



## Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup (INWG) Conference Call

Thursday, August 21, 2014

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

*Meeting Materials:*

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21980>

### MINUTES

#### Meeting Action Items

- Former TMAW and NTWG members will consider which new Workgroup to participate in. (All)
- If interested in acting in a leadership role for one of the new STAR workgroups please contact Scott Phillips or Peter Tango. (All)
- Topic suggestions for the Water Quality Explaining Trends Team Meetings should be sent to Jeni Keisman ([jkeisman@usgs.gov](mailto:jkeisman@usgs.gov)). (All)
- The possibility of finding matching programs to transition from the 117d to 117e will be reviewed by each jurisdiction. (State Reps.)
- To deal with uncertainties in the annual budget process, (jurisdictions) will review their portion of the long-term water quality monitoring networks and provide prioritization for:
  - **NTN** – What stations would be first, second, third to cut and why in case of a loss in funding, and what stations would be first, second, third to be added in the case of increases in funding?
  - **Tidal Network** – Consider cost saving options for mainstem cruises, other cost savings, cost cutting efficiencies.
  - **Tidal and Nontidal** – Consider the potential for integrating new technologies and citizen/non-traditional partners.
- INWG members interested in contributing to the BEI report should contact Lea Rubin ([lrubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lrubin@chesapeakebay.net)).

#### Welcome, Introductions, Announcements – Peter Tango, Workgroup Coordinator

- A record rainfall event on the east coast occurred on August 12-14<sup>th</sup>, causing high flow conditions into the Chesapeake Bay.

- The Lower Susquehanna Watershed Assessment team met with Exelon to finalize details for the enhanced monitoring of the Conowingo Dam.
  - Data will be collected at four new tributaries, and the data will be used in the 2017 Mid-point assessment. Sampling protocols are consistent with the Nontidal Water Quality Monitoring Network and data will be submitted to the DUET database.
- A new development at the long-term James River monitoring site; USGS deployed a real-time orthophosphate monitor. The monitor still uses wet chemistry, but was adapted for use in the field. This deployment is for a short-term pilot study with the goal of transitioning to real-time orthophosphate monitoring.

### **Intro to the new INWG – Scott Phillips, STAR Co-Chair**

#### *Supplemental Materials:*

- [Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting \(STAR\) team Revising Science Support Activities for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement \(2014\)](#)

Scott presented an overview of the proposed structure for STAR with some new roles and responsibilities due to the signing of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. With the new broad scope of priorities, the Chesapeake Bay Program will need additional scientific support from STAR. A function of all STAR Workgroups will be to synthesize and communicate information from these groups to support the needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.

The formally known Tidal (TMAW) and Nontidal Workgroup (NTWG) roles and responsibilities will be divided into several new groups under the evolving STAR workgroup structure. The Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup (INWG) will carry out the following functions:

- Manage the Water Quality Tidal and Nontidal Monitoring Networks
- Continue support for the Building Environmental Intelligence (BEI) process
- Collaborate with GITs to recommend monitoring needs to support the 2014 Watershed Agreement outcomes
- Build upon Citizen Science and other networks

### **Discussion**

- In order to not overload specific members who will be participating in multiple new STAR Workgroups, the Workgroups will not have standard monthly meetings, but meetings spread out to accommodate participation in multiple Workgroups.
  - **ACTION:** Former TMAW and NTWG members will consider which new Workgroup to participate in. (All)

- Which Workgroup will host the Indicators work?
  - The Status and Trends Workgroup will be the keepers of the Indicators. The function of the Status and Trends Workgroup will be to organize and maintain the Indicators; however the development of new Indicators may occur in another Workgroup.
- **ACTION:** If interested in acting in a leadership role for one of the new STAR workgroups please contact Scott Phillips or Peter Tango. (All)
- Explain the Ecosystem Condition and Change Workgroup.
  - The Water Quality Explaining Trends Team will have two meetings in September; one for the tidal trends and one for nontidal trends. The goal is to also have an integrated group of people to look at tidal and nontidal response to BMPs.
  - The current approach to explain water quality trends is to look at how parameters are increasing or decreasing over a period of time. However, event driven affects and frequency of excursions are showing more effect on the short-term trends. For example, VIMS is looking at the duration of bloom events and asking (*Contact: Ken Moore*):
    - Are there reactions to particular events? And,
    - What is the duration of the event?
- **ACTION:** Topic suggestions for the Water Quality Explaining Trends Team Meetings should be sent to Jeni Keisman ([jkeisman@usgs.gov](mailto:jkeisman@usgs.gov)).
- Where does the enhanced trend analysis occur in the new Workgroup Structure?
  - The developmental phase would occur within the Explain Ecosystem Condition and Change Teams and would transition into the “crank turning” phase within the Status and Trends Workgroup.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Teams are required to develop Management Strategies for all Outcomes of the new Watershed Agreement; this includes a clear list of monitoring gaps for the tracking of progress towards meeting the goals of the Watershed Agreement. STAC and STAR will provide scientific support to effectively carry out this process.
  - To track the progress of the management strategy development you can visit: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies>

