

Chesapeake Bay Program's
Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)
Meeting Minutes
February 6th, 2024
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
[Meeting Materials](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The WWTWG confirmed their 2024 - 2025 at-large membership via poll.

Action: Members should contact Gary Shenk (ghsenk@chesapeakebay.net) and/or Joseph Delasantro (jdelesantro@chesapeakebay.net) with any questions about the watershed model, model documentation, or technical questions about their presentations.

Action: Jamie Mitchell and Justin Carl (Co-Chairs) will consolidate the feedback from today's meeting and develop a path forward for the group on addressing these topics.

Minutes

10:00 **Introduction and Announcements (15 min)** – Jamie Mitchell, HRSD, and Justin Carl, AlexRenew.

- Brief introductions from the leadership/coordination team.
 - Co-Chairs: Jamie Mitchell, HRSD, and Justin Carl, AlexRenew
 - Staffer: Jackie Pickford, CRC
 - [Interim] Coordinator: Jeremy Hanson, CRC
- Brief introductions from the governance body (*note: we will focus on signatory members only, since at-large members will introduce themselves later in the meeting*).
 - Please briefly introduce yourself and your organization, and if you've had previous participation in the WWTWG. We'd love to hear about how this group can better inform WWT in your jurisdiction and/or any current initiatives your organization is working on.
- Non-governance members: Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box.

10:15 **Membership Appointment (10 min)** – Jamie Mitchell, HRSD, and Justin Carl, AlexRenew.

The co-chairs reviewed the newly appointed at-large members for the upcoming terms:

2024 - 2025 (two-year term)	2024 (one-year term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Moussa Wone, DC Water (alternate: Jun Fang)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Robert Buglass, WSSC Water● Ivy Mara Ozmon, HRPDC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Cronin, Brown & Caldwell (alternate: Clifton Bell) • James Grandstaff, Henrico Water Reclamation Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Malmgren, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority
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10:25 **Review of CBP Modeling Tools (20 min)** – Gary Shenk, USGS-CBPO.

Gary gave an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program’s modeling tools and provided some background about the role the partnership groups play in their development and use.

Discussion

Laura Bendernagel (in chat): Is there a reason some of the models straddle the black boundary in the infographic?

Gary Shenk: Yes, everything within the black lines is used for TMDL purposes. Models that straddle the black line are also used for purposes outside of the TMDL.

10:45 **Modeling Workgroup Items for WWTWG Consideration (55 min)** – Gary Shenk, USGS-CBPO, and Joseph Delesantro, ORISE Fellow-CBPO.

Gary and Joseph briefly reviewed the following Modeling Workgroup (MWG) topics that pertain to the scope of the WWTWG:

- Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)
- Boat Discharges
- Exfiltration
- Inclusion of loads from drinking water plants -
- General check and approval of WWTP loads and locations
- SSOs and Bypass

Discussion

Moussa Wone: Can we see what assumptions were made for the models?

Gary Shenk: Yes, they are in the model documentation.

Jackie Pickford (in chat): Phase 6 CAST model documentation is here:

<https://cast.chesapeakebay.net/Documentation/ModelDocumentation>, but Gary can help you find something more specific if needed. **Jamie Mitchell:** Will we get a charge to address these topics?

Gary Shenk: Not exactly a charge, but it will be up to you guys how you want to address these topics.

Lew Linker: The WWTWG will be the drivers here. We, from the Modeling Workgroup, are interested in your input on these issues and decision points.

Jackie Pickford: A reminder from a process perspective - we aim for full consensus from our membership on any decision points. Usually, someone will bring forth a proposal or suggestion

for how to address a topic. Then we will ask the subject matter experts (in this case, everyone in the WWTWG) for their input, alter the proposal as needed, and then ask the group for approval.

Dave Montali: I suggest starting with the boat discharge BMP expert panel because it will likely be the easiest to address. The ones that will be the most time consuming and difficult to address will probably be the SSOs/bypass and exfiltration. The CSO issue - I think maybe that's somewhere in the middle since we already have a process.

Lew Linker: The CSOs were a Tetra Tech product. Was the idea to engage another consultant to take advantage of the new data and the concerns you pointed out, Gary?

Gary Shenk: I didn't have a specific vision. If we could find the CBP staff to do it that would be great, but if we are busy then we can look into contract support. I think the WWTWG could help guide this effort and potentially point to sources of CSO data that could be used.

Justin Carl: What data are you referencing?

Gary Shenk: I've heard that there is new CSO data from jurisdictions that we didn't previously have, such as volume of water.

Dave Montali: Some of the bigger CSO systems may have data but the problem is that when you try to look at what's going on with CSO's, it's so facility-specific. Not everywhere in the watershed will have overflow volume data. We have a current best estimate, but not sure if we can do it better.

Grace LeRose (in chat): Richmond is collecting CSO data from meters we installed in 2017.

Lew Linker: Are we tracking other things like CSO prevention?

Justin Carl: In VA, we put together a combined sewer collection system report every March that's publicly available that we submit to VADEQ. That will give you a better idea of what loads look like based on current data and implementation progress.

