

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO SUNSET WATERSHED TECHNICAL WORKGROUP

Support for Proposal

- WTWG has become redundant because its decisions are reviewed at the source sector level for the WQGIT, which then has the power to overrule WG decisions.
- In the 2003 allocations the WTWG did projections, etc. and now it is done by EPA with external review.
- There are many more groups dealing with everything that was dealt with by the WTWG previously, such as the NEIEN and WQGIT workgroups.
- No proposals have been made for a qualified chair for the WTWG.

Response to Concerns

Review of BMPs Involving Multiple Subject Areas

Concern: The WQGIT has not been fulfilling the responsibilities of the former NSC so the WTWG is taking on the BMP responsibilities. Without the WTWG there won't be a forum for other workgroups to bring BMP issues before, particularly those overlapping multiple subject areas.

Response: The BMP protocol would be edited to address how BMPs involving multiple subject areas should be handled. The expert panel or an ad hoc group could address the considerations of multiple source sectors.

Model Review

Concern: The Watershed Technical Workgroup filled a role as one of the reviewing bodies of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model and Scenario Builder decision support tools. Need to ensure that jurisdiction partners continue to have opportunities and forums through which they can review these tools.

Response: Many members of the WTWG are members of other WQGIT workgroups that review the decision support tool inputs and outputs. WTWG members are invited to join any workgroups that they do not currently participate on. Further, WQGIT carefully reviews these decision support tools despite their high management level. In addition, the Modeling Workgroup continues to provide an opportunity for state, federal, and university partners to review the full suite of Chesapeake Bay Program decision support tools. Finally, EPA has had webinars reaching out to many people in the agricultural and urban communities who have people hired to review the model, and we have had to answer many questions as a result of those.