Chesapeake Bay Program
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Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)

Thursday, September 25th, 2025
10:00 - 11:30 AM
Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.

Purpose: This is the monthly meeting of the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup. Members will hear updates from the CSO Small Group, review and approve the CSS Data Layer for Phase 7, and hear options for improvements to the Sewer/Septic Model for Phase 7.

Minutes

I. **Introduction and Announcements**
   Leads: Jamie Heisig-Mitchell and Justin Carl, WWTWG Co-Chairs
   Jamie welcomed workgroup members and gave an overview of the meeting's agenda.

   Decisions:
   1. The WWTWG approved the July Meeting Minutes.

II. **Recap of Previous Decisions**
   Lead: Petra Baldwin, WWTWG Staffer
   Petra updated members on the decisions finalized via email since the July WWTWG meeting, including approval of the Sanitary Sewer Exfiltration method, the Sewer Service Area, the Sewer/Septic Model and the decisions to table SSO Loads and the Boat Pump-out BMP. Petra highlighted where presentations, minutes, and other information on these decisions can be found on chesapeakebay.net and in the latest Decision Planner posted on the Phase 7 Project Page.

III. **CSO Small Group Update**
   Lead: Ed Cronin, Brown & Caldwell and Lew Linker, EPA
   Ed shared updates from the CSO Small Group's two meetings with the CBPO Modeling and Land Data Teams since the July WWTWG meeting. Ed highlighted that the methods for CSO loads in the model will be similar to Phase 6, with the CSO Small Group's recent work functioning more like an audit. Ed, Lew, and other workgroup members discussed things noted in this audit and potential work for a future phase of the model including a closer look at the volumes going to treatment plants from store/treat.

   Discussion:
   - Lew shared that the CSO Small Group's work was very helpful to the Modeling Team to better differentiate areas where CSS has become separated or become store/treat. He also noted improved documentation, which will be able to be reviewed by the WWTWG during the Year of Review.

- Lew described a table put together by the modeling to note different CSSs and their status as separated, store/treat, or neither. For those where separation occurred, the table also notes when the change occurred and what acres were returned to urban non-point source.
- Joseph Delesantro, CBP Modeling Team noted helpful figures made by Gopal Bhatt, CBP Modeling Team tracking the CSO loads for each facility across time. These will likely be added as an appendix to the Phase 7 documentation.
- Dave Montali, Tetra Tech noted that the CSS for Martinsburg, WV has primarily done store/treat instead of separation. Dave also mentioned the boundary for the CSS has always been the whole city, which was never correct, so WV is working to get an update for the data layer for the model. They are still working on how to have it applied historically back to 1985. Joseph asked some questions, clarifying that the model works by having polygons and separation over time occurs as a percent reduction applied uniformly across that polygon and the overlapping model units.
- George Onyullo, DOEE noted that in DC there was also some of the CSS not properly represented in the model and they are working to correct that.

IV. **CSS Area Data Layer Review**
Lead: Rebecca Ransom, USGS
Rebecca gave an overview of the CSS Data Layer developed for Phase 7 with help from state contacts and the CSO Small Group's review. She presented the number of communities and area of active and former CSS in each state, then went through maps of each states' CSS communities noting any changes since the previous version. Rebecca also noted Gopal Bhatt's data from the table mentioned previously was added to the spatial layer for more context. Following questions and discussion, the group was asked to approve the data layer as presented in the map viewer for preliminary use in the Phase 7 model development. All members present voted to approve it, which will be finalized after soliciting votes from absent members.

Decisions:
1. The WWTWG tentatively approved the preliminary CSS Data Layer for use in Phase 7 model development (pending votes from absent members).

Actions:
1. Petra will reach out to workgroup members absent today for their vote on the preliminary CSS Data Layer to finalize the approval.
2. Please let Petra (baldwin.petra@epa.gov) and Rebecca (rrandom@usgs.gov) know if you expect to submit updated CSS data for inclusion in a second-round update of the CSS Data Layer for Phase 7. Any data must be received by January 23rd, 2026 in order to be used in calibrating the Phase 7 watershed model. If no new data is received, the layer approved today will be used.

