



MEETING MINUTES

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG) Teleconference

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Calendar Page: [Link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The WWTWG approved the February meeting minutes.

Action: Ed Dunne will reach out to the Legal Alliance to inform them that no further action was taken to determine the availability of data to model SSO and bypass charges. This issue will be addressed at a future call once more states start incorporating SSO data.

Action: Ed Dunne will edit the scope and purpose to include septic and evaluation of new tech after which it will be sent out to the group for final approval (*post-meeting note: the revised scope and purpose was approved via email on April 17, 2020*).

Action: Ed Dunne and Hilary Swartwood will send inquiry to group about what they are using for future load projections and send these responses to Karl Berger and Lisa Reynolds.

Meeting Minutes

10:30 AM **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements** — Ed Dunne (Chair)

Announcements

- Call for WWTWG Chair and Co-Chair Nominations
 - Submissions due by COB April 24, 2020
 - Roles and responsibilities include being the spokesperson for the group, leading workgroup conference calls, and helping Bay staff prepare and develop agendas.
- Wet weather events and their impacts on water quality- Do the jurisdictions remember if any decisions were made?
 - Action Item from May 2018 [Meeting Minutes](#): WWTWG jurisdictions will determine the availability of data in their jurisdictions to model SSO and bypass discharges. WWTWG members will also consider the planning implications and expected effort required for inclusion of SSO and bypass loads in a future version of the Watershed Model. Legal implications of modeling SSO and bypass discharges will also be considered.
 - [Presentation](#)
 - **Summary:** No further action was taken after the meeting in 2018. Allan Brockenbrough said that in terms of availability of data he is not sure what else there is. Allan Brockenbrough stated that whether or not it moves the needle in terms of nutrients in the Bay, they have their doubts. Ed Dunne asked whether anyone sees any future benefits to coming back to this in a future call? John Rebar from DE said that they are in the same boat as VA. DE is a year off from being able to

implement the collection of SSO data. There may be future opportunities, once more states start incorporating SSO data, where this can be included in the model. Ed Dunne then asked if a future meeting to help jurisdictions learn from each other in regard to this topic would be helpful? Allen Brockenbrough said that we could at least report at the next meeting on what they do have in the way of data.

- Allen Brockenbrough mentioned that he will send updates to Hilary Swartwood for VA DEQ membership in WWTWG.
- **Action:** Ed Dunne will reach out to the Legal Alliance to inform them that no further action was taken to determine the availability of data to model SSO and bypass charges. This issue will be addressed at a future call once more states start incorporating SSO data.
- Approval of February meeting minutes
 - **Decision:** The WWTWG approved the February meeting minutes.

10:45 AM **WWTWG Scope and Purpose** – Ed Dunne, DOEE (15 min)

Review the revised WWTWG scope and purpose and discuss whether this reflects near-term interests of the workgroup.

Summary:

Robin Pellicano and Allen Brockenbrough said that they like the scope and purpose. Allen Brockenbrough suggested to include septic as a bullet. Dana Hale was curious if the data reporting is coming from WWTP- is there an expectation for that to occur and how? Allen Brockenbrough's understanding is that it's captured in Megan Thyng's tool and pulled out of Echo, but there is still a fair amount of QA/QC that needs to be done each year. Megan Thyng stated that the goal for the yearly reporting requirements is met. Dana Hales said that EPA is unsure how to fill the gap left by retired EPA employees. Mohsin asked if evaluation of new tech should be included to identification? Dunne said this will be added to the scope and purpose.

Action: Ed Dunne will edit the scope and purpose to include septic and evaluation of new tech after which it will be sent out to the group for final approval.

11:00 AM **Benefits of Aligning Wastewater Planning Staff and Utility Managers on Capital Planning Efforts** – Karl Berger and Lisa Reynolds, MWCOG (30 min)

COG staff will introduce a discussion of the potential benefits of aligning state wastewater planning staff and local wastewater utility managers on capital planning efforts and nutrient load expectations in the years beyond 2025. Maintaining the Bay TMDL's target loads over the long-term will depend, in part, on the decisions that local managers make about future plant upgrades under their long-term planning processes that already extend out to 2035 and beyond.

Summary:

Karl Berger said that climate change is going to affect the reduction targets, so it gives you less leeway. Doug Austin asked about why nutrient loads would increase despite technology staying the same. It could be due to high efficiency machines. Berger asked members about what they are using for future load projections at this point, other than population.

Action: Ed Dunne and Hilary Swartwood will send inquiry to group about what they are using for future load projections and send these responses to Karl Berger and Lisa Reynolds.

11:30 AM **CAST 2019** – Peter Claggett, USGS (30 min)

Peter Claggett will brief the WWTWG on the changes in septic in CAST 2019. The septic numbers are affected by the county-level annual population estimates, population projections, and sewer service areas. In addition, refinements to the land change model were corrected for slight inaccuracies in population on sewer/septic estimates in West Virginia.

Summary:

Karl Berger mentioned that this is similar to what he was discussing and that past 2025 it becomes an increased load that the WWTPs need to address. However, in one of the slides the load didn't increase in WIP 3 but at some point, past 2025, it will. It seems like what we need is population projections between sewer and septic systems and have both his information and Claggett's model communicate with one another. Peter Claggett said one of their to-dos is to add wastewater capacity into the model to help address some of those concerns. Ed Dunne asked if members would like to get county level data? John rebar states that he would like to see it for DE. Ed Dunne asked Peter Claggett if we could work with him to send data to John Rebar.

12:00 AM **Adjourn**

Next meeting: June 2, 2020 10:00 – 12:00 PM

Call Participants

Ed Dunne, DOEE
Hilary Swartwood, CRC
Zack Steckler, PA DEP
Tami Opila, PA DEP
Robin Pellicano, MDE
Allen Brockenbrough, VA DEQ
Nathan McCrea, VDH
John Rebar, DNREC
Dana Hales, EPA
Jessica Rigelman, J7
Steve Bieber, MWCOG
Lisa Reynolds, MWCOG
Mohsin Siddique, DC Water
Megan Thyng, EPA
Rashid Ahmed, NYSDEC
Doug Austin, EPA

George Mwangi, DNREC
Peter Claggett, USGS
Harry Zhang, WRF