

WQGIT Workgroup Updates for August 10

Land Use Workgroup (LUWG)

- The LUWG held a conference call on July 23rd, where they discussed the Phase 6 land use data gap filling method and local review periods.
- On August 27th there will be a face-to-face meeting to go over the Phase 6 land use methodology in detail. The meeting will be open to whoever would like to participate in the detailed discussion.
- September 24th will be the next regular LUWG call or meeting. Agenda items will include forecasting future land use, and the Land Use Methods and Metrics Outcome.

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

- The AgWG held a joint conference call on July 16th with the Watershed Technical workgroup to discuss the Phase 5 Nutrient Management Panel report and the timeline for Partnership review and comment.
- Workgroup members approved Tom Fisher (UMCES) as the final member of the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Panel.
- Open session meetings for the Phase 6 Expert Panels have been scheduled in August and September. Presenters need to RSVP with Emma (egiese@chesapeakebay.net) to schedule their presentation at least 2 weeks ahead of each open session.
- A webinar to review the Phase 5 Nutrient Management Panel response to comments will be held on August 20th.
- The August AgWG conference call has been rescheduled to August 24th.

Urban Stormwater Workgroup (USWG)

- The next USWG meeting will be September 15th. States will provide updates on their fertilizer sales tracking methods.

Federal Facilities Workgroup (FFWG)

- The FFW is tracking the exchange of information among the federal agencies and the jurisdictions, which will result in the calculation of new targets. Letters were recently sent from both Shawn Garvin (EPA Region 3 Administrator) and Nick DiPasquale (EPA CBPO Director) to federal agency leaders reminding them of their obligations for planning and reporting BMPs to meet targets.
- FFW is also working on rolling out the on-line Facility Editor tool for updating the federal lands data layer to be used in the Phase 6 model; completing enhancements to BayFAST and preparing to support increased use by federal agencies through training, etc.; developing a strategy for expanding the reach of the FFW to additional federal agencies not currently engaged.

Forestry Workgroup (FWG)

- The FWG had a conference call in July to discuss Management Strategy Workplan development and review the newest changes made to the Forestry BMP Verification Guidance Document. Members also had a chance to share updates during a round robin.

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup (TCW)

- The TCW held a meeting with their Policy and Prevention subgroup on August 3rd to begin prioritizing tasks for the development of their workplan.
- The TCW will have their next full workgroup meeting on August 12th to continue workplan development.

Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG)

- The WTWG met jointly with the AgWG on July 16th in order to be briefed on the Nutrient Management expert panel report.
- The WTWG developed a memo on potential options for crediting erosion and sediment control practices on extractive lands. They could not reach consensus on a recommendation, and have passed the decision to the WQGIT.

Trading and Offsets Workgroup (TOWG)

- The TOWG met on July 15, and received briefings on the 2014-15 interim Milestones evaluations, the recent court ruling on the Bay TMDL, and the upcoming National Water Quality Trading Meeting.

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG)

- The WWTWG has conditionally approved a proposed approach for including loads from several new wastewater sources in the Phase 6 Modeling tools, but are awaiting further details before making a final decision.
- The WWTWG approved the Land Use Workgroup's proposed sewer and septic methodology for the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- The WWTWG approved the scope of work and proposed membership for the boat pump-out in NDZs task force.