

CBP Goal Implementation Team  
Water Quality Goal Implementation Team  
Toxic Contaminants Workgroup  
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Calendar Page: [Link](#)



Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and <a href="#">Action Items</a>
<b>1. Introductions and Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check-ins on GIT Funded Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary Removal of PCB materials Report</li> <li>Reductions in PCB in Wastewater Effluent following ENR Upgrades</li> <li>PAH Content in Pavement Sealants</li> </ul> </li> <li>USGS is revising their science direction for the next five years</li> </ul>	1:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panel 4 title on the Mercury Story Map will be revised to “Mercury Impairments without Existing TMDLs” rather than “Mercury Impairments without Existing or Planned TMDLs”.</li> <li>Micka Peck will provide examples of TMDL approaches to mercury management outside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, for inclusion in the mercury summary paper.</li> <li>Corrected link to Mercury Story Map is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Update of progress in completing the report for STAC Workshop on Toxic Contaminants in Agriculture and Urban Settings</b> – Scott Phillips, USGS	1:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop presentations available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Status and Progress Report of Policy and Prevention Work Plans for this and Future Meetings</b> – Greg Allen, EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Example:</i> Refining the Sources of PCBs in the Back River Watershed, Baltimore, Maryland – Emily Majcher, USGS</li> </ul>	1:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2018-2019 Work Plan available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Status of Mercury Map and Summarization of Mercury Paper</b> – Scott Phillips, USGS	2:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary Paper Outline: State of Monitoring and Management Approaches of Mercury in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed</li> </ul>
<b>Wrap Up and Adjourn</b>	2:50	<b>Next meeting: September 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM</b>

## Summary of Actions and Decisions

**Action:** Mark Cohen will provide links to current literature on mercury

**Action:** TCW leadership will review Mercury materials and work on finalizing the summary paper.

**Action:** Greg and Hilary will reach out to John Wolf about correcting the metadata in the MSM and linking the summary paper to the map.

**Action:** Greg will contact lead authors of GIT Funded projects to schedule presentations.

**Action:** Hilary will ask WWTWG if they want to hold a joint meeting for presentation on Reductions of PCB's in Wastewater Effluent.

## Meeting Minutes

### **1. Announcements:**

- a. Check-ins on GIT Funded Projects:
  - i. Voluntary Removal of PCB materials Report
    1. Almost complete
    2. **ACTION:** reach out to project lead about scheduling a presentation
  - ii. Reductions in PCB in Wastewater Effluent following ENR Upgrade
    1. Almost Complete
    2. **ACTION:** reach out to project lead about scheduling a presentation
    3. **ACTION:** Joint meeting with WWTWG? Ask at next WWTWG meeting (Sept 3rd)
  - iii. PAH Content in Pavement Sealants
    1. GIT Scope 7: This will address the new products in the market, especially since the coal tar exclusion in DC was not accomplishing its goals. The award went to Site Lab in NE where they will develop, validate, and test methods. This should help create a standard for other jurisdictions that either already have bans in place or are looking to enact bans.
- b. USGS is revising their science direction for the next five years. It will be directed towards fish habitat, waterfowl, and coastal habitats. This will also bring forth TC workplans and address aspects of these moving forwards. Scott would be happy to bring these forward as they progress.

### **2. Update of progress in completing the report for STAC Workshop on Toxic Contaminants in Agriculture and Urban Settings:**

- a. *Summary:* For a brief overview of main points in STAC report, refer to the executive summary. Currently, presenters and steering committee are reviewing the report. This is due at the end of the week. The report will be updated and sent to entire workshop attendee list. The report will be released through STAC. *Big question:* how do you take findings and communicate them to other workgroups, practitioners, etc.? *Suggestion:* set up contract (ex. UMD) to write a 4-page fact sheet as another tool to get the findings out. This should also help inform our next research workplan for TCW.

### 3. Status and Progress Report for Policy and Prevention Workplans

- a. *Background:* there are two management strategies – research, and policy and prevention- which focus on PCB's.
- b. *SRS:* every 2-years teams present to the MB what they have accomplished, what they have learned, what has changed, and what that means moving forwards. There is a new website called [Chesapeake Decisions](#) that is a great tool and resource for the SRS process. This is where you can find the [TCW Management Strategy](#)- now Logic and Action Plans.
- c. *Logic and Workplan:* There are 4 approaches: monitoring (TMDL's), education and awareness (pollution minimization plans for PCB's, fish advisories), voluntary programs, and science (research oriented, STAC workshop).
- d. *PCB consortium:* what is the value and feasibility of a consortium? We will discuss this once WIP III's are final.
- e. **Presentation:** Refining the Sources of PCBs in the Back River Watershed, Baltimore, Maryland: Emily Majcher, USGS
  - i. *Summary:* This connects to Management Approach 4.1 in the Policy and Prevention Workplan: Refine and improve understanding of PCB sources to inform the Conceptual Model of PCB fate in the environment. Emily gave an overview of how the project originated, why Back River was chosen, overall study goals and scope and the progress/ next steps. Baltimore was selected as one of original cities involved in Urbanwaters Federal Partnership. Baltimore identified that implementation of PCB TMDL was important. Back River has a PCB TMDL and a large wastewater treatment plant with known output and input PCB's. Project team felt this was good place to start looking at the watershed holistically and use this as a model for other watersheds. The goals and objectives of this project were to better define the sources and fate of PCB's in the non-tidal streams (city) and sanitary sewer system, refine the CSM to inform efficient, cost-effective mitigation and meet requirements of the TMDL, demonstrate use of innovative methods, and use Back river as a "pilot test" for other jurisdictions faced with same challenges.

### 4. Mercury Story Map:

- a. *Summary:* the map is almost complete, there are a few corrections that need to be made first. Check out the map [here](#).
- b. *Comments and Suggestions:*
  - i. Mark Cohen: would it be possible to add the names of the water bodies or TMDL titles? It would also help to know administrative name as well (meta data would be helpful). It would be better to have them on the map, instead of clicking on them. Ideally, you'd click on one of these and one thing would come up and it would refer to the administrative name that we refer to it as.
    - 1. *Answer:* We can see if that's possible, it's not an extensive name but it gives you enough to determine. Will ask the map pros if there is a way to label it on the top level.
    - 2. **ACTION:** Greg and Hilary will reach out to John Wolf about correcting the metadata in the MSM.
  - ii. Scott: the mercury white paper tells the story of the MSM in a nice summary paper. Once this is complete, we will send it to the WG to verify that the information is being presented correctly. Hopefully we finish it by end of calendar year. We don't need to wait for the summary paper to be complete before we publish the map.
    - 1. *Suggestion:* We can ask John Wolf how to connect the paper to the map so that people can read it as well.
    - 2. **ACTION:** Greg and Hilary will reach out to John Wolf about connecting the summary paper to the story map.

- c. Mark Cohen: there is some recent literature on Mercury. One talks about how mercury is increasing due to climate change. Ecosystems are getting better at methylating mercury even as mercury is reduced. The other article talks about how there is more Hg in permafrost than in oceans, soil, and air combined. As that starts to melt it is going to be this massive source of mercury in the coming years.
  - i. **ACTION:** Mark Cohen will send links to current literature to Hilary.

Call Participants:

Greg Allen, EPA  
Scott Phillips, USGS  
Doug Austin, EPA  
Emily Majcher, USGS  
Hilary Swartwood, CRC  
Ian Hartwell, NOAA  
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Mark Hoffman, CBC  
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