

Summary/overview of poll responses from WQGIT May/June poll

JUNE 23, 2025

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO COMPLETED THE POLL

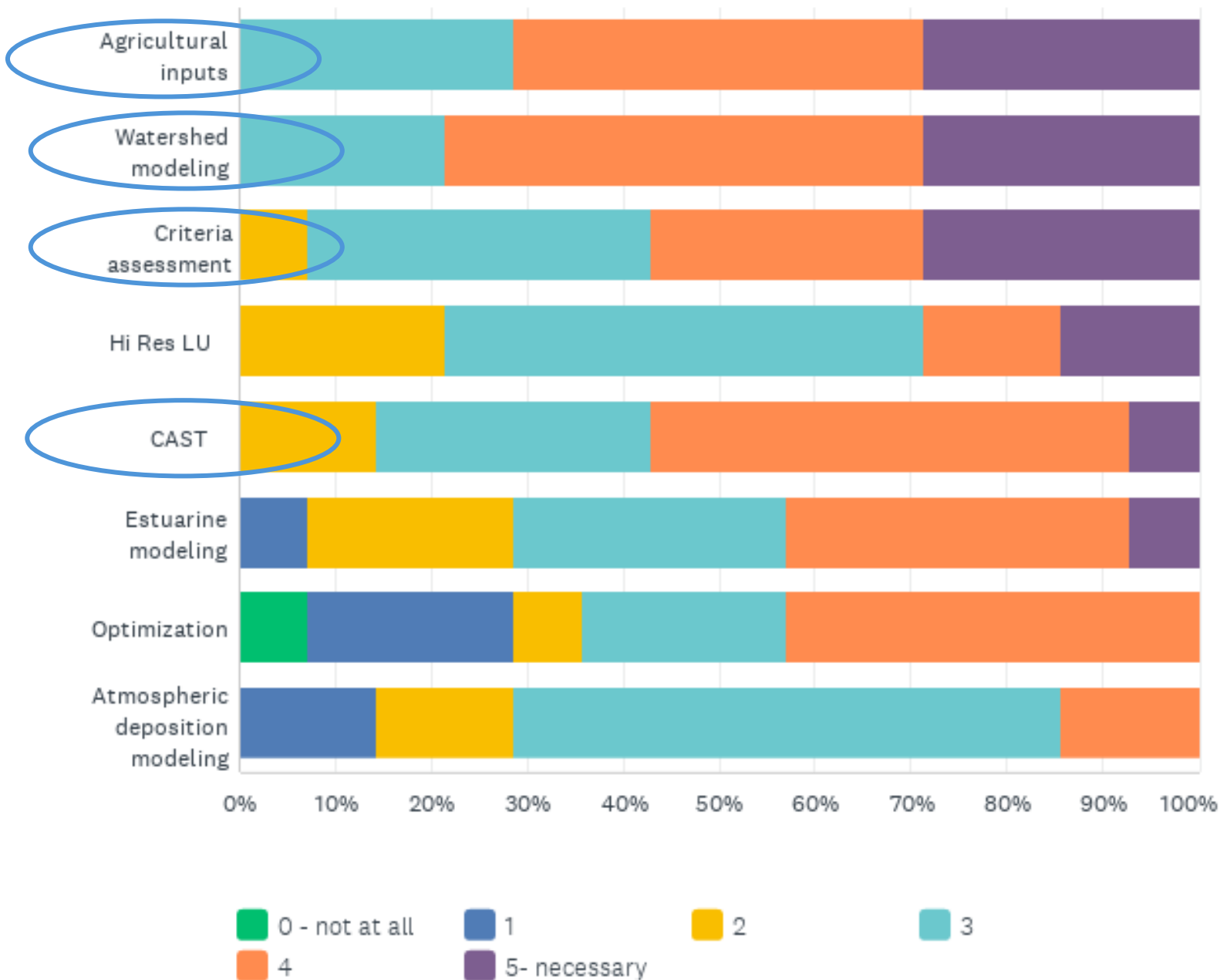
Responses

- 14 responses
 - 11 members (7 signatory and 4 at-large)
 - 2 non-voting reps (1 fed agency + 1 workgroup)
 - 1 other

Phase 7 topics question

- On a scale of 0 to 5, indicate which of these general Phase 7 model development topics you have the greatest interest in hearing more in-depth updates about over our summer months. A score of 0 indicates you think the WQGIT should not spend more than a negligible amount of meeting time, if any, on the topic and a score of 5 means you think it is absolutely essential that the WQGIT spends significant agenda time on the topic between now and the end of September. Please refer to the provided attachment for example sub-topics and links to additional information if desired.

