

CBP Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
 Toxic Contaminants Workgroup
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Calendar Page: [Link](#).



Chesapeake Bay Program
 A Watershed Partnership

Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and Action Items
1. Introductions and Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the June meeting minutes Update on TCW GIT Funded Project Proposal TCW Membership List Updates "A \$550M national class-action settlement includes money for cleanup of PCBs in Baltimore waterways" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://a.msn.com/01/en-us/BB15VpQY?ocid=se "Maryland to begin testing drinking water, Chesapeake Bay oysters for harmful 'forever chemicals' known as PFAS" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/environment/bs-md-pfas-testing-20200611-ektyba7ylvc27cvjpf7ysavxky-story.html "Mercury widespread in Chesapeake Bay headwaters fish:" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.bayjournal.com/news/fisheries/mercury-widespread-in-chesapeake-bay-headwaters-fish/article_da8111dc-bacd-11ea-a8f0-3b75e4642792.html Monitoring Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and Pesticides in Small Forage Fish from Anacostia River Watershed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fact sheet posted to the TCW calendar page. Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Organochlorine Pesticide Concentrations in Whole Body Mummichog and Banded Killifish from the Anacostia River Watershed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full report posted to the TCW calendar page. 	1:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the toxic contaminant indicator Update the PCB Story Map Approval of final CBP Response to STAC comments on Contaminants Workshop and elevation to WQGIT.
2. Review of Final CBP response to STAC comments on Contaminants Workshop- Scott Phillips and Emily Majcher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Requested: TCW approval of final CBP Response to STAC comments on Contaminants Workshop and elevation to WQGIT. 	1:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final version of response posted to calendar page.
3. Policy and Prevention Outcome – Greg Allen, EPA	1:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCW SRS Review Schedule

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative Analysis 		
4. Research Outcome —Scott Phillips and Emily Majcher, USGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Narrative Analysis to PowerPoint slides Comments on Narrative Analysis 	2:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCW SRS Review Schedule Narrative Analysis Input PowerPoint posted to calendar page.
5. Wrap Up and Adjourn	3:00	Next meeting: August 12, 2020

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: TCW approved the June meeting minutes.

Decision: TCW approved the final language for CBP's response to STAC's recommendations for the CEC Report. This report will now go before the WQGIT for approval before being presented to the MB (*post-meeting note: the WQGIT approved CBP's response on July 27, 2020*).

Action: Hilary Swartwood will send the draft membership list to TCW for their review. Please send all revisions to Hilary Swartwood (Swartwood.hilary@epa.gov).

Action: Hilary Swartwood will add the Mussel Watch Program as a potential agenda topic to the TCW planning calendar.

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions and Announcements

- Decision:** TCW approved the June meeting minutes.
- TCW GIT Funded Project Proposal Updates:
 - The BMP efficiencies project was ranked 3 out of 4 and will go forward for selection in August.
- Action:** Hilary Swartwood will send the draft membership list to TCW for their review. Please send all revisions to Hilary Swartwood (Swartwood.hilary@epa.gov).
- PFAS Article:** Dave Whitall stated that NOAA did some studies with PFAS and found it in oyster tissue. He will send this information to the group. Also suggested giving a 15-20-minute overview of the Mussel Watch program. Greg Allen found it interesting that micro-plastics and PFAS are stored in a similar fashion.
 - Action:** Hilary Swartwood will add the Mussel Watch Program as a potential agenda topic to the TCW planning calendar.

2. Review of Final CBP response to STAC comments on Contaminants Workshop

- Decision Requested:** TCW approval of final CBP Response to STAC comments on Contaminants Workshop and elevation to WQGIT.
- Decision:** TCW approved the final language for CBP's response to STAC's recommendations for the CEC Report. This report will now go before the WQGIT for approval before being presented to the MB (*post-meeting note: the WQGIT approved CBP's response on July 27, 2020*).

3. Policy and Prevention Outcome

- Next SRS deadline: presentation to STAR on July 23rd.
- Evelyn MacKnight will share what she has on permits and demolition for PCBs to provide an informational context and showcase that PCBs are still in existence in different materials. This could also contribute to the Sustainable Schools outcome. The TCW leadership plans on meeting with

them to make sure they are on board with a co-contribution. It will be good to get some resources behind what we think are high return activities.

- Evelyn MacKnight said that most of their PCB results are from fish evaluations. She then said that water detection is difficult because PCBs are always detected. Mark Richards from VA indicated that expanding PCB monitoring with regard to fish has not occurred. VA has stuck to sections of water where PCB detections preexist. George Onyullo said that in DC they generally do fish tissue studies, but there was expansion to support the Anacostia river project. George Onyullo said that it is something that could be circled back to and reevaluated.
- Greg Allen said that there has been talk about figuring out other methods to detect PCBs but there is not a lot of support from CBP and other jurisdictions to do this work. Particularly, because it is a difficult ask and requires a lot of work. Emily Majcher discussed the ongoing priority ecosystem research at USGS and stated they are currently doing a study on select containments (PCBs is one of them). She indicated that USGS could update the group on this research and whether it would be feasible to do this type of work going forwards.

4. Research Outcome

- George Onyullo listened to a discussion on microplastics and it was pretty narrow- they only focused on the distribution of microplastics and set the perspective on drinking water. He mentioned that people have to first rap their head around what constitutes a microplastic in terms of size and fiber. Just something to keep in mind as we have brought this up at previous meetings before. George Onyullo said he would share the PowerPoint with the TCW Leadership.
- Vicki Blazer said that they are still continuing to do PFAS research. Emily Majcher asked if people would support moving PFAS from emerging concerns to a different location in the workplan would be supported by the group?
- George Onyullo said that we don't have enough local numbers for PFAS to understand its performance locally. Greg Allen said that that seems to be the trend but that there isn't enough information to say that it is a toxicity issue. George Onyullo said that PFAS seems to be an issue that is both an emerging concern but it's emerging from well understood issues.

5. Wrap Up and Adjourn

Call Participants

Greg Allen, EPA
Hilary Swartwood, CRC
Doug Austin, EPA
Emily Majcher, USGS
John Cargill, DNREC
Ruth Cassilly, UMD
Vicki Blazer, USGS
Mark Richards ,VA DEQ
Matt Kundrat, PA DEP
Dave Whitall, NOAA
Kelly Smalling, USGS
Whitney Ahead, CRC
Tom Parham, MDNR
George Onyullo. DOEE
Evelyn MacKnight, EPA
Lisa Ochenshirt, AquaLaw

Lorie Baker, EPA
Leonard Schugam, MDE
Marel King, CBC