



**Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
March 2, 2018**

Final Actions/Decisions

Revised Midpoint Assessment Schedule

- Decision: The PSC approved the revised Midpoint Assessment Schedule, as presented, with the understanding that the schedule may still need to be adjusted by the Partnership in the future as the jurisdictions may not have identified all the challenges they are facing by the April 2018 timeframe. Additionally, the PSC left open the possibility of delaying the 5/25/18 release of the final Planning Targets until the Executive Council meeting if it occurred in early June.

The Bay's Assimilative Capacity & Determination of Additional Nitrogen and Phosphorus Loads

- Decision: The PSC agreed to provide West Virginia an additional 1.89 million pounds of nitrogen on top of their draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) planning target load.
- Decision: The PSC approved the approach presented by EPA to fully account for the additional pounds already provided to New York at the December 19-20, 2017 PSC meeting (1 million pounds of nitrogen, 100,000 pounds of phosphorus) and the additional pounds provided to West Virginia at this meeting (1.89 million pounds of nitrogen).
- Decision: The PSC approved defining the Chesapeake Bay's assimilative capacity as 196.5 million pounds of nitrogen and 13.75 million pounds of phosphorus.

Conowingo WIP Framework

- Decision: The PSC agreed that the jurisdictional and Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) PSC members would each designate one representative to be appointed to the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee. The PSC agreed with EPA's ask that the Agency not have a member on the Steering Committee due to its oversight role for implementation of all the jurisdictions' WIPs, including the Conowingo WIP.
- Action: The jurisdictions and CBC will provide Greg Barranco the name of their representative to serve on the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee.
- Decision: The PSC approved the development of a financing strategy for the Conowingo WIP. The strategy will help address partner concerns regarding reallocation of current federal funding and will seek to pool new funding and in-kind services for the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee.
- Decision: The PSC approved the roles and responsibilities of the EPA, the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee, and the Third Party. The EPA will: provide oversight of implementation of the Conowingo WIP and biennial reports of progress through two-year milestones; in consultation with the PSC, develop and issue the third-party RFP; and provide technical staff and contractual support to the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee as they carry out their charge from the PSC. The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will guide the development and implementation of the Conowingo WIP and financing strategy; report back to the PSC at their quarterly meetings; and seek final approval of the Conowingo WIP document from the PSC. The

Third Party will provide assistance to the Steering Committee for development of the Conowingo WIP and financing strategy; act as a fund manager; track, verify and report progress of the Conowingo WIP; and pursue additional funding sources, consistent with the Conowingo WIP Framework document and the conditions set forth in the EPA RFP.

- **Decision:** The PSC approved the revised Conowingo WIP Steering Committee schedule, as presented, with the following revisions:
 - The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will submit a draft Conowingo WIP to the PSC in January 2019;
 - The PSC will submit their final comments on the draft Conowingo WIP in February 2019;
 - The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will then address the PSC's comments and submit the final draft Conowingo WIP for EPA and Partnership review as part of the larger jurisdictional Phase III WIP public review process; and
 - The final draft Conowingo WIP will be posted on CBP Partnership's website in March 2019 to begin a 30-45 day public review and comment period.

Accounting for Climate Change

- **Decision:** The PSC agreed to the following language laying out how and when the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs would address climate change narratively and numerically:

Factoring Climate Change Considerations into the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans

1. Incorporate Climate Change in the Phase III WIPs

Include a narrative strategy in the Phase III WIPs that describes the state and local jurisdictions' current action plans and strategies to address climate change and commit to adopting climate change targets by 2021, employing the Partnership's suite of models that factor in climate change and other relevant local information. Acknowledging the challenges that lie ahead, reference the *preliminary* modeling estimates attributable to climate change by 2025 to be roughly an additional 9 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.5 million pounds of phosphorus¹.

2. Understand the Science

- By refining the climate modeling and assessment framework, continue to sharpen the understanding of the science, the impacts of climate change, and any research gaps and needs.
- Develop an estimate of pollutant load changes (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) due to 2025 climate change conditions.
- Develop a better understanding of BMP responses, including new, enhanced and resilient BMPs, to better address climate change conditions such as increased storm intensity.
- In March 2021, the Partnership will consider results of updated methods, techniques, and studies and refine estimated loads due to climate change for each jurisdiction.
- In September 2021 jurisdictions will account for additional nutrient and sediment pollutant loads due to 2025 climate change conditions in a Phase III WIP addendum and/or 2-year milestones beginning in 2022.

¹ The jurisdictional distributions of these preliminary load estimates are in the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup Chair's presentation to the PSC.

3. Incorporate into Milestones

- Starting with the 2022-2023 milestones, the Partnership will determine how climate change will impact the BMPs included in the WIPs and address these vulnerabilities in the two-year milestones.
- Addendum to the PSC Decision: The District of Columbia raised the point that even though the original Climate Resiliency Workgroup references to “the jurisdiction specific nutrient and sediment pollution loadings due to the 2025 climate change conditions” was removed from the PSC approved language, the jurisdictions still have the option to include these specific targets within their Phase III WIPs and work towards them if they choose to do so. The PSC agreed that jurisdictions may still consider that option.

Executive Council Planning Committee

- Decision: The PSC approved an Executive Council meeting planning committee to convene for 2018. Potential topics for the 2018 Executive Council meeting include the stewardship indicator, technical assistance and environmental education directives, and climate resiliency.