Your sense of interest and urgency (0 to 5)



**Four options with
>50% responses as 4
or 5**

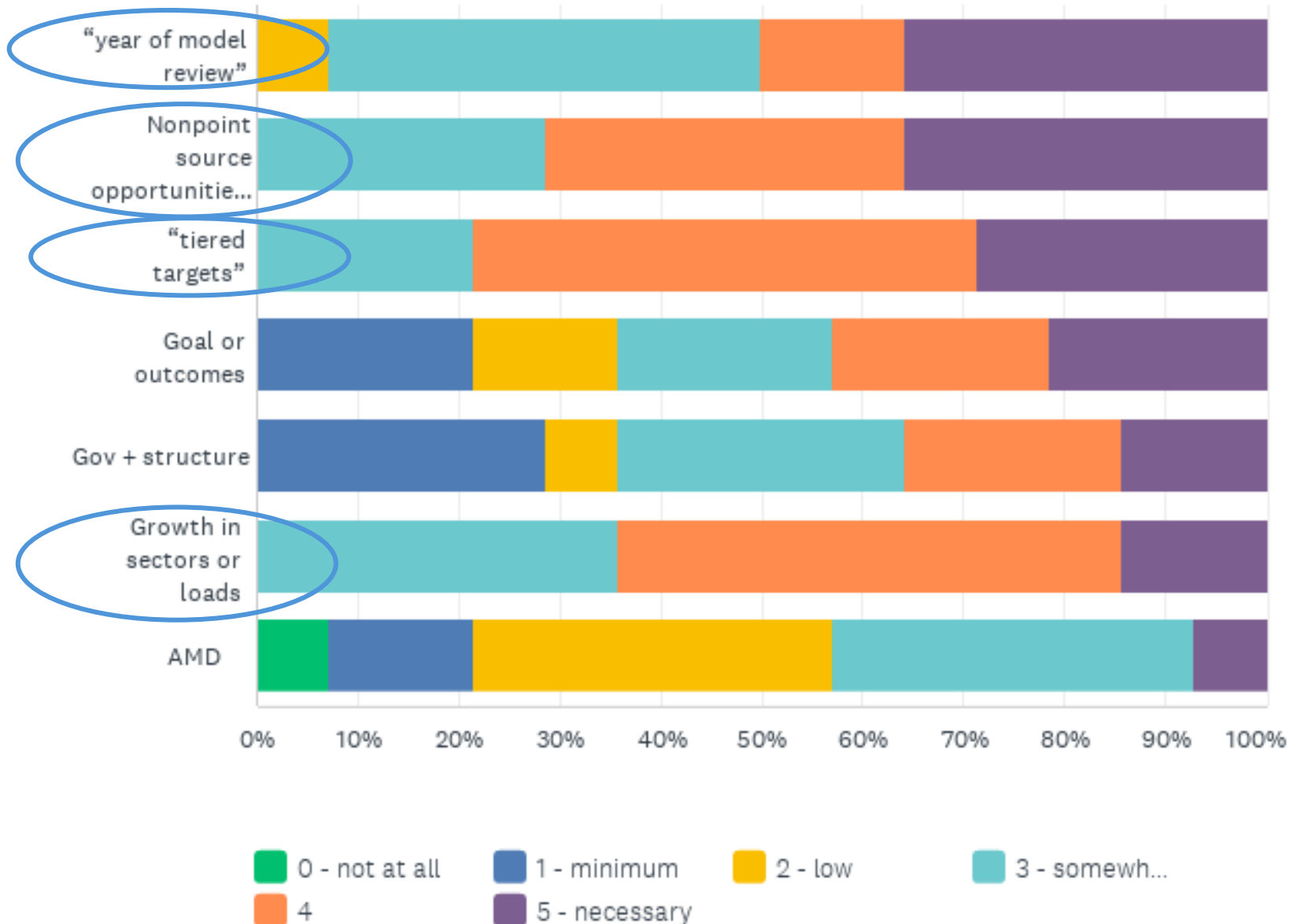
Rk	
1	Watershed modeling
2	Ag inputs
3	Criteria assessment
4	CAST

These are our priority topics

Other topics (question for non-model topics)

- On a scale of 0 to 5, indicate which of these miscellaneous possible topics you have the greatest interest in hearing more in-depth about over our summer months. Your interest in these topics would indicate a desire for engagement beyond a minimal announcement (< 5 minutes) or short briefing (< 25 minutes), but for extended discussion (likely greater than 30 minutes) and possible WQGIT action or decision down the road. A score of 0 indicates you think the WQGIT should not spend more than a negligible amount of meeting time, if any, on the topic and a score of 5 means you think it is absolutely essential that the WQGIT spends significant agenda time on the topic between now and the end of September.

