



May Non-Tidal Workgroup Conference Call

May 15, 2013, 1-3pm

Meeting materials can be found at following website:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18865/>

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Finalize the NTN Station List
- 2) Bring the NTWG into the conversation about budget cuts to the CBP partnership monitoring program
- 3) Communicate TN method challenges
- 4) Resolve DUET upload obstacles for distributing output data
- 5) Recruit NTWG members for a Stream Health Action Team

ACTION ITEMS:

- Update webpage statement to indicate changes to analysis and methods segment for the flow adjusted concentrations and yield indicators. (N. Sylvester, J. Blomquist)
 - Consider the needs to develop of a trend and load indicator. (D. Moyer, J. Blomquist, K. Hyer, M. Langland)
 - Update language for the stream health indicator on the webpage. (N. Sylvester, C. Buchanan, J. Johnson)
 - Assemble an action team to recommend options/scenarios depending on the possible new budgets and a critical assessment of the consequences, and what priorities will be met with the different scenarios. Near-term and long-term adjustments.
 - Distribute the protocols for TN comparison methods study. (M. Ley)
 - Discuss the effects of TN methods on data. (M. Ley, T. Shaw, K. McGonigal)
 - Members of the NTWG interested in continued participation in the Stream Health Action Team contact Jenifer Greiner.
 - Stream Health Indicator Action Team Update at an upcoming meeting.
 - Show work previously done with data-weighting relating to the Stream health indicator at the upcoming meeting (C. Buchanan)
-

LEADERSHIP:

Scott Phillips (Chair)	USGS	swphilli@usgs.gov
Lea Rubin (Staff)	CRC/CBPO	lrubin@chesapeakebay.net

PRESENTERS:

Jennifer Greiner	USFWS	jennifer_greiner@fws.gov
Joel Blomquist	USGS	jdblomqu@usgs.gov
Ken Hyer	USGS	kenhyer@usgs.gov
Mary Ellen Ley	USGS/CBPO	MLey@chesapeakebay.net
Mike Mallonee	ICPRB	mmallone@chesapeakebay.net
Nita Sylvester	EPA	Sylvester.Nita@epamail.epa.gov
Peter Tango	USGS/CBPO	ptango@chesapeakebay.net

PARTICIPANTS:

Amy Williams	PA DEP	amywilli@state.pa.us
Arthur Butt	VADEQ	ajbutt@deq.virginia.gov
Bill Romano	MDNR	bromano@dnr.state.md.us
Cindy Johnson	VA DEQ	csjohnson@deq.virginia.gov
Claire Buchanan	ICPRB	cbuchan@icprb.org
Don Smith	VA DEQ	dsmith@deq.virginia.gov
Doug Moyer	USGS	dlmoyer@usgs.gov
Hassan Mirsajadi	DE DNREC	hassan.mirsajadi@state.de.us
Janine Howard	VA DEQ	janine.howard@deq.virginia.gov
John Wirts	State of West Virginia	John.C.Wirts@wv.gov
Kevin McGonigal	SRBC	kmcgonigal@srbc.net
Lucretia Brown	District of Columbia	lucretia.brown@dc.gov
Rusty?		
Steve Gladding	NYDEC	smgladdi@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Tony Shaw	PA DEP	tshaw@state.pa.us

Introductions and Announcements, review and update on action items from April meeting
(Scott Phillips, USGS)

- Over the next six months the Chesapeake Bay Program will be forming a new agreement between the partnerships for efforts leading up to 2025. The NTWG be asked to provide technical support for new outcomes from the agreement.

Action Items (4/17/2013)

- ~~L. Rubin will work with J. Blomquist and M. Mallonee to crosscheck the NTN station list and report back to the NTWG.~~
- ~~L. Rubin and J. Blomquist will create a list of potential stations for the NTN.~~
- Form Adhoc team to form guidance and protocols for using Automated Samplers in small watersheds.
- Cost estimation for a station with an automated sampler vs. a station with manual sampling, and reconcile whether converting to the use of automated samplers is a priority for the NTN.
- First Adhoc meeting will discuss who will lead the Adhoc group (M. Ley)
- Set up first conference call for Adhoc group after May 15th (L. Rubin)
- ~~WY2013 data is due by May 15th, 2013 to Mike Mallonee (Data Providers)~~
- Update Mike Mallonee with new stations for the NTN for WY 2013
- Bring in speakers for future meetings to further discuss toxic contaminants studies

Discussion of updates for nontidal network indicators, associated products and timeline (*Ken Hyer, USGS and Nita Sylvester, EPA/CBPO*). K. Hyer and N. Sylvester discussed needs for 2012 water year data indicators.

[Attachment: NTWG Indicators](#)

Summary of Discussion

- When will the final monitoring data results be ready to update this year's suite of indicators?
 - MD and VA have all loads and flow data generated for the CBP indicators.
 - Need data from WV and MD USGS RIM site data for a complete data set.
 - The 2012 water year (WY) data will be ready for updating the indicators in mid-August.
- Historically, the NTWG coordinator has been responsible for working with the NTWG to update the following suite of indicators (please note the contributors to the indicators are in parenthesis):
 - N, P, S load and river flow to the Bay updated annually (Joel Blomquist, CBP modeling team)
 - Flow-adjusted concentration trends and short-term yield of nutrients and sediment updated annually (USGS group – Ken Hyer, Joel Blomquist, Doug Moyer, Mike Langland)
 - Stream health indicator (Jackie Johnson and Claire Buchanan)
- Load and Flow indicators and River flow to the Bay indicator:
 - River flow has already been updated for WY 2012
 - N load and river load to the Bay: N loads incorporates

