



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
**Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
10:00 AM to 11:15 AM

[Meeting Materials](#)

**Meeting Minutes**

10:00 **Introduction and Announcements** – WWTWG Co-Chairs, Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, HRSD & Justin Carl, Alex Renew (10 min)

- *Please put your name and affiliation in the chat box for attendance purposes. Thank you!*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of May Meeting Minutes.

**Decision:** The WWTWG approved the May Meeting Minutes.

- Joint meeting with Urban Stormwater Workgroup, Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM

10:10 **Small Group Status Updates** – Various (30 min)

Following the workgroup's May meeting, three small groups were formed to delve into relevant wastewater Phase 7 model topics presented in May. Each small group met in July and a volunteer from each group will share a brief verbal status update about their next steps (~5 minutes each). Additional time reserved for questions and discussion. A list of the groups followed by the volunteer presenting on their behalf is below:

- Exfiltration and SSO data – Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, HRSD
  - Joseph has provided a proposal for P7 in document from May 5<sup>th</sup>. Low, high effort, and no action. There is an opportunity for a hybrid approach as well.
  - The Small Group is working to come up with recommendations by Feb or March timeframe. Don't want to overstate the problem or affect management actions by inaccurate information. Large Urban areas have localities with federal/state consent decrees for I&I. There will be areas where it is minimal versus where it is critical. We are interested in a broader screening approach for finding critical needs, including gravity and water table-based approaches. Joseph is considering an approach that factors in groundwater conditions and is looking at literature values or exfiltration in dry areas versus in wet areas.
  - Meeting again in September, for recs available by Feb or March.
- CSO data – Ed Cronin, Brown & Caldwell
  - Came up with workplan for next few meetings including reviewing how CSOs were addressed in the Bay TMDL and the previous Phases of the model, collecting data on status of CSO implementation in each State, and investigating how CSO loads are handled during the implementation of the CSO long term control plans.

- Once analysis is done will update group and make recommendations for an approach to how CSOs can be handled in Phase 7.
- Boat pump-outs – Ivy Ozmon, HRPDC
  - Met in July to discuss the expert panel report from 2018/19 on incorporating pump out loads into the model. Decided that the calculations involved a number of assumptions that would require considerable baselining for validity. After discussion with Gary Shenk, the group has begun requesting additional information from the initial report drafters.
  - Spoken with former workgroup member from HRSD, plan to contact people with VA DEQ and VDH to gauge interest. Will work with Dylan to talk to localities about interest in these BMPs.
  - If they find a lack of interest in the BMP in VA and MD, the group will discontinue the effort since the load is small relative to loads captured in the model currently. A defensible accounting methodology would take significant effort.

**10:40 Flex Time for new items or other business – WWTWG Leadership Facilitating (30 mins)**

As time allows, we will solicit additional updates and facilitate discussion on other business or parking lot items from the [February](#) and [May](#) meetings.

**Discussion:**

**Dave Montali:** [RE TSS Loads] I'm not aware of it in our jurisdiction. I think the issue was that if jurisdictions are allowing water treatment facilities to return settled solids to the river under some kind of net basis, then that might be a significant load of N, P, or S that is unaccounted. I know in our state that those settled solids have to be dewatered, disposed of in the landfill, I've checked a while back with our permitting folks and there's no authorization to return settled solids to the river. If that's not the case in some jurisdictions, that's the first question of the jurisdictions, do you have facilities where removed solids are allowed to be returned to the river?

**Jamie Mitchell:** Pretty sure for VA that isn't happening anymore but can follow up. Does anyone else know from their jurisdictions if this is an ongoing issue?

**Cassie Davis (in chat):** I don't believe so but I will follow up in NY

**Bob Buglass:** Yes, our Potomac water filtration plant does discharge solids under some conditions. Under consent decree to eliminate that in a couple years. I'm told we're the outlier and its otherwise not common practice.

