

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WRTC) MEETING

Thursday July 9, 2009
(10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Board Room, 3rd Floor

Lunch will be provided at 12:15 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order & Introductions – *Uwe Kirste, WRTC Vice-Chair*
(10:00 – 10:10 a.m.)

II. Chesapeake Bay Program – Developments on Bay TMDLs & Other Activities
(10:10 – 11:45 a.m.)

Note: *Time is allocated for factual Q&A after each presentation, as well as a more comprehensive discussion of all of the issues at the end of this agenda item.*

A. Review of CBP Reorganization & President's Executive Order, and Bay TMDL Guidelines & Reasonable Assurance Issues – *Katherine Antos, CBPO Staff*
(10:10 – 10:50 a.m.)

Ms. Antos will provide a brief overview of the CBP's reorganization and implementation of the President's Executive Order - to describe how these actions are expected to change how the State and Federal CBP Partners work towards achieving overall Bay restoration goals. She will then provide a more detailed review of the current Bay TMDL process – focusing specifically on the process and proposed Guidelines for developing State Implementation Plans (SIPs); and to describe what the 'Reasonable Assurance' elements for each sector are envisioned to address.

B. Updates on TMDL Allocation Methodology & Potential Implications, CBP Modeling Tools & Upgrades, and Staff Recommendations – *Tanya Spano, Steve Bieber, & Karl Berger, COG Staff*
(10:50 – 11:20 a.m.)

Ms. Spano and Mr. Bieber will provide an overview of the current TMDL allocation methodology and assumptions, and identify some of the potential implications to the Potomac allocations and the COG region. Ms. Spano will also discuss a proposal for CBP staff to hold a COG-region TMDL meeting in late summer/early fall 2009. Mr. Bieber will discuss the status and timing of the latest upgrades to the CBP's Watershed Model (Phase 5.2 versus 5.3) and note implications this could have as the Bay TMDLs are developed. Mr. Berger will provide an update on the CBP's 'Scenario Builder', its proposed use in the development of the TMDLs and SIPs, and COG staff's plan to utilize this tool to assess the inputs and assumptions used by the states as they develop their SIPs.

C. WRTC Discussion – *Uwe Kirste, Vice-Chair*
(11:20 – 11:45 a.m.)

Vice-Chair Kirste will lead the WRTC members in a discussion of the above topics, and the proposed recommendations that will be presented to the CBPC at their July 17th meeting.

Feedback: The WRTC will be asked to identify additional information needs and/or concerns to bring to the attention of the CBPC.

Action: The WRTC will be asked to agree on the following recommendations:

1. A proposed timeframe and focus for holding a COG-region TMDL Outreach Meeting;
2. That a letter be sent from the WRTC Chair to CBPO staff to formally request that the COG region be provided with access to the draft Phase 5.3 WSM information and

- ‘Scenario Builder’ to allow COG staff to conduct technical evaluations of these tools during the development of the Bay TMDLs and SIPs; and
3. Any other technical concerns or policy issues that the WRTC believes should be raised to the CBP Partners and/or other entities.

III. Update on COG Policy Actions & Activities – Karl Berger, COG staff
(11:45 -12:15)

A. COG Retreat & Presentation by Chuck Fox, Special Assistant to EPA Administrator Jackson
Mr. Fox was newly named Special Assistant to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson for the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River restoration efforts. He is scheduled to speak to attendees at the COG Board retreat (July 31 – August 1).

Mr. Berger will outline the proposed focus for Mr. Fox’s presentation.

B. Proposed CBPC Letter in Response to Chesapeake Bay Field Hearing Testimony
COG staff previously distributed a draft letter from the CBPC Chair to Representative Connolly for WRTC review and comment.

Mr. Berger will review staff’s working draft of a letter in response to Representative Connolly’s testimony about federal stormwater legislation. WRTC members will be asked for feedback on which issues to address and points to emphasize.

Feedback: The WRTC will be asked to:

1. Identify any other issues that they hope Mr. Fox could address at the retreat; and
2. Endorse the basic contents outlined in the working draft letter; a final draft will be reviewed by the CBPC at its July 17th meeting.

IV. Lunch
(12:15-12:30p.m.)

V. General Updates – COG Staff
(12:30-12:45 pm.)

The issues below will be discussed in-person. Additional topics are covered in the “General Updates.”

- A. GW 2050 Environmental (Water Resource) Metrics - Tanya Spano & Steve Bieber**
- B. COG’s NEW Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – Stuart Freudberg, Director Dept. of Environmental Programs**
- C. WEF/WERF Sustainable Nutrient Removal Conference Highlights – Tanya Spano**

Feedback: WRTC will be asked to identify any additional information needs.

VI. Around the Room – WRTC Members
(12:45-1:00)

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to note any particular activities their jurisdiction/agency is undertaking, as well as any additional items of interest/concern or water resource events that they believe would be of interest to the other members.