

*“In my new role as Chair of the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC), I am committed to following through on the necessary decisions and work deliverables on time so we can proceed forward with developing and implementing our Phase III WIPs with the best available information and data. I am asking you as the WQGIT leadership and members to work collectively.... so that you can bring the WQGIT’s recommendations to the October PSC retreat. We cannot afford any further delays in reaching agreement on the models and tools supporting our decision making as well as the needed decisions on how we are going to develop the draft Phase III WIP planning targets.”*

*Secretary Ben Grumbles  
August 2, 2017*



# Key Points on 2017 Models

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The Phase 6 Watershed model loads have changed because of improved nutrient input data.

The Phase 6 assessments of Water Quality Standard achievement are consistent with Phase 5.3.2. Current estimates are that the WIP2 Level of Effort achieves water quality standards. (Early August version of the WQSTM used.)

The degree of water quality attainment In Deep Channel and Deep Water DO with nutrient reductions are consistent with the 2010 WQSTM Bay Model.

# Partnership Decisions, continued

- A comment is not considered a fatal flaw if it is:
  - A disagreement with a final decision that has been made by the partnership
  - A disagreement with a scientific or technical method or product in favor of another method or product
  - A failure to match loads for particular monitoring station(s) or constituent(s)
  - A disagreement with a planning target

# Current Status

- The Partnership's Phase 6 fatal flaw comment deadline was July 31, 2017.
- The CBPO received 109 comments from the Partnership, with perhaps 80 unique comments (some are duplicates from multiple sources).
- The CBPO is currently working on draft responses to all comments received.
- The Land Use WG and AgWG met on 8/2 and 8/3, respectively, to discuss the comments assigned to their WGs.
- Comments are being addressed through the sector workgroups, here at the WQGIT, and when appropriate, being addressed one-on-one with CBPO.

# Next Steps

- 8/14 - WQGIT – Discussion (and decisions) on fatal flaws
- 8/28 - WQGIT – Decisions on fatal flaws
- In the month of August, the CBPO modeling team will continue to follow up with the commenters, the workgroups, and the WQGIT with a proposed response and resolution. Any issues where agreement cannot be reached will be elevated to the WQGIT. Many of these discussions have already taken place and will continue throughout this month.
- If the WQGIT cannot reach consensus on a proposed resolution, the issue is immediately elevated to the Management Board/PSC in order to remain on schedule.
- All Phase 6 comments and their responses will be included as an appendix to the Phase 6 modeling documentation and will be used to guide future efforts.

# Moving Forward

- Latest draft of Phase 6 fatal flaw spreadsheet has been shared – August 11.
- Goal is to resolve these comments to everyone's satisfaction to the extent practicable within the resources available by August 28.
- **Requested Actions for Commenters:**
  - Review the proposed responses and actions in the spreadsheet.
  - Flag comments to the CBPO contact (cc to Gary Shenk) where you don't agree / can't live with the (1) binning; (2) proposed resolution; and/or (3) actions to resolve comment.
  - Where there is disagreement with a proposed resolution and/or action, be prepared to identify options to resolve comment.
  - Identify any comments that were submitted prior to the July 31 deadline but were not captured on the fatal flaw comment spreadsheet.

# Next Steps

- 8/14 - WQGIT – Discussion of fatal flaws
  - 8/28 - WQGIT – Decisions on fatal flaws
  - 9/1 – Revised BMP history (2014-2016) due to CBPO
- If the WQGIT cannot reach consensus on a proposed resolution, the issue is immediately elevated to the Management Board/PSC in order to remain on schedule.



# Phase III WIP Planning Target Development

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- Draft Phase III WIP planning target development; August 1 – September 30, 2017.
- Key elements of No-Action Scenario, E3 Scenario, and geo-isolation runs are underway along with latest Conowingo infill and climate change analyses.
- Review of preliminary planning targets, Conowingo infill analysis, and climate change influence by WQGIT at September 25-26, 2017 meeting.
- Review of planning targets, Conowingo infill analysis, and climate change influence by PSC at October 2017 meeting.
- Release of draft Phase III WIP planning targets; October 31, 2017 - February 28, 2018 for partnership review.
- PSC approval of final Phase III WIP planning targets with special cases and release - March, 2018.





## Phase III WIP Planning Target Development

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- We'll use the September 10 version of the Watershed Model and WQSTM for the WQSTM F2F meeting on September 25-26. We will be changing the models based on the Phase 6 review, but not recalibrating the models. We need to test to see if recalibration is warranted. (The schedule is based on the WQGIT imposed August 31 deadline for historical BMPs.)
- If there is sufficient change in the model results the models will be recalibrated.
- If a recalibration is needed it will be done in October prior to the PSC Retreat and the final draft planning targets.
- For the September 25-26 meeting the geo scenarios will be done on the same geographic scale as was done in 2011. A more detailed scale will require more time.