

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup - Starting Thoughts for CWGT Management Strategy

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Situation Analysis & Challenges

How would you summarize or describe the current situation for your outcome? I.e., what's the message of where we are right now?

The WWTWG's focus after forming again in 2024 was on supporting the accurate representation of wastewater-related load allocations to the Watershed Model and to utilize the group's technical expertise to inform effective management practices. This focused on assessing CSOs, the boat discharge BMP report and sanitary sewer exfiltration for inclusion in the Phase 7 model.

How would you summarize or describe past accomplishments or effort towards your outcome? I.e., what's the message of where we've been and/or how far we've come?

As a source sector, nutrient reductions from wastewater treatment plants since the 1980s has been a major success story across the watershed, resulting from federal and jurisdictional investments and policies. As a workgroup we have been mostly inactive from 2018 – 2024. Wastewater treatment plants have historically been a reliable source of nutrient reductions as the treatment technologies have improved and been implemented through permits, combined with consistent revenue and funding.

We do not need a summary or description of existing indicators. However, do you have initial thoughts on new indicators that may be needed for your outcome under the revised CBWA? Do you have ideas or suggestions on how we may more effectively utilize any of our existing indicators?

N/A for new indicator needs.

What are your key gaps or challenges?

- The original ENR facilities are starting to age. There is likely a need to consider strategies to support ENR maintenance and asset renewal (see priorities on radar in next question).

Do you have specific tasks, needs or priorities that are already on your radar for the upcoming months or years?

- Having completed the assessment of key inputs WWTWG was asked to assess for inclusion (or not) in the Phase 7 model, the focus of the workgroup remains reviewing model outputs and other points through to the end of the development of the Phase 7 suite of models as needed.
- The WWTWG provides forum for jurisdictions to share their strategies for meeting the affordability needs of communities and increasing demand on wastewater infrastructure. With continued growth and aging ENR infrastructure, jurisdictions can share ideas for funding approaches or other cost-effective approaches for achieving load reductions. Some jurisdictions, for example, have grant funding or cost-share programs, nutrient credit trading programs, and voluntary annual incentives to achieve temporary load reductions.

Potential Management Approaches

Consider the outcome and targets stated in the CBWA, and the gaps, challenges and other tasks/needs you described above. Please brainstorm potential Management Approaches that can guide the partnership (specifically the CWGT and its workgroups).

[bold = a potential draft management approach]

Once the Phase 7 modeling tools are complete, the workgroup can **continue to discuss and share innovative solutions to ongoing or future wastewater challenges**, such as aging infrastructure. The contribution of septic systems has been considered through Phase 6 BMP panels, as well as improved methods and data for Phase 7, but there may be a need to more **critically examine septic loads in collaboration with other workgroups to understand the change over time and into the future.**

General

Do you have any key talking points, bottom line messages, or take-away that for the overall narrative or story you wish to tell for your outcome? *This is optional, but can help us as we get started.*

None.