### **Renewing the Nontidal Network (NTN) – Peter Tango – USGS/CBPO**

The Nontidal Network is approaching the end of the 6-year grant cycle with the 117d grants (competitive grant with 5% match requirements). After the 6-year cycle the funds would have to go through a competitive RFP process to fund the NTN. The INWG will look to all jurisdictions to determine

the possibility of applying for 117e grants (noncompetitive grant with 1:1 match requirements). Next spring will be a new competitive cycle, but with the watershed states now being signatories to the new Watershed Agreement, they are now eligible for 117(e) grants, meaning noncompetitive funds.

- **ACTION:** The possibility of finding matching programs to transition from the 117d to 117e will be reviewed by each jurisdiction.

#### **Discussion**

- The Tidal Networks are currently 1:1 match; we heard from MD about the challenges of finding 1:1 Tidal match program dollars. As long as the Chesapeake Bay Program maintains flexibility of what can be considered for match dollars to include restoration dollars, a 1:1 match can be managed.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program is revising the monitoring grant guidance. The jurisdictions will now follow this process for match funding: 1) match as much of Tidal and Nontidal Network dollars with state monitoring program dollars, 2) when those opportunities are maxed out, jurisdictions have the opportunity to use restoration dollars and monitoring in support of the new Watershed Agreement as match programming.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring Grants: Looking Down the Road to Next Year, Needs of the Community – Peter Tango – USGS/CBPO and All**

Peter Tango presented the community with updates on the water quality monitoring grants and changes to the network and network analysis. Some foresight into grant issues allows problems to be worked through efficiently with solutions before the grants are due. Within the INWG, members will identify short-term annual fluctuations within the network. This information will also contribute to the BEI process.

- **ACTION:** To deal with uncertainties in the annual budget process, each jurisdiction will review their portion of the long-term water quality monitoring networks and provide prioritization for:
  - **NTN** – What stations would be first, second, third to cut and why in case of a loss in funding, and what stations would be first, second, third to be added in the case of increases in funding?
  - **Tidal Network** – Consider cost saving options for mainstem cruises, other cost savings, cost cutting efficiencies.
  - **Tidal and Nontidal** – Consider the potential for integrating new technologies and citizen/non-traditional partners.
- **ACTION:** Each jurisdiction must review their network to contribute the factors listed above. The INWG will discuss these lists pending budget decisions.

**Building Environmental Intelligence (BEI a.k.a. BASIN) Update and Next Steps – Lea Rubin  
CRC/CBPO and Peter Tango – USGS/CBPO**

Attachment: [BEI Update and Next Steps](#)

Lea Rubin provided an update on the process and schedule of BEI work to be carried out in 2014. She will also review the BEI water quality report outline and timeline for completion. INWG members were asked to volunteer to be contribution authors to the BEI Water Quality Report. One opportunity to contribute is to participate in the Shallow Water Action Team to write the vision for the Shallow Water Monitoring Program.

- **ACTION:** INWG members interested in contributing to the BEI report should contact Lea Rubin ([lrubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lrubin@chesapeakebay.net)).

**Discussion**

- **Shallow Water Monitoring Action Team Volunteers:**
  - Bruce Michael
  - Mark Trice
  - Ken Moore
  - Tish Robertson
- **Action Team Deliverables:** The team will use the next 3-4 months to provide a short chapter for the BASIN Water Quality Report on the Vision for the Shallow Water Monitoring Programming 2015-2025.
- **The first Shallow Water Action Team Conference Call is:** October 29, 2014

**INWG Needs and Wrap up**

This meeting was intended to transition the formally TMAW and NTWG Workgroups members to the new STAR Workgroup structure. All participants should consider which of the new Workgroup(s) they fit under. If you have feedback on the new STAR Workgroup Structure please reach out to Scott Phillips ([swphilli@usgs.gov](mailto:swphilli@usgs.gov)) and/or Lea Rubin ([lrubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lrubin@chesapeakebay.net)).

**Meeting Participants**

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