CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Meeting Agenda

Date:	Monday July 22, 2024
Time:	1:00 PM – 4:00 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-july-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**	Suzanne Trevena, EPA, WQGIT Chair
		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.	
	(20 min)	**Announcements & Verbal Updates**	
		• *WQGIT ~~Coordinator~~ Staffer Updates – Sushanth Gupta, CRC* • *Beyond 2025 reminder and update* • *Workgroup Updates (2 min or less, open to workgroup chairs or coordinators)*	**Materials:** Presentation

Milestones	1:20 (45 min)	<u>Planning ahead for our post-2025 approach: Milestones and Unaccounted Additional Loads</u>	Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO

This agenda item will cover two related topics.

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 introduce possible options to solicit feedback and discuss next steps with the WQGIT. The focus will be on options for the remaining progress years using Phase 6 (CAST-23) until the Phase 7 model is officially released in 2028 under the schedule approved by the partnership in late 2023. This would include progress year 2026, 2027 and 2028.

   This is the introduction of the topic and a recommendation/decision from the WQGIT would be sought during our August 26 meeting at the earliest. Any recommendation from the WQGIT would go to the Management Board and subsequently the PSC for a final decision. The timeline for a PSC decision is being explored and more information will known by the 7/22 WQGIT.

2. *Lee will share some tentative information on how unaccounted additional loads (UALs) and related concepts may be better conveyed on CBP sites (CAST, Chesapeake Progress). The WQGIT will revisit this topic again later following input and reaction from WQGIT members.*

We will distribute the presentation as early as possible, and we appreciate your patience and understanding that the information will be walked through during the meeting.

Informational presentation, with discussion and exchange of ideas desired. Next steps or action items TBD based on the conversation.

Priorities: policy and implementation	2:05 (25 min)	<u>Partner spotlight: District of Columbia</u> *As discussed at the April WQGIT meeting, WQGIT leadership wants to include sharing of lessons and successes as a recurring agenda item. Pennsylvania*	Alicia Ritzenthaler, DC DOEE

and Virginia went first at the May WQGIT Meeting. The approach for this agenda item may evolve based on feedback or discussion.

Each partner has 15 minutes to share up to three items in response to the prompt: "What are the stories, examples or lessons you are most proud of, or excited to share with your peers, with respect to Chesapeake Bay watershed and clean water work in recent years?" WQGIT leadership suggested some themes, and a focus on cases from 2010 onwards.

We want this to be conversational, but the intention is to let the presenter complete their planned content (10-15 minutes) and have ~10 minutes for discussion.

Materials are not required, but anything shared by the presenting partner will be posted on the calendar page.

Materials: *Slides or materials TBD*

Informational presentation, with discussion and exchange of ideas encouraged.

	2:30	10-minute Break	
Monitoring	2:40 (45 min)	River Input Monitoring Loads and Trends	Jimmy Webber, USGS

Jimmy will walk through the monitoring data for nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended-sediment loads, changes in loads, and trends, from the Chesapeake Bay River Input Monitoring (RIM) Network stations for 1985 through 2023. There will be time for questions and discussion with WQGIT participants.

Materials: Presentation

Informational presentation, with discussion and exchange of ideas encouraged.

	3:25 (10 min)	Land Use Strategy	KC Filippino, HRPDC, LUWG Chair

The Land Use Strategy document was referenced during the 5/13 Management Board QPM for the Healthy Watersheds Cohort. The WQGIT will want to discuss it and what, if any, steps may be needed following the MB discussion. KC will brief the WQGIT about the document.

Informational.

SRS	3:35	June WQGIT follow-up and SRS	WQGIT Leadership

The WQGIT Leadership Team will quickly brief the WQGIT on the draft materials developed with help from the SRS team. The July 18 Management Board meeting may impact this agenda item, but in light of the turnaround time and existing schedule the WQGIT Leadership is working under the path agreed to at our June meeting.

WQGIT 6/22/24 Decision: Based on a pulse check of Voting Members, WQGIT Leadership will return to the GIT in July with a draft consolidated work plan and information that would go into a summary. The WQGIT will discuss options for a potential one- or two-year SRS Update at that time.

Decision or Action request: TBD based on outcome of July 18 Management Board meeting.

3:55	Recap of Actions and Decisions	Sushanth Gupta, CRC
4:00	ADJOURN	

Written announcements or reminders

- <u>Announcements or opportunities</u>
  - NEW! 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).
  - NEW! 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.
  - Share alert! RFP Open Now until Thursday July 18th for the Capacity Building Grant Program. An initiative of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network managed by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Download the RFP here (links to RFP downloadable as .docx).
    - *Who can apply?* Requests are encouraged from <u>non-profit organizations, and tribal or local governments</u> who:
      - Provide services within the Chesapeake watershed in one or more of the following Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions: DE, DC, MD, NY, PA, VA, and WV.
        - Non-profits must also have:
          - >1 and < 50 staff. At least one staff member must be employed full-time (defined as >35 hours per week). If a paid staff member is not in place, the applicant may substitute a dedicated volunteer position in which the individual contributes at least 35 hours per week.
          - A water and/or natural resource-focused component within their mission
          - An active Board of Directors
      - For all eligibility requirements refer to the RFP.

- *How much can be awarded?* Requests are typically no higher than $30,000 for non-profits but may be higher (up to $150,000 if applying for the local government track) with justification for both non-profits and local governments.
- *How much is available in the program?* Approximately $800,000
- More information available on the CBT website here. Questions and support: Kacey Wetzel, Director of Outreach and Education Programs, kwetzel@cbtrust.org, (410) 974-2941 x 104
  - o **Notice of Funding Opportunity: Landscape characterization and monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (EPA-R3-CBP-24-01).**
    - Find more information at https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-your-region-information-specific-epa-region-3
    - Application deadline: July 19
  - o **CESR "Report in Brief".** This summarizes the CESR report in 12 visually engaging pages; available here.
- **Additional announcements or opportunities:**
  - o There is no **CRC Roundtable** for July.
  - o **CAST webinars:** On summer break, webinars will resume in September.
  - o **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. **Early bird registration is available until August 2nd, 2024.**

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