



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) UPDATES *(as of 7/13/18)*

Updates on key CBP activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG's members & the RWQM Work Program.

Bay TMDL Implementation	COG Contact
<p><u>Principle Staff Committee (PSC) - Met on July 9th</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reached agreement on key decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical corrections - how loads reflected in Watershed Model ○ Negotiated 'special cases' for WV & NY ○ Agreed on Final Planning Targets for Phase III WIPS • Accepted final EPA Phase III 'Expectations' document • Agreed on key 'messages' for Phase III WIPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Model is accurate/scientifically defensible ○ Model is still calibrated even after all adjustments made ○ Jurisdictions are receiving accurate credit for implementation practices ○ Most jurisdictions benefit from the net changes/corrections • Agreed on updated Bay TMDL Implementation Schedule (updates shown in orange text) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Final</u> Phase III WIP Planning Targets – July 9, 2018 ○ <u>Draft</u> Phase III WIPs (w/ climate - narrative & # option) – April 12, 2019 ○ <u>Final Draft</u> Conowingo WIP – June 2019 [may be delayed] ○ <u>Final</u> Phase III WIPs – August 9, 2019 ○ Climate Change Loads/Phase III WIP Addendum (beyond narrative)– September 2021 	<p>Tanya Spano (202)962-3776 tspano@mwkog.org</p>
<p>Conowingo Dam WIP</p> <p>The Bay Partnership continued its efforts to develop a Phase III WIP for the Conowingo Dam/Susquehanna Watershed loads to specifically address the new loads coming over the dam that had not previously been accounted for in development of the other Bay WIPs.</p> <p>When the PSC met on July 9th they got updates on various aspects of this effort, and endorsed several working documents that will guide the WIP development Steering Committee (made up of state rep Agreements. They also got updates about MDE's efforts to require Exelon to be responsible for the majority of these loads as part of the facility's licensing certification process. In the meantime, there are three lawsuits addressing these matters (two from Exelon pushing back on MDE's requirements, and one from environmental groups saying MDE did not go far enough in making Exelon responsible). The PSC also agreed to several key documents that will guide this process going forward. They are:</p>	<p style="background-color: #f4a460;">COG Contact</p> <p>Tanya Spano (202)962-3776 tspano@mwkog.org</p> <p>Modeling: Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p>

Framework

- Includes options for assigning load reductions
 - Susquehanna Basin Only
 - Susquehanna Basin + Most Effective Basins (still not defined/geographically constrained)
 - Susquehanna Basin + All of MD & VA
 - Entire Bay Watershed (i.e., all seven jurisdictions)
- Emphasizes ‘collaboration’ (i.e., *all Partners participating in ‘WIP effort’ – which may or may not result in ‘share’ of load allocation*)
- Use of ‘3rd Party’ for support
- RFP issuance now delayed to August 1, 2018
- Award estimated February 25,2019

Guiding Principles

- Strive for fairness, equity & feasibility
- Strive for consensus
- Ensure consistency w/ EPA Expectations & Conowingo Framework
- Establish clear tracking, accountability & verification
- Implement WIP
 - Based on existing, successful programs – as much as feasible, to avoid duplicative bureