



Non-Tidal Network Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Webinar*: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/825041917>

Conference Line: +1 (872) 240-3212 Access Code: 825-041-917

Password: ##meetingPassword

Meeting Materials:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/non_tidal_network_february_2021_meeting

*If you are joining by webinar, please open the webinar first, then dial in.

AGENDA

1:00 Welcome, Introductions & Announcements – Peter Tango (USGS@CBPO)

1:10 Big picture of Monitoring Budget - Where do we have uncertainty: Partner support.

In the last NTN meeting, we acknowledged the need to evaluate the make-up of station support across the NTN. Peter will provide an introductory slide that Joel B helped design. The overall budget picture is being presented as part of a short monitoring funding presentation by EPA to the Principal Staff Committee in March. To understand vulnerability of stations to loss in helping us manage the network, we want to highlight the knowns and build out an accounting for the lesser knowns about our station support portfolio.

ACTION: Community review and contributions needed on the funding support of flow gage and water quality routine and storm monitoring for each of 123 stations in the NTN.

1:40 Prioritizing stations for pruning decisions: Weighting criteria.

In January we touched on a few past criteria used in building out the network back in 2011-12 and from challenges in recent years creating network reductions. A list was emailed out summarizing some of the weighting criteria that have been used. We would like to use this time to collectively discuss the criteria list, identify any other criteria folks would like to include in weighting decisions on network adjustments (growth or pruning) recognizing we are looking at a period where pruning will be a critical strategy to adjusting our network to accommodate a flat funding set of resources at best in the upcoming FY based on projections at this time from EPA and USGS (i.e., no commitments to new monitoring funding at this time).

ACTION: Input on additional weighting criteria to support prioritization ranking of stations.

ACTION: Begin discussion on the process of scoring and summarizing rankings to arrive at a prioritization of NTN sites for retention in the network.

2:10 Timeline on a strategy to make network adjustments.

Critical times for making changes in existing scopes center around the 2-3 months before the beginning of State FYs (State FY of July 1) and Federal FY (October 1). Conococheague Creek is the most imminent station loss to the network (March 2020). USGS backfilled for 2 years with temporary funding support after MD could not support monitoring at the station. Many paths were pursued but no new support was identified. Flat funding of the monitoring program on the horizon in the face of rising costs in grants and IAGs (e.g., overhead, salary, supplies, travel, etc.) will continue to create annual pruning by default if we do not plan strategically to compensate and prepare for network pruning while also considering funding for analysis needs.

ACTION: Let's initiate the discussion of what should be put in place with a 3-5 year vision for a flat funding scenario we have been presented with.

2:30 Adjourn

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1 PM – 2:30 PM