Zach Streckler: For PA, we have an annual report similar to VA that tracks the status of LTCP and planned improvements, where they are, construction, monitoring, etc. As far as flows & loads, we have undertaken data clean up efforts to make sure all outfall points and their current status are accurate, but the actual load values are not in an easily accessible format. Hopefully we will be improving that into the future.

Grace LeRose (in chat): We also updated our CSO model.

Moussa Wone: For DC, on the Anacostia side, all the facilities are in operation as of September. In 2024, we will start monitoring. The Potomac side contract will be mobilized very soon.

Dave Montali: I can be a liaison for WV to get whatever information is necessary, but the CSO issue is mild in our state. We determined our baseload through a Tetra Tech process and report about an 85% reduction over the past few years based on the requirements of the national program of less than 6 overflows per year. That remains pretty constant.

Jun Fang: Climate change will have an impact on our facilities. Rain intensity also impacts it a lot.

Dave Montali: Yes, our Phase 6 climate change scenario had a CSO component.

Justin Carl: Jamie and I want to put together the goals and vision of this group at a future meeting. This is what I've heard so far:

- not sure we have CSOs correctly quantified in the model.
- SSOs are not captured (including exfiltration)
- boat discharge BMP
- taking credit for water treatment withdrawals.

Lew Linker: We have a good record of water treatment withdrawals and NPDES flows and loads, but there are situations like Della Clara Water Treatment Plant in DC where instead of taking their fast sand filter backflow material to land treatment once it went through settling ponds, it

was instead discharged in the Potomac River. It was a very noticeable discharge. That is the type of load we are referring to.

Dave Montali: My understanding is that it's not an issue of needing to count every industrial waste discharge. If there are treatment facilities out there that are allowed to put solids back into the water after they separate them, that could be a significant industrial discharge that we don't currently have captured. And if no facilities currently do that, then it becomes a question of if there were facilities that used to do this back to 1985 and if we should put that into our system.

Jamie Mitchell: Maybe our regulatory partners can go back to their jurisdictions to see how prevalent this is and if it's still an existing practice. That might inform how much we need to do to quantify these loads.

James Grandstaff: Those priorities make sense to me. Over the past 15 years, there has been a lot of good data on CSO discharges for larger facilities.

Mohsin Siddique (in chat): Any thoughts on tracking new technologies for nutrient reduction?

Jamie Mitchell: Yes, I think there will be opportunities to share some of the new technologies and approaches some of us are using for enhanced nutrient removal.

Action: Contact Gary Shenk (ghsenk@chesapeakebay.net) or Joseph Delasantro (jdelesantro@chesapeakebay.net) with any questions about the watershed model, model documentation, or technical questions about their presentations.

11:40 **Discussion on Workgroup Outlook and Vision (20 min)** – All.

After hearing from the CBPO modeling team, the WWTWG offered feedback about what they think the WG's priorities and direction should be as we reestablish the group (see discussion notes above). Justin and Jamie agreed to consolidate the main discussion points after the call.

Action: Jamie Mitchell and Justin Carl (Co-Chairs) will consolidate the feedback from today's meeting and develop a path forward for the group on addressing these topics.

12:00 **Adjourn Meeting**

Participants

Jackie Pickford, CRC
Justin Carl, Alex Renew
Jamie Mitchell, HRSD
Jeremy Hanson, CRC
Gary Shenk, USGS-CBPO
Joseph Delesantro, ORISE Fellow-CBPO
Pickford Jackie
James Grandstaff, Henrico Water Reclamation Facility
Sushanth Gupta, CRC
Mohsin Siddique, DC Water
Ivy Ozmon, HRPDC
Dave Montali, WV/Tetra Tech
Lisa Reynolds

Moussa Wone, DC Water
Cassandra Davis, NYS DEC
Clifton Bell, Brown & Caldwell
Jeremy Hanson, CRC
Dylan Burgevin, MDE
Bob Buglass, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Ed Cronin, Brown & Caldwell
Jeff Sweeney, EPA-CBPO
Auston Smith, EPA-CBPO
Megan Thyne, EPA-CBPO
Jun Fang, DC Water
Shannon McKenrick, MDE
George Mwangi, DNREC

Melissa Kret, VDH
Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting
Erica Duncan (DEQ)
Andrew Malmgren, Lancaster Area Sewer
Authority
Zachary Steckler - PA DEP
Ata Adeel
Hales
Laura Bendernagel (benderlv)
Jessica Rigelman, J7 Consulting
Grace LeRose, City of Richmond VA

Sarah Ryan- PA DEP
Lew Linker, EPA-CBPO
Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG
Doug Austin, EPA
John Rebar Jr
Joseph - VA DEQ
Kristi Cannon
Zach Steckler - PA DEP
Isabella Bertani, CBPO
Jonathan Leiman, MDE

Acronym List

CBP – Chesapeake Bay Program
CBPO – Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CSO – Combined Sewer Overflows
HRSD – Hampton Roads Sanitation District
ORISE – Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
MWG – Modeling Workgroup
SSOs - Sanitary Sewer Overflows
USGS – United States Geological Survey
VADEQ - Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant(s)
WWTWG – Wastewater Treatment Workgroup
WQGIT – Water Quality Goal Implementation Team