Your sense of interest and urgency (0 to 5)



**Three options with
>60% responses as 4
or 5 and no response
below 3**

Rk	
1	"tiered targets"
2	Nonpoint source opportunities or challenges
3	Growth in sectors or loads
4	(50%) "year of model review"

**Less interest in Beyond 2025
topics or Acid Mine Drainage for
the coming months**

Reasoning for priorities

- Thinking of the topics in the previous two questions you scored as most urgent (as a 4 or 5, if any), are there particular sub-topics that drove your interest? If so, please list them. If none, please enter “NA”

Timeline may be impacted by staff retirements. AMT may be off track to meet timeline. For High Res Land Use, I am concerned about cutoffs of known BMPs due to land use inaccuracies, and the planned use of lower resolution data than what is available (30m instead of 1m). PA has restored many AMD miles but is not getting credit in the model for this, and monitoring is demonstrating pollution reductions in the West Branch Susquehanna River where AMD treatment is occurring. PA is also a leader in NPS BMP implementation as demonstrated by the Countywide Action Plan Program. Would also like to discuss tiered targets within the watershed as opposed to strictly the Bay.

Tiered targets - as a way to keep momentum Growth - model vs monitoring results that show growth Opportunities & Challenges - sharing programmatic & policy changes that resulted in increased implementation

How will the shift of focus to shallow waters from main Bay Deep Channel manifest in the setting of state-basin targets?

How to address the unaccounted additional loads in Ag sector lands and specifically Nonpoint Source pollution.

Role of USDA agencies and programs in goal attainment (NPS). Opportunities for increasing engagement of private landowners and land managers.

model review just because of timeframe (2026 is coming fast), Need optimization ASAP, Agriculture is a major source NPS pollution in WV's Bay Counties

Tiered targets has to be discussed to start understanding how this may lead to planning targets. We haven't even started figuring out how this will work. Curious what is meant by growth in sectors, based on what? It should be compared with predictions from the land use change model, were they right? What assumptions need changed? Assuming NPS opportunities/challenges is very open-ended, it should involve innovative practices and how pilot projects or practices can be credited outside of the EP framework and the current accounting systems we have. Optimization is listed twice on this agenda, where does this add value? I have yet to find this topic helpful at the scale of the Bay watershed, and the findings from the team working on this haven't been practical.

non -point source inputs controls and how to fund and credit efforts to mitigate them (thinking about Pay for performance)

Understanding timelines for P7 model development, when we plan to develop a new version of CAST (or replacement tool for it), and how those things will be measured are essential to the ongoing/current B25 work.

Additional questions and responses

For reference or questions – not presented

Anything major missing from the list?

Legacy Sediment removal and floodplain restoration projects are currently not being modeled accurately. These projects remove significant pollution as well as assimilate high volume flows while maintaining their functionality during extreme weather. Would also like to discuss incremental improvement by including watershed monitoring in relation to local watershed restoration.

There were numerous watershed model areas of interest for updates previously identified by the WQGIT that were supposed to be explored for inclusion in P7. What is the status of those items? Which CBP groups considered them and what were their recommendations? Are there any that are not being included in the P7 updates?

Economic assessment of Bay efforts.

Simple, low cost substitution for the UNM BMP to refute the assumption that all turf is fertilized like residential turf.

