

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPACTS TO IMPLEMENTING WATER QUALITY GOALS

## Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

### Actions and Decisions | February 10-11, 2020

**Meeting Materials:** [February 10](#) & [February 11](#)

#### **General Summary:**

The PSC charged the Modeling Workgroup and WQGIT with factoring in climate change in WIP and 2- year milestone development and implementation. In response, the WQGIT held a two- day meeting to understand the updated climate modeling and assessment framework and develop preliminary recommendations for the following policy issues:

- Policy I: year to base climate targets
- Policy II: adoption of refined or 2018 climate targets
- Policy III: timing for achieving climate targets
- Policy IV: options for allocating climate targets
- Policy V: deadline for final policy recommendations

#### **Policy I:** *Year to base Climate Targets (2025 / 2035 / 2045 / 2055?)*

**Action:** At this time, the WQGIT has not made a final decision on the year to base climate targets. Further discussion and more information are needed before a decision can be made. However, the WQGIT discussed aligning the climate base year to the year in which those reductions would be achieved.

#### **Policy II:** *Adoption of Refined or 2018 Climate Targets*

**Decision:** The WQGIT will use the updated climate model when assessing the allocation options.

#### **Policy III:** *Timing for Achieving Targets (by 2025? / post 2025?)*

**Action:** At this time, the WQGIT has not made a final decision on the timing to achieve targets. Further discussion and more information are needed before a decision can be made. However, the WQGIT discussed aligning the climate base year to the year in which those reductions would be achieved.

#### **Policy IV:** *Options for Allocating Climate Targets*

**Action:** The WQGIT requested further modeling analysis on the following allocation options:

##### Open Water

Include Open Water with other segments

Separate allocation for Open Water and Deep Water , Deep Channel, then reconcile

##### Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Responsibility

Only non-WWTP

Include WWTP

##### Variances

Keep variances the same and consider volume balance

##### Relative Impact: Conowingo

Current status (2010)

##### Relative Impact Segments

Use group of segments being protected (only look at Open Water and Deep Water, separately)

##### Watershed Loads

Take out jurisdictions loads first

Do not consider jurisdictions loads

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved using the Conowingo Dam’s current status (2010) when analyzing its relative impact on the allocation of climate targets.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved only looking at Open Water and Deep Water, separately, when using groups of segments being protected to analyze the relative impact segments on the allocation of climate targets.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved focusing on year 2025 and 2035 for the modeling analysis of the allocation options (see above).

**Action:** Hilary Swartwood will add the modeling analysis of the 8 allocation options (see above) to the April 27<sup>th</sup> WQGIT agenda. This is in line with the WQGIT’s timeline to present recommendations at the PSC meeting in March 2021 (see **Policy V** below).

**Action:** The WQGIT leadership will generate a narrative rationale and pros and cons list for the final allocation options selected.

**Action:** Once the WQGIT finalizes the allocation options, they will meet with the CBP communications team to walk through each of the policy decisions. This will help the WQGIT prep these decisions for approval at the Management Board and the PSC meetings.

#### **Policy V: Deadline for Final Policy Recommendations**

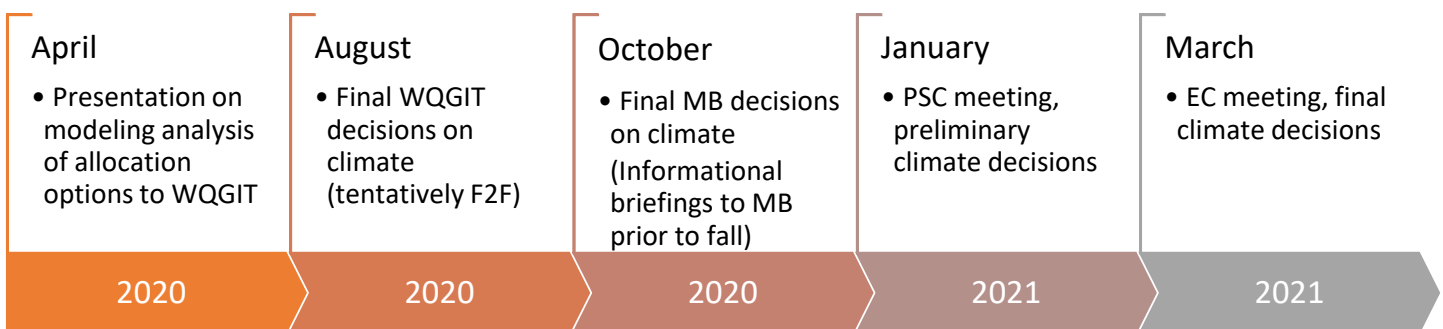
**Action:** The WQGIT tentatively put a placeholder on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for another Face- to -Face (F2F) meeting to go over the final climate change policy recommendations before presenting to the Management Board in October (see timeline below).

**Action:** The WQGIT will provide an informational briefing to the Management Board prior to seeking approval of the WQGIT’s final recommendations at their October 2020 meeting.

**Decision:** The WQGIT will seek final approval from the Management Board on their climate change recommendations at their October 2020 meeting.

**Decision:** The WQGIT will have climate as a standing agenda item on their monthly conference calls in order to reach final consensus recommendations on climate Policy Issues I-V.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the following timeline for seeking approval on the final climate recommendations, with the understanding the membership can review and revise as needed:



#### **Cross GIT & WG Collaboration:**

**Action:** The WQGIT will regularly update the Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) on actions and decisions regarding Policy Issues I- V. The WQGIT and CRWG will also explore any opportunities for cross-GIT / Workgroup

collaboration (ex. the CRWG has a face- to- face meeting in May 2020, the WQGIT could present opportunities here).

**Action:** The WQGIT signatory members will review the list of [Phase III BMPs](#) that drive implementation and provide any additional BMPs to Hilary Swartwood ([swartwood.hilary@epa.gov](mailto:swartwood.hilary@epa.gov)) by **COB, Friday, February 21, 2020**. This list will be sent to Julie Reichert, the CRWG Coordinator, to be used to help inform the STAC Workshop on BMP assessment.

**Action:** Julie Reichert, CRWG Coordinator, will bring the question on BMP maintenance to the principal investigator for the STAC workshop on BMP assessment.