Discussion:
- Dave Montali noted the Moorefield, WV boundary will also need to be adjusted similar to Martinsburg, WV.
- Dave also noted that Piedmont, WV is incorporated into the Westernport, MD service area. It was set up correctly in the model, though, so it did not need to be separated into another polygon, but it should be added to WV's permit count and area total.
  - Joseph Delesantro confirmed it was correctly allocated in the model, so the area for the data layer doesn't matter for that.
- Zach Steckler, PA DEP noted that Harrisburg's boundary may not actually include Steelton. Lancaster's boundary may also be incorrect in places.

o Rebecca responded the areas were pulled from what Pennsylvania has in their system. Zach responded that while it could be made more accurate, it would require a lot of work to find updated data so is likely not worth incorporating for this version.

- There was discussion and clarification that this data layer as presented currently is for use as a preliminary/default layer for the Modeling Team to use in the development of the Phase 7 model. New data and adjustments could be incorporated if they are received by January 23rd, 2026. If no new data is received by then, the boundaries approved today will be utilized for the calibration of the model.

V. Sewer/Septic Model Updates
Lead: Jackie Pickford, USGS
Jackie reminded the workgroup of the sewer/septic method for Phase 7 as approved in the July meeting. She shared some adjustments that could be made to improve on the method based on feedback from members. The two major updates involve 1) Incorporation of sewer data provided by some jurisdictions that missed the original submission deadline and adjustments to fix overestimates of septic systems and 2) Incorporation of a 1990, 2000, & 2010 sewer service area to better account for changes in sewered area over time. Jackie then shared the timeline for making these updates, which if incorporated would not affect the overall Phase 7 timeline.

Actions:
1. With no opposition form the workgroup, Jackie will pursue making these adjustments to the sewer/septic model and share an update at a future WWTWG meeting. The WWTWG will be asked to review these updates to accept them or revert to the methods approved in July.
2. Jackie is incorporating sewer data from jurisdictions that missed the initial deadline. If you have any other data from counties for last minute additions, please send it to Jackie (jpickford@chesapeakebay.net) by Wednesday, October 15th, if possible.

Discussion:
- Dave Montali gave support for the proposed changes, recognizing it was an appropriate response to some of the problems identified previously.
- Anne Coates, TJSWCD asked whether there was any data breaking down the types of septic, including whether straight pipes (i.e. no septic system) are being used.
  o Jackie responded that the model only shows presence or absence of a septic system.
  o Dave and Joseph added that straight pipes are not specifically accounted for in the model. If it is on-site then it is assumed to have a septic system.

VI. Recap of Actions and Decisions
Lead: Petra Baldwin, WWTWG Staffer

VII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

Attendees:
- Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, HRSD (WWTWG Co-Chair)
- Justin Carl, AlexRenew (WWTWG Co-Chair)
- Petra Baldwin (WWTWG Staffer)
- Dave Montali, Tetra Tech
- Ed Cronin, Brown & Caldwell
- Jackie Pickford, USGS
- Jun Fang, DC Water

- Peter Claggett, USGS
- Dylan Burgevin, MDE
- George Mwangi, DNREC
- Bel Martinez da Matta, MDE
- Marel King, CBC
- George Onyullo, DC DOEE
- Sushanth Gupta, MWCOG

- Zach Steckler, PA DEP
- Rebecca Ransom, USGS
- Dana Hales, EPA R3
- Joseph Delesantro, EPA ORISE/CBPO
- Helen Smith, Devereux Consulting/CBPO
- Megan Thynge, EPA
- Lew Linker, EPA

- Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG
- Joseph Bryan, VADEQ
- Anne Coates, TJSWCD
- Lisa Hyatt, TJSWCD
- Melissa Kret, VDH
- Bob Buglass, WSSC
- Clean Air Action Group, Annapolis