Wastewater Supplemental Indicators

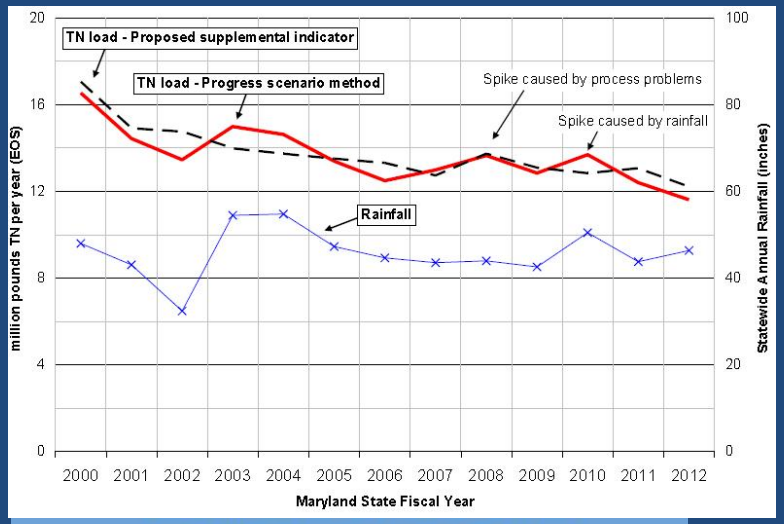
Water Quality GIT Discussion

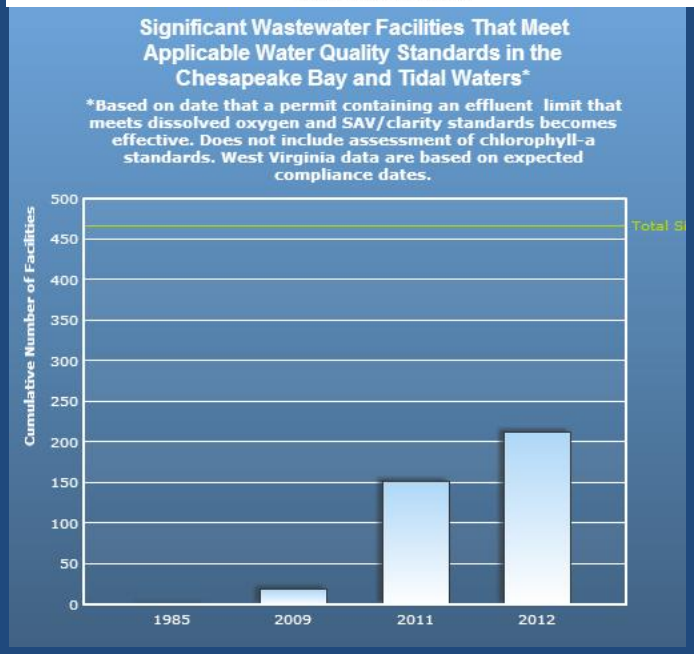
January 2014

Presented by Nita Sylvester, EPA CBPO
Chair of STAR's Indicators Workgroup

Purpose of Discussion

- Develop a WQGIT recommendation to the MB
  - regarding how a new "Partnership-recognized" supplemental wastewater indicator will be reported and
  - who will be responsible for maintaining the indicator.
- Additionally, requesting a WQGIT recommendation to the MB regarding the current supplemental wastewater indicator.





Background

CBP Indicators:

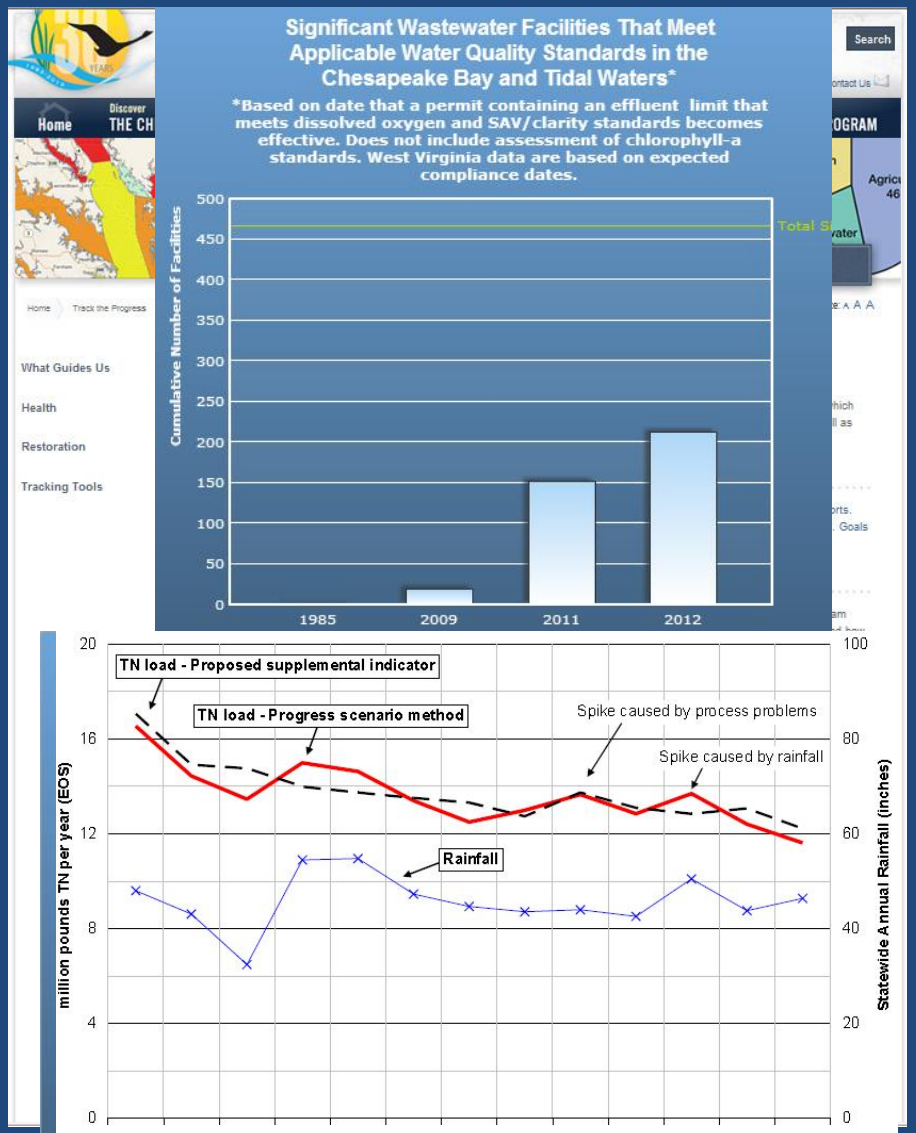
- Approved by MB
- Available from “Track Our Progress” section of www.ChesapeakeBay.net

Current CBP Wastewater Indicator:

- Facilities w/ permit limits meeting WQS
- Supplemental to Reducing Pollution indicators

New WW Indicator:

- Effects of wastewater management actions
- WWTWG accepted for use by MD
- No other jurisdiction plans to use



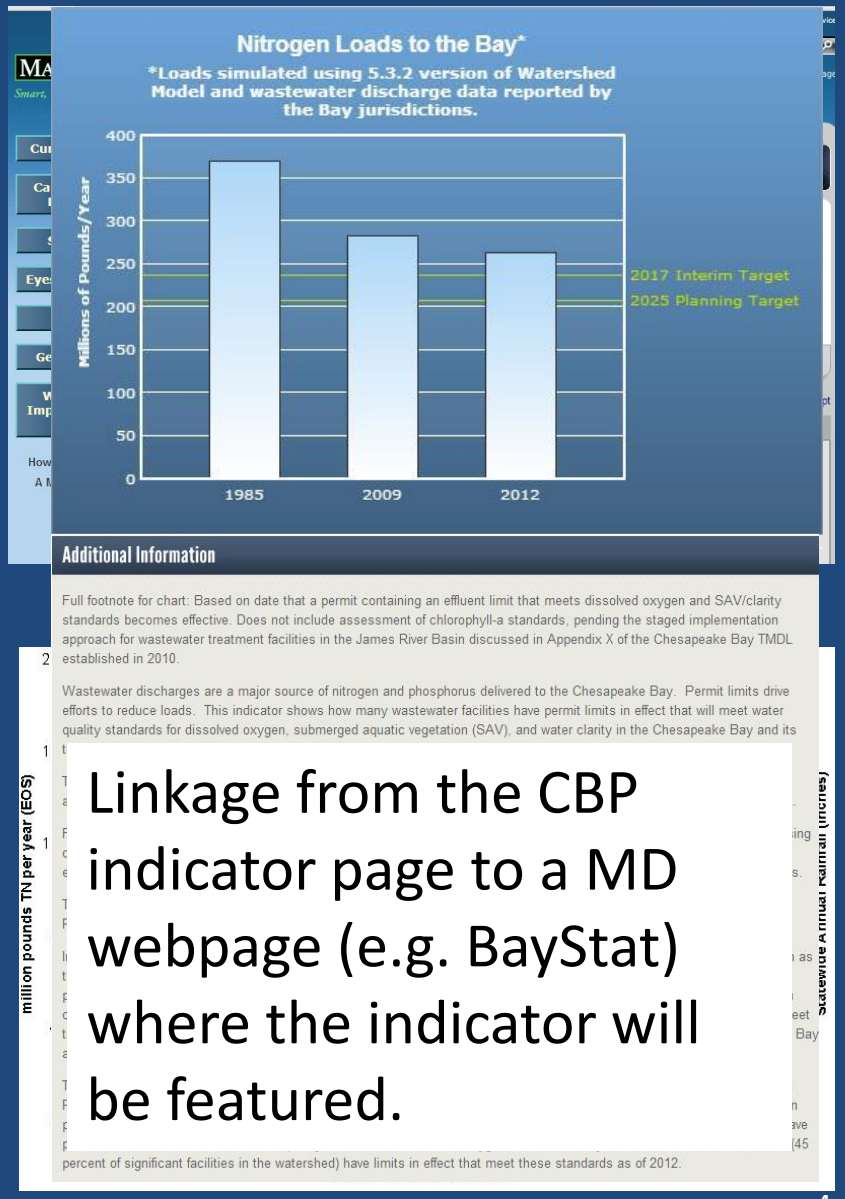
Background

Indicator Workgroup Proposal:

- Since only MD plans to use at this time,
- provide a link from the CBP indicator pages to a MD website where this new supplemental wastewater indicator would be presented and maintained.

MDE Staff Response:

- Agreed that until other jurisdictions decide to use the indicator it is appropriate for the new WW indicator to be presented and maintained on a MD website (rec. BayStat)
- MDE will work with BayStat staff to implement the proposal.

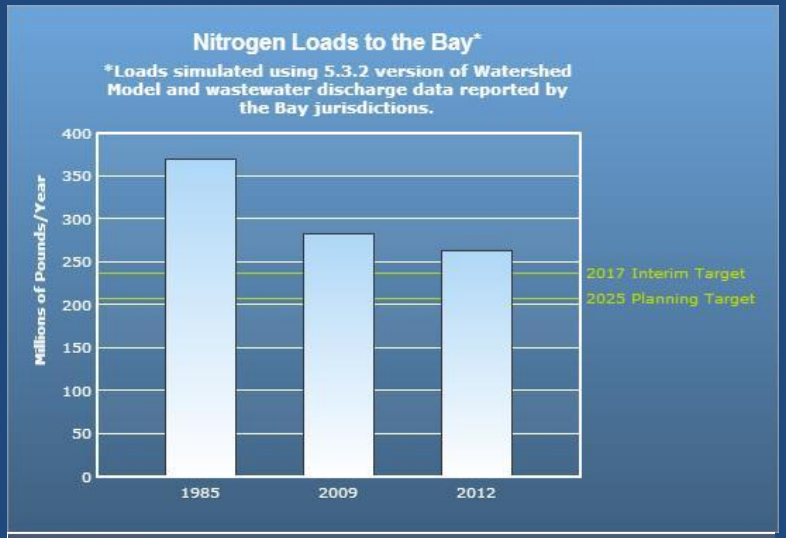


Linkage from the CBP indicator page to a MD webpage (e.g. BayStat) where the indicator will be featured.

Proposed Recommendation – part 1

Provide a link from Reducing Pollution indicators to a new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland.

If we maintain the current supplemental WW indicator, also provide a link from that page.



Additional Information

Full footnote for chart: Based on date that a permit containing an effluent limit that meets dissolved oxygen and SAV/clarity standards becomes effective. Does not include assessment of chlorophyll-a standards, pending the staged implementation approach for wastewater treatment facilities in the James River Basin discussed in Appendix X of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL established in 2010.

Wastewater discharges are a major source of nitrogen and phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay. Permit limits drive efforts to reduce loads. This indicator shows how many wastewater facilities have permit limits in effect that will meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), and water clarity in the Chesapeake Bay and its tida

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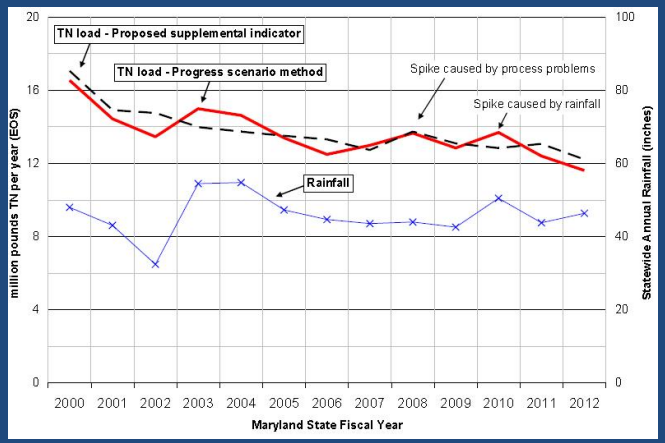
percent of significant facilities in the watershed) have limits in effect that meet these standards as of 2012.