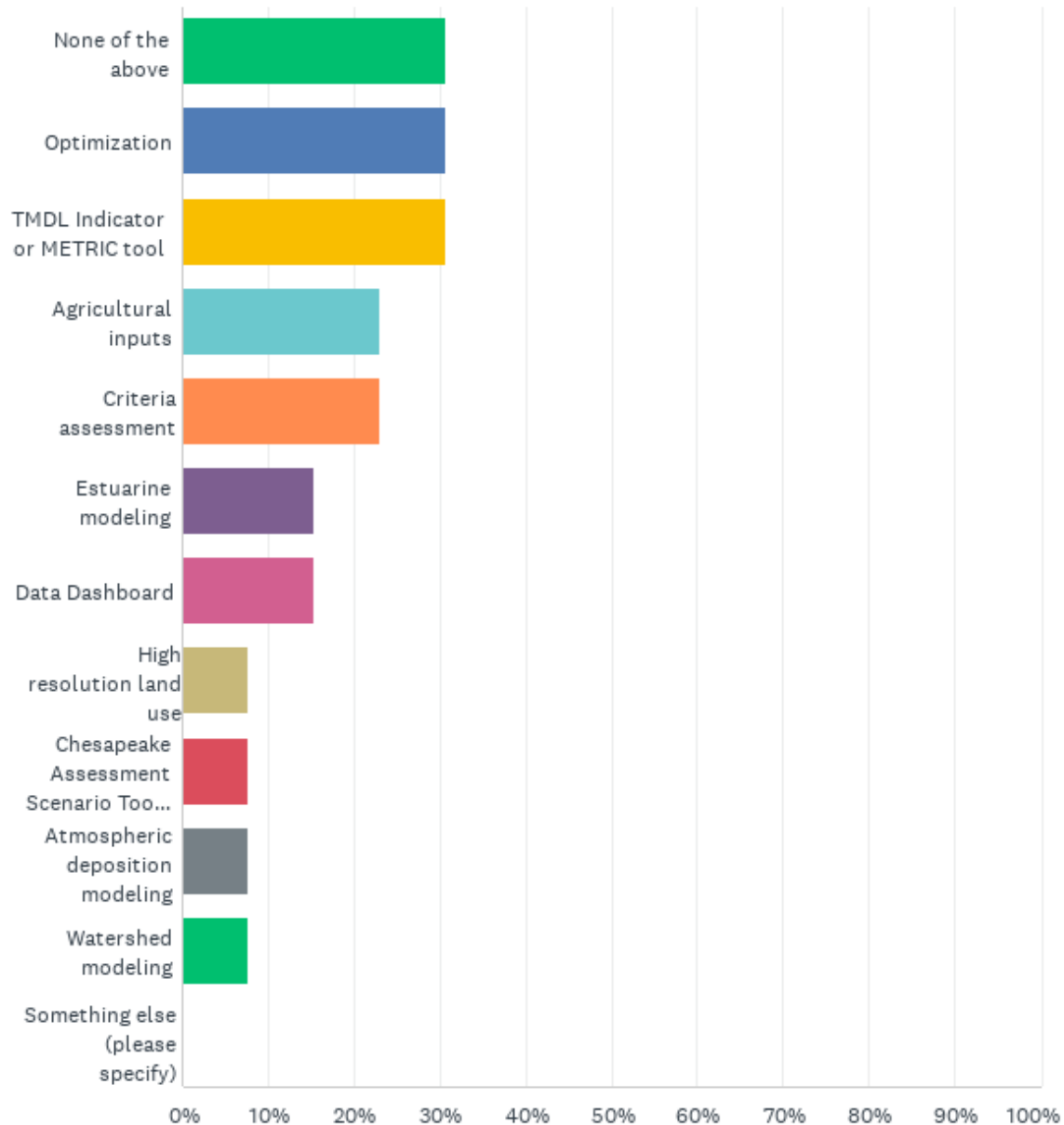
I think an honest conversation should be had about the model schedule, lack of resources, and how that impacts timing and quality. We hear that everything is still on track but there has to be some concessions being made somewhere with loss of staff.

Critical year hydrology re-evaluation

What is the “phase 4 WIP” process going to look like? and can we evolve it to meet emerging concerns about non-point source implementation?

Topics for refresher?

- Are there topics you need a refresher on, or would like to be directed to existing resources about? Select one or more below. To distinguish from previous questions, we want to understand if there is something you feel a "refresher" or materials that would help for background or understanding moving forward.



“None of the above” tied with other two top responses at 4 out of 14

Our take-away: Relatively low interest so we won’t pursue refresher/101 opportunities, but we can help gather resources or information to share if requested

Particular sub-topics or tasks of interest

- Please describe any particular sub-topics or specific interests you have related to the previous question. (For example, if you said "CAST" or "watershed modeling" then what specifically do you want more background about?)

Just want to make sure AMT and WQGIT are on same page.

Estuarine modeling - how to account for climate change impacts, focused on temperature and lack of cold water turnover

Current agriculture loads, assumptions, and long-term management goals

Is the criteria assessment changing, if so how? What do we need to know about the data dashboard? Is more being added to it? Will there be anything relevant to parts of the watershed below the RIM stations for which the METRIC tool doesn't cover?

tiered targets ; what is the process? what are we prioritizing? how is it relevant to upper portions of the watershed?