- river input monitoring station loads,
 - below RIM site loads,
 - point source data,
 - non-point source data provided by the CBP modeling team, and
 - direct deposition of N to the Bay
- The RIM data loads still need updates for N loads and river load to the Bay indicator for 2012 WY
- Need update on sediment loads from the RIM sites to the Bay
- Mid-October is the deadline for all 2012 WY data indicators set by the communications office for the Bay Barometer/State of the Bay Report.
- **SUGGESTION:** if the NTWG can update load indicators by the spring, the release of those indicators would coordinate well with the Reducing pollution Indicators and SAV indicators to help communicate to the public a more complete story.
- Continue to use estimator in the case of having longer term data sets, discussion of developing trend related indicators to use WRTDS. New river inputs sites indicator using flow-normalized loads.
 - The estimator tool for trend in concentration is an estimator derived product, trend in loads uses WRTDS. Beginning to phase in the WRTDS for load computation where it is possible. The new indicator being discussed, River inputs will be done with WRTDS.
- **ACTION:** Update webpage statement to indicate changes to analysis and methods segment for the flow adjusted concentrations and yield indicators. (N. Sylvester, J. Blomquist)
- **ACTION:** Consider the needs to develop of a trend and load indicator. (D. Moyer, J. Blomquist, K. Hyer, M. Langland)
- Stream Health Indicator Update:
 - Does this workgroup have the resources to maintain this indicator without Katie Foreman and Jack Johnson?
 - C. Buchanan clarified that the data are not readily available for nontidal benthic data (voluntary) as they are for the tidal data which has required submittals.
- **ACTION:** Update language for the stream health indicator on the webpage. (N. Sylvester, C. Buchanan, J. Johnson)
- UMCES Forecast is a product that uses CBP Partnership data.

Overview of short-term and long-term funding issues for CBP monitoring (*Peter Tango, USGS/CBPO*). P. Tango provided an overview of budget challenges and funding issues facing CBP monitoring including the NT network. P. Tango previewed his presentation for the Management Board.

[Attachment: P. Tango – Funding issues for CBP monitoring](#)

Summary of Discussion

- The NTWG provided feedback and points of clarification to revise the presentation:
 - Include specific number of sites and the reasons they were added to the network based on the recommendations from the MRAT process. Specific types of sites are needed in order to make specific assessments.
 - An objective when adding of sites was to help improve the calibration of the watershed model for the midpoint assessment of the TMDL.
- What is needed for the NTWG to address these budget cuts?
 - **ACTION:** Assemble an action team to recommend options/scenarios depending on the possible new budgets and a critical assessment of the consequences, and what priorities will be met with the different scenarios. Near-term and long-term adjustments.

Notes on the Nontidal Network station list (*Joel Blomquist, USGS and Lea Rubin, CRC/CBPO*). J. Blomquist and L. Rubin presented a Nontidal Network (NTN) Status overview and the list of stations currently in the NTN.

[Attachment: J. Blomquist – NTN Overview](#)

- 126 NTN stations, 11 of which are secondary trend only stations.

Update from AMQAW on total nitrogen digestion (TN) bias issue (*Mary Ellen Ley, USGS/CBPO*). M. Ley gave an overview of the discussion on TN methods discussed at the last quarterly AMQAW. AMQAW recommends a standardized method for all labs in the NTN. Some labs are currently using the particulate and dissolved nitrogen and others the total nitrogen analyzed by alkaline persulfate digestion. A side-by-side study of the two methods is being done to determine the bias between the methods. A study has shown that high sediment loads are a causes a bias. VA is not seeing the measurable bias as NWQL experienced with the study.

- **ACTION:** Distribute the protocols for TN comparison methods study. (M. Ley)
- **ACTION:** Discuss the effects of TN methods on data. (M. Ley, T. Shaw, K. McGonigal)

Notes and status of DUET upload (*Mike Mallonee, ICPRB/CBPO*). M. Mallonee gave a brief list of needs still required to complete the data upload for 2012 WY data. Also available in his presentation is the three year rolling schedule for DUET data uploads.

[Attachment: M. Mallonee – DUET update](#)

Update on next steps needed to update stream health indicator to support Habitat GIT

(*Jennifer Greiner, USFWS*). J. Greiner made a request on behalf of the Habitat GIT for a “Stream Health Action Team.” This action team would discuss the revision of the outcome of the executive order goal based on the Stream Health Indicator. The revision made to the original Indicator text is an outcome of 10% improvement over 2008 stream health assessment. Indicator previously stated that the sampled stream sites in the Bay watershed would achieve 70% rated “fair” or better in the water quality assessment. Broad representation for this action team is suggested; state representatives and technical experts have been requested.

[Attachment: CBP Stream Issues Paper](#)

Summary of Discussion

- Is the 10% improvement of state specific values only, above the 2008 assessment? C. Buchanan experienced state specific discrepancies, due to heavy concentration of random sites from to county sampling in addition to state data. Clarity is suggested for the 10% improvement from which benchmark.
- **SUGGESTION:** Apply careful weighting to the data-weighting score by huck8. (**ACTION:** C. Buchanan show work previously done with data-weighting at the upcoming meeting)
- **ACTION:** Members of the NTWG interested in continued participation in the Stream Health Action Team contact Jenifer Greiner.

Suggestions for future agenda topics for upcoming NTWG meetings from the workgroup

- **ACTION:** Stream Health Indicator Action Team Update at an upcoming meeting
-

NEXT NTWG CONFERENCE CALL

June 19, 2013

1PM – 3PM