



Programming status/future interests	MD	VA	DE	WV	PA	NY	DC
2009-2013 Establish and maintaining new sites in the watershed	Strategic, gap filling growth to 126 sites Ag. Urban focus. small watersheds STAR requests in 2012 to agencies yielded no additional support. Requesting reallocation of 55K in MD and VA 117e grants. In progress. Documented requests. Budget-limited to advance these requests. A fuel cost supplement is added to MD and VA requests. Other challenges remain. Coordination is underway between USGS and SRBC on the path forward. ICPRB completed an exploratory analysis in 2012.						
Reinstate phytoplankton monitoring support in the Bay							
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)							
Interagency site swaps to improve monitoring efficiency							
Stream health stressor id analyses							

Highlights of the Latest Water Quality Monitoring Program Budgets

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

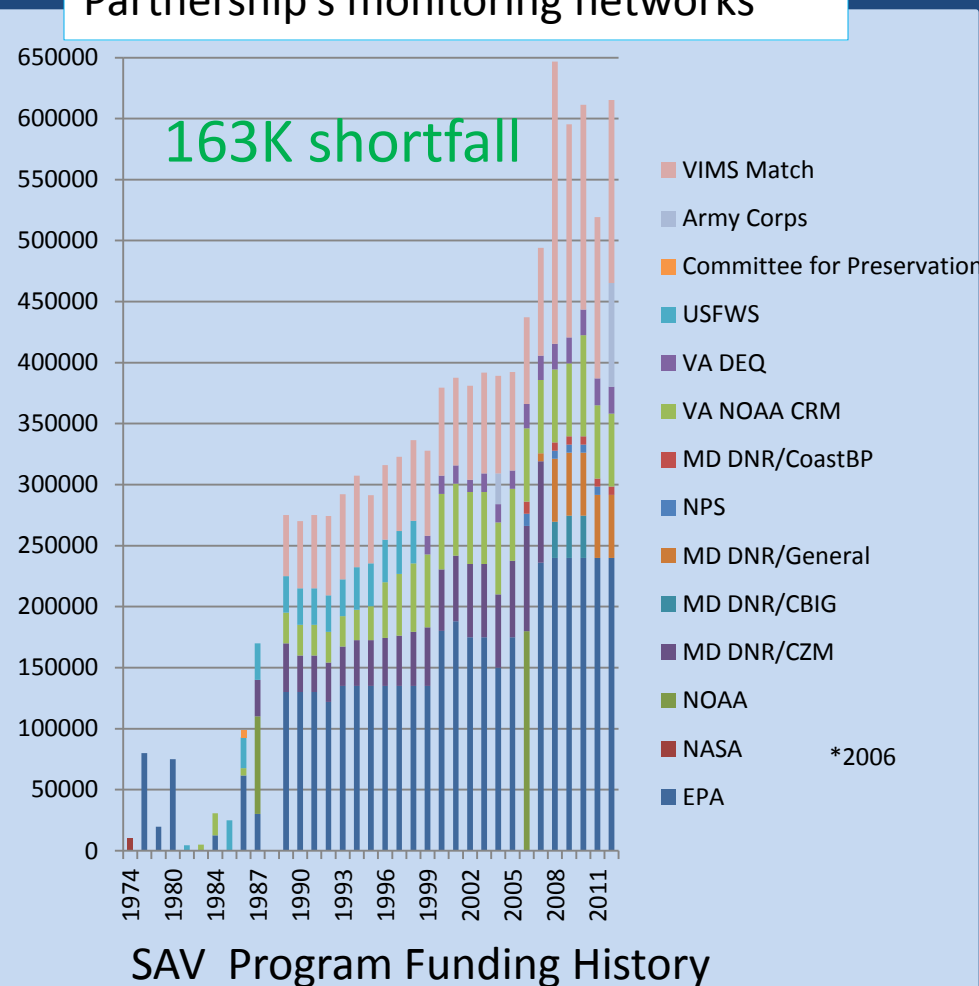
Across Non-Tidal Monitoring Network

- Underestimation of the 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

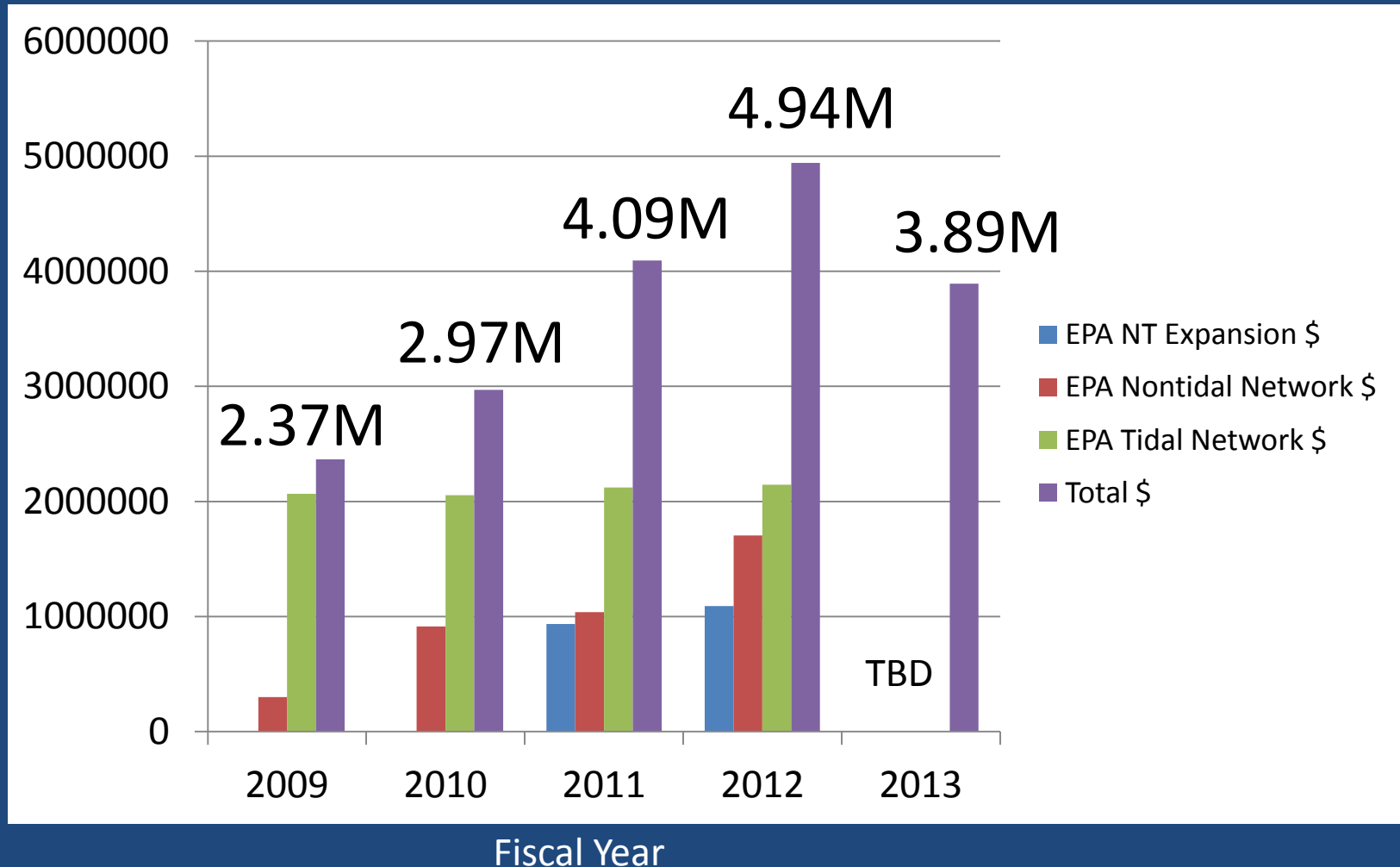
We need to address existing gaps and then work towards long term funding approaches for sustaining the Partnership's monitoring networks

- 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 intermittent non-EPA federal partner funding contributions



EPA CBP Tidal and Nontidal Monitoring Funding Support 2009-2013

\$



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 Management Board Supported Monitoring Network Priorities

“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.”

Near term Decisions and Long Term Realignment of Monitoring Network Priorities

Decisions Being Requested of the Management Board 7/11/2013

- Direct STAR's tidal and non-tidal workgroups to develop options for temporary adjustments to the monitoring networks to align with available 3.89M in FY2013 funding. (1 Month)
- 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 while ensuring long-term funding. 6-9 months

Monitoring Budget Discussion and Decision Meetings: Nearterm Meeting Schedule

- July 8: WQGIT briefing on the water quality monitoring budget.
- July 10: Tidal Monitoring and Assessment WG – develop tidal monitoring gap closure options.
- July 11: Management Board.
- July 17: Nontidal WG – Develop Nontidal network gap closure options.
- July 22: STAR Emergency Session – development of coordinated monitoring gap closure options.
- July 29-Aug 5: WQGIT review of STAR option(s) – feedback due for the August 8 Mgt Bd.
- August 8: Management Board presentation.

Decisions Being Requested of the Management Board 7/11/2013

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