**Workshop Title:**

Status of High Resolution PCB Monitoring in Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Recommendations for Enhanced Use

**Submitted by:**

CBP Water Quality Goal Team Toxic Contaminants Workgroup (TCW)

**Steering Committee**:

**Greg Allen, EPA** - Greg has provided CBP leadership on issues related to toxic contaminants for nearly ten years. He spent 20 years previously in the field and in analytical chemistry laboratories doing work that included sampling and analyzing PCBs by GC and GCMS methods. Greg was formerly the QA Officer for the EPA Region 3 Laboratory.

**Upal Ghosh, UMBC** – Dr. Upal Ghosh is a professor in the Department of Chemical, Biochemical, and Environmental Engineering at UMBC where he performs research on the fate, effects, and remediation of toxic pollutants in the environment. One of his key research areas is the development of novel analytical tools to assess bioavailability of pollutants such as PCBs and PAHs in soil and sediment environments.

**Len Schugam, MDE** - Len has been the lead engineer for Maryland's TMDL program in the development of toxic contaminant TMDLs for over ten years.  He has coordinated numerous PCB monitoring efforts and managed the development of all PCB TMDLs in the State.

**Mark Richards, VaDEQ** - Mark has been the technical lead overseeing the development of PCB TMDLs in Virginia for the past 10 years. He was instrumental in advancing the use of high resolution EPA Method 1668 for ambient and point source PCB monitoring critical to TMDL development.

*\*Working with Kirk Havens to identify a STAC member to be included on the workshop Steering Committee.\**

**Endorsed by:**

Jenn Volk, Chair of CBP Water Quality GIT

Scott Phillips, Co-Chair CBP STAR

**Description of Workshop Topics, Objective, and Urgency:**

Throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, there is a broad geographic extent and distribution of contaminated waters due to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In order to implement effective management approaches to reduce PCB contamination, accurate PCB monitoring programs are critically needed.

The current standard method for PCB monitoring (EPA method 608) is much less sensitive than other high resolution congener based methods of PCB detection (EPA method 1668). The TCW has identified a need for high resolution congener based methods to be used in PCB monitoring in order to effectively develop management plans to reduce PCB impairments.

In order to work towards establishing method 1668 as a more routinely used method for PCB monitoring, the TCW proposes to hold a workshop on the status of high resolution PCB monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The workshop will identify: (1) the status of current PCB monitoring programs across the Bay watershed; (2) the state of science regarding PCB monitoring; (3) barriers and challenges to changing methods; and (4) options for more routine use of method 1668 as a standard method in PCB testing.

The objective of this workshop is to bring together experts with knowledge of current PCB monitoring programs across the watershed. The TCW is particularly interested in advancing the use of method 1668 for PCB monitoring throughout the watershed, which will allow for more effective identification of PCB sources. Other watersheds that have made progress in reducing PCB inputs (e.g., Delaware Estuary) have found such data to be highly useful in identifying sources.

The outcomes of this workshop will be essential to fulfilling the management approach that the TCW laid out in the Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention management strategy. The newly formed TCW has discussed this issue on several occasions among workgroup members. The TCW proposes to promote method 1668 as the preferred method of monitoring for NPDES regulated stormwater dischargers, wastewater discharges as well as regulated contaminated sites. Therefore, the degree of urgency for this workshop is high because the workshop products will be needed to progress in effectively making progress in PCB reductions in the Bay.

**Workshop link to CBP Management Strategies:**

This workshop directly links to the Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention management strategy that is currently under development by the TCW. A workshop to identify the status of PCB monitoring programs and the state of science regarding PCB monitoring will be pivotal in establishing a plan for monitoring progress for PCB reduction across the watershed. The TCW identified the lack of high resolution congener based PCB monitoring programs as a key gap in managing PCB impairments originating from stormwater.

**Workshop Products**

This workshop will result in several key insights and tools that will be used by the TCW to inform management decisions and develop a monitoring program. The Steering Committee will develop a written report of the workshop within 90 days of the workshop date. Other workshop products include a summary of current PCB analytical approaches and data availability will help with an understanding of the current extent of use of method 1668. Additionally, the TCW will receive recommendations for acquiring additional method 1668 data for PCB monitoring will inform future strategic actions to better quantify PCB sources

**Anticipated speakers:**

The Steering Committee is currently identifying a list of anticipated speakers; however, speakers will include:

* Jurisdiction monitoring and TMDL staff.
* EPA water monitoring and methods staff and managers.
* Wastewater and stormwater experts.

**Logistics:**

This workshop will ideally take place in Fall 2015 in Annapolis, MD. The ideal venue will have hotel accommodations for workshop attendees/speakers as well as meeting room space. The Annapolis Sheraton Hotel is the preferred venue. The estimated number of participants is 20-25.

**Estimated Budget:**

Venue: $1,000

Catering: $2,500

Travel: $4,000

**Total: $7,500**

**Past STAC Workshop Proposals from TCW:**

The TCW was formed in late 2014 and has never submitted a proposal for a STAC workshop.

**Additional Potential Fiscal Partners:**

Other potential fiscal partners have not been identified.