CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday August 26, 2024
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:45 PM Eastern Time
Location: Link:
https://umces.webex.com/umces/j.php?MTID=m8cbd1511b861d7cab90887840676b011
Meeting number: 2630 014 7656
Password: WQGIT2024
Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388
Access code: 2630 014 7656

Meeting materials: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/water-quality-goal-implementation-team-git-3-meeting-august-2024

Written announcements or reminders *(CTRL + click to jump ahead within document)*

Agenda

Topic	Start time (duration)	Item Title *Item description*	Speaker(s) or presenter(s) Materials
	1:00	**Welcome and Introduction** *We will use Webex for roll call purposes, so please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the WebEx participants list. If not, please enter your correct name & affiliation in the chat box. If multiple participants are joining through the same location, please enter your names in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.*	Suzanne Trevena, EPA, WQGIT Chair
	(20 min)	**Announcements & Verbal Updates** *Coordinator Updates – Jeremy Hanson, CRC* *Final milestone evaluations* *Workgroup Updates (2 min or less, open to workgroup chairs or coordinators)*	**Materials:** Presentation

Phase 7 model development	1:20 (30 min)	**Phase 7 development timeline**	Auston Smith, EPA CBPO
		Auston will walkthrough the timeline that weaves together the schedules from Phase 7 model development track leads. Materials will be posted as soon as they are ready.	
		Informational.	**Materials:** Presentation; draft consolidated timeline
Milestones	1:50 (55 min)	**Planning ahead for our post-2025 approach: Milestones and Unaccounted Additional Loads**	Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO
		[Given other late-breaking changes to the agenda, we added 10 minutes for this item.]	
		This agenda item will build on two related topics as discussed at the July WQGIT meeting and the three sessions of optional office hours (August 6th, 12th, and 22nd). Since there is one session remaining, we appreciate your patience and understanding that requested decisions may evolve prior to, or during, the normal WQGIT meeting on the 26th. The tentative, expected decision requests are stated below.	**Materials:** Presentation
		1. *In 2009 the Executive Council committed to having practices in place by the end of 2025 to meet the water quality goal, and included short, two-year goals called milestones leading up to Bay restoration. The partnership did not explicitly say what would happen beyond 2025 if the water quality goal were not met. Now that the partnership is discussing Beyond 2025, the partnership will need to consider next steps for milestones beyond the current period (2024-2025).*	
		Lee will review feedback and discussion from the office hours sessions and the WQGIT will be asked to decide on next steps.	
		If necessary, recommendations from the WQGIT would go to the Management Board and subsequently the PSC for a final decision.	
		To determine options for the partnership, a rationale to support each option will need to be included. There is also interest in scoping options to consider piloting/sandboxing new ideas to include in milestone periods. The WQGIT can hold these conversations itself, charge the Milestones Workgroup, or consider alternative venues.	

Decision request: WQGIT agreement on preferred option or next steps to delineate and recommend options for the post-2025 milestone period.

[Tentative] Decision request: WQGIT agreement to charge the Milestone Workgroup to articulate options and provide recommendations to the WQGIT.

2. *Lee will note any feedback or changes to proposed terms and definitions on how unaccounted additional loads (UALs) and related concepts may be conveyed on CBP sites (CAST, Chesapeake Progress). Deletions from the text presented at the July WQGIT are in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is <u>underlined</u>.*

> *Initial Planning Targets - Phase 3 WIP Planning Targets as agreed to by the PSC in 2018, modified by subsequent basin-to-basin and nitrogen and phosphorus exchanges. The initial version of the Phase 3 WIPs were intended to address this load.*

> *Climate-Adjusted Planning Targets - Initial Planning Targets updated for climate factors. In 2020, the partnership agreed to additional reductions to offset climate change from 1995 through 2025.*

> *Interim ~~Planning~~ Targets - Initial planning targets including climate and Unaccounted Additional Loads (UALs). In 2023, the partnership agreed to use these ~~Planning~~ Targets as the interim goal until the Phase 7 models were developed. The UALs lower the reduction effort by reversing increases in effort required by input data updates that occurred after the <u>initial</u> planning targets were ~~initially~~ set in 2018. ~~Additional reductions necessary to account for Conowingo infill are not included.~~*

[Tentative] Decision request: Agreement on the three terms and definitions above, <u>and the presented table format</u>, for subsequent use on relevant CBP websites or partnership communications.

	2:45	10-minute Break	
~~Priorities: policy and implementation~~	~~2:45~~ ~~(25 min)~~	~~Partner spotlight: New York and Upper Susquehanna Coalition~~ *Will be rescheduled due to unforeseen conflict for speaker.*	~~Cassie Davis, NYS DEC & Emily DeKar, USC~~

Planning	2:55 (45 min)	<u>Choose your own adventure: WQGIT Edition</u> *The WQGIT Leadership team will review previous input and seek further ideas via Mentimeter on topics of interest for future WQGIT meetings. The input will help to scope out a follow-up poll for GIT members to express their priorities and preferences for collaborative efforts, or future discussions. Results from the follow-up poll will be incorporated and discussed at the September meeting.* ***Input and participation requested.*** ***Action requested: Completion of the poll by the deadline specified during the 8/26 call.***	WQGIT Leadership **Materials:** Presentation and mentimeter
	3:40	Recap of Actions and Decisions	Sushanth Gupta, CRC
	3:45	ADJOURN	

Written announcements or reminders

- <u>Announcements or opportunities</u>
  - The Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) have released a request for proposal (RFP) for their Science Synthesis Project. Click here for an overview of the synthesis project and click here to view the RFP. Proposals are due to STAC by Monday, December 2nd. Please email Meg Cole, STAC coordinator, (colem@chesapeake.org), or Larry Sanford, STAC chair, (lsanford@umces.edu) with additional questions.
  - The EPA released their 2022-2023 milestone progress and 2024-2025 milestone commitments evaluations. The evaluations can be viewed on the EPA's TMDL website and the EPA's most recent press release can be found here.
  - Beyond 2025 Public Feedback Period is open until August 30th. Go to https://chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025 to find the blog post, draft synthesis report, Frequently Asked Questions document and instructions for submitting comments by the deadline (via email to comments@chesapeakebay.net).
  - UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card released for 2023-2024, giving the Bay a grade of C+, its highest overall grade since 2002. Find the story here, the full report card here, and explore the data at chesapeakebayreportcard.org.
- <u>Additional announcements or opportunities:</u>
  - There is no CRC Roundtable for August.
  - CAST webinars: On summer break, webinars will resume in September.
  - Restore America's Estuaries 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit – October 6th-10th, 2024. Join Restore America's Estuaries in Washington, DC for the 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit, the premier event for coastal restoration policymakers, practitioners, and managers in the United States. Register here.

This meeting will be recorded for internal purposes. Current EPA policy does not allow for distribution of the recordings.

Closed captioning will be available for this meeting. To turn on the closed captioning, select the "cc" button in the bottom left corner of the screen. To show a live transcript of the meeting, go to the bottom right-hand corner of the screen and select "captions".

If you have any other accessibility concerns, please contact Sushanth Gupta (gupta.sushanth@epa.gov).

Acronyms

CAST: Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool
CBPO: Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium
DOEE: [DC] Department of Energy & Environment

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
GIT: Goal Implementation Team
HRPDC: Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
LUWG: Land Use Workgroup
MB: Management Board

QPM: [SRS] Quarterly Progress Meeting
RFP: Request for Proposal
SRS: Strategy Review System
WQGIT: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team