

## Attachment F: Background on Updated Urban BMP Cost Database

The paucity of reliable cost data available for the many different urban stormwater and restoration practices is a critical gap for Bay watershed managers. Local and state stormwater managers will need good comparative cost data as they make multi-million dollar investments to meet their WIP and MS4 requirements. In particular, they need life cycle cost data to understand the long term costs to find, design, permit, construct and maintain different combinations of practices. Many local governments and engineering consultants have useful BMP cost data; however, it has never been aggregated together into a single, comprehensive cost database.

Under its EPA work plan, CSN is responsible for developing a plan to create and populate an urban BMP cost database for the Bay watershed. CSN will solicit cost information from both the private and public sector, using design and construction expenditures from actual projects built in the last three years. CSN will develop data management protocols to process and analyze the cost data received, and assure that project confidentiality is maintained.

Once the USWG approves of the architecture of the database, CSN will then solicit cost information from both the private and public sector, using design and construction expenditures from actual projects built in the last three years. The goal will be to get more than 500 individual cost estimates for practices so that better aggregate predictors of BMP cost can be derived. The goal in the first year is to set up the database, and begin to populate it. The development of cost prediction equations will occur in year two and three of the grant

CSN will coordinate with Kevin DeBell of EPA on ongoing BMP cost benefit work being done, as well as consulting with Dennis King on the recently released spreadsheet. CSN will also devise a survey monkey instrument to sample project engineers and local contract managers to get improved data on design, permitting, contracting and maintenance costs in order to develop true life-cycle costs.

CSN will present a more formal plan on the cost database architecture by February of 2012, and will begin soliciting cost data later in the year.

### **Initial Scoping Questions for the Workgroup**

***Are any members of the USWG willing to help out in an advisory capacity, or can identify a non-USWG member that would be helpful?***

***Are there any other technical resources out there on BMP costs that we should consult?***

***What are the priority BMP types for which better cost data is most urgently needed?***

***What communities and/or private engineering would be good candidates to share their BMP project cost information?***

***What is the minimum information needed on each individual BMP to make it simpler and easier to report?***