**Jamie Mitchell:** You said that you're under consent to eliminate that in a couple years?

**Bob Buglass:** Correct.

**Dave Montali:** That facility, or if there are others, it might be worth considering. I don't know how significant it'll be in the big picture but as we strive to do things locally, it might show its head. The first question is looking at the time period from 1985 to now and asking if we had

routine discharges of water treatment plant solids and from who and where. It may be that if its generally not there we can conclude its not significant and not worth the effort.

**Jamie Mitchell:** I'll follow up with VA.

**Dave Montali:** [re WV] I don't think there's any in WV but I can reconfirm.

**Cassie Davis:** I don't believe that's allowed in NY, but I will double check.

**Joseph Delesantro:** I just want to reiterate Dave's point that if this has happened in the past, historical data would be very useful in calibrating the model. If it wasn't significant even in the past, its probably not worth the effort. If it was significant in the past, that's information that could be helpful on the modeling side.

**Joseph VA DEQ (in chat):** I'd have to look into it for historical information for VA

**Zach Steckler (in chat):** I am not aware of anything in PA, but I can look into it.

**Jamie Mitchell:** I'll go back through the records, but Gary cited the specific water treatment facilities that did that.

**Bob Buglass:** The Dalecarlia plant did that for some time. They stopped around 2000 or so.

**Joseph VA DEQ (in chat):** I Dalecarlia was the example that caught the eyes of the CAST team. in ECHO their TSS loads went from 2M lbs in 2017 to a peak of almost 18M lbs in 2019, down to 8M by 2021 based on the February slides:

<https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024-02-06-P7-Watershed-Model-Development-WWTWG-gshenk.pdf>

**Sharon H (in chat):** Hi I'm here to represent Clean Air Action Group (CAAG) of Annapolis, MD. We are a group of residents/businesses within .5 mile of a wastewater treatment plant in Annapolis. We are collecting data through a mobile app Smell MyCity - to link sewage odor to health outcomes (symptoms). We have collected approx. 4,000 odor complaints & symptoms since we organically formed our group. I realize that this workgroup is focused on water. If there is an interest in Air quality concerns, please reach out to me Sharon@integrityDQsolutions.com. Thank you.

**Dave Montali:** I take it that the exfiltration group is going to look into SSOs, wanted to make it clear we need to do that on the same timeline as the other stuff. At the last Modeling Workgroup Quarterly, one of the entities developing the tributary model for the back Patapsco section of the bay made a pointed pitch that we need to account for SSOs. In some people's mind an important thing, in others it falls back to overall it isn't a big deal. We need to open the door on that one is all.

**Joseph Delesantro:** Groundwater data or modeling; we're looking to explore options for Sanitary Sewer Exfiltration that would account for the groundwater table such that pipes below the groundwater table would have little to no modeled exfiltration. Need models of groundwater table depth or watershed wide data on groundwater table depth. We've seen the USGS database but if people are aware of other data sources that might have finer scale resolution please email me.

**Jamie Mitchell:** At least for HRSD we have groundwater level monitoring occurring throughout much of the region and can provide that. You can use it to compare to the USGS information as well

**Joseph Delesantro:** In the past groundwater modeling has been done by the dynamic model which essentially uses a logistic regression between measurements in certain areas and topographic features. If we're able to get measurements across the watershed we can create a

simple regression model to topographic features and soil features. If these models already exist that would save us time and effort.

Joseph VA DEQ (in chat): I DC has something going on that you may benefit from. Please contact me.

**ACTION:** Jurisdictions should follow up with WWTWG leadership regarding TSS discharges.

**ACTION:** Bob Buglass will email Jamie regarding WSSC discharges.

**ACTION:** WWTWG members with information on groundwater data should reach out to Joseph Delesantro.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

### Acronym List

CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program

CSO: Combined Sewer Overflow

HRSD: Hampton Roads Sanitation District

WWTWG: Wastewater Treatment Workgroup