Linkage from the CBP indicator page to a MD webpage (e.g. BayStat) where the indicator will be featured.

Proposed Recommendation – part 2

Include the following "CBP partnership approval" statement in association with the new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland:

"The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership-approved Supplemental Wastewater Indicator is a load-based measure of annual progress toward the 2025 planning targets for wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources."

Proposed Recommendation – part 3

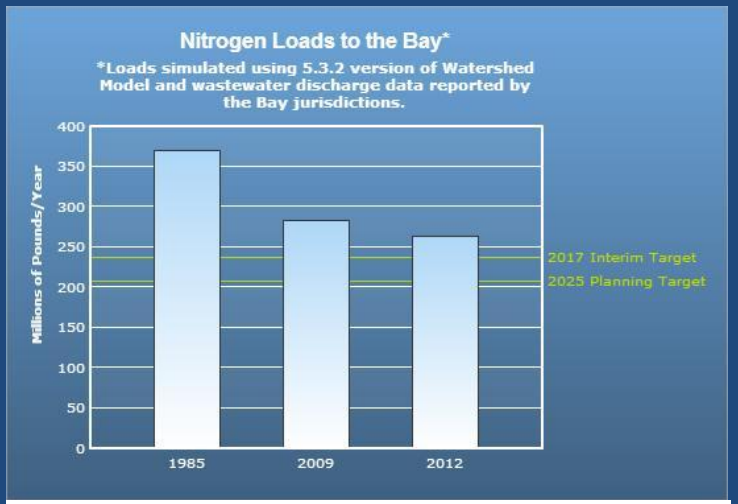
Use the following language to provide the linkage from the CBP indicator webpages to the new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland:

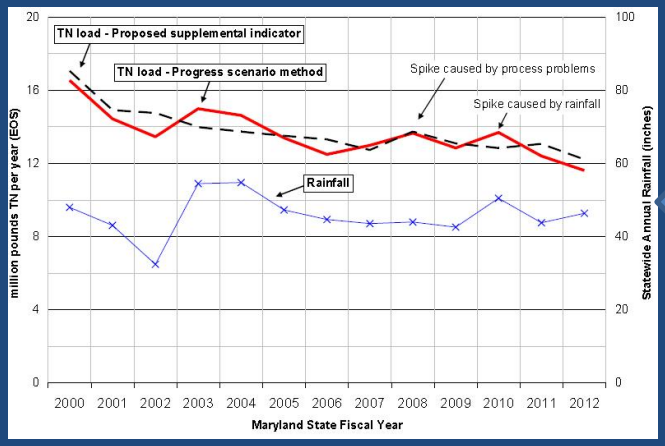
"The Supplemental Wastewater Indicator is a load-based measure of annual progress toward the 2025 planning targets for wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources. Unlike the Reducing Pollution indicators which report wastewater flows from annual discharge data, this wastewater indicator uses long-term average flows to control for annual variations in weather and hydrological conditions. Since these hydrological influences can cause load fluctuations that exceed restoration efforts in any given year, this indicator was developed as a tool for watershed managers to better understand the effects of their management decisions."

Requested Decision #1

Recommend to the MB that a link will be provided from CBP indicator pages to a new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland.

a. Agree
b. Disagree





Linkage from the CBP indicator page to a MD webpage (e.g. BayStat) where the indicator will be featured.

Requested Decision #2

Recommend to MB the following "CBP partnership approval" statement be used with the new WW indicator to be featured on a website managed by the State of Maryland:

"The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership-approved Supplemental Wastewater Indicator is a load-based measure of annual progress toward the 2025 planning targets for wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources."

a. Agree
b. Disagree

Requested Decision #3

Recommend to MB the following language be used for the linkage that will be provided from the CBP indicator webpages:

"The Supplemental Wastewater Indicator is a load-based measure of annual progress toward the 2025 planning targets for wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources. Unlike the Reducing Pollution indicators which report wastewater flows from annual discharge data, this wastewater indicator uses long-term average flows to control for annual variations in weather and hydrological conditions. Since these hydrological influences can cause load fluctuations that exceed restoration efforts in any given year, this indicator was developed as a tool for watershed managers to better understand the effects of their management decisions."

a. Agree
b. Disagree

Requested Decision #4

Based on the current input from the WWTWG, what is the WQGIT recommendation to the MB regarding the current "supplemental" wastewater indicator:

a. Keep
b. Remove