

## **BASIN WQ REPORT OUTLINE**

### **SECTIONS**

#### **A. Acknowledgments** *(Lea and Peter)*

#### **B. Goals of the BASIN Process/Report** *(Lea)*

1. Short-term solutions; re-designing the network to meet funding shortfalls
2. Identify and evaluate alternative operational models for conducting the monitoring in each of the networks
3. Identify and evaluate alternative business models for conducting the monitoring in each of the networks
  - i. Alternative funding models
4. Recommend alternative approaches to WQ monitoring within the Chesapeake Bay Program WQ monitoring networks, reflective of:
  - i. Existing funding restraints
  - ii. Projections out to 2025
  - iii. CB Partnership needs

#### **C. Historical Overview of the Monitoring Program** *(Peter)*

1. One page summary of current CBP monitoring operational structure and business model
2. Program reviews and changes (How did we get here?)
  - i. End of toxics monitoring support (1999)
  - ii. Zooplankton dropped for Shallow water monitoring (2003)
  - iii. Nutrient limitation (9 yrs I think)
  - iv. MOU for implementing the watershed monitoring network (2004)
  - v. MRAT (2009)
  - vi. Interim program updates and priority decisions with new funding (2010, 2011)
  - vii. Gap funding decisions with directions on cost cutting priorities (2012)
3. BASIN process: Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (overview/need for this process)

#### **D. BASIN Timeline (actual timeline until now and proposed timeline for next steps)** *(Lea)*

#### **E. Stage I. Monitoring Review: Sustaining the Monitoring networks under a Federal funding gap in program support. June – November 2013 Summary.** *(One page on the options and results of the Tidal and Nontidal short-term options for gap filling. – Lea and Peter)*

**F. Stage II. Sustaining and Building CBP Water Quality Monitoring Networks: Monitoring Strategy, Business and Operations Models to Further Leverage Existing CBP Partnership Resources: Proposed September 2013- February 2015.**

The CBP-STAR leadership team held a meeting on August 22, 2013, 9am – 12pm outlining a Stage II approach toward addressing long term sustainability of the water quality monitoring program to meet CBP priorities under foreseeable future fiscal constraints. **The Stage II approach consists of three components (sections 1-3, underlined below).** (BASIN Panel discussions – Shared insights across water quality monitoring programs across the globe, STAC Recommendations, Tidal and Nontidal Workgroup Recommendations)

**1. Assessment of a sustainable business model to support Chesapeake Bay and basin monitoring programs, with cost projections through 2025**

- Estimate the full costs of the monitoring network (breaking them into individual components) out through 2025
- Project available funding through 2025 under several scenarios
- Evaluate different models and mechanisms for funding the continued operation of the Partnership's monitoring networks

**2. Assess the primary products that the monitoring program is expected to deliver to its customers**

- i. Evaluate monitoring required to assess standards
- ii. Evaluate monitoring and interpretive products required to assess progress
- iii. Evaluate how this information is delivered to the Partnership

**3. Alternative Approaches to Monitoring; re-designing the network to meet funding shortfalls and meet CBPO priorities.**

- Identify and evaluate alternative operational models for conducting the monitoring in each of the networks
- Identify and evaluate alternative business models for conducting the monitoring in each of the networks
- Develop optimal monitoring networks, reflective of existing funding restraints, which meet Partnership needs
- The effectiveness of this review process to provide a strong implementation plan that will give a stable funding foundation to sustaining the work of the Bay and watershed monitoring networks will require a 14 month timeline. An additional 4 months will be required for implementation prior to the FY15/16 grant applications deadline
- This means we need to ask the partnership to operate monitoring networks in FY2014 under the same projected federal funding levels available in FY2013.
- Understanding the generosity of the partnership to largely fill the 945K 2013 Federal funding gap, we would be asking the community for an additional year of cooperative support in FY2014 under the existing business and operational models for sustaining the networks.

**G. Stage III. Expanded Monitoring in Support of the New Chesapeake Bay Agreement.  
Timeline TBD.**

- Water Quality Outcomes of the New Bay Agreement (2014)

**H. Current CBP Tidal and Nontidal Stations, Operational Structure, and Funding  
Structure (*Lea*)**

**I. Potential Funding Strategies with Cost Scenarios**

- Scenarios for monitoring to support decisions through 2025. Roadmap of decision options. (Use current to explain where changes would occur)
  - Steady funding
  - Reduced funding
  - Additional funding

**J. Resources**

**FIGURES**

- A. Map of Case Studies
- B. Demographics of Case Studies (population, size of water body, # of partners/jurisdictions, # of Indicators, cost of program, years of monitoring...)

**TABLES**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Questionnaire for the Panelists
- B. Matrix of Panelist's Responses
- C. Overview of BASIN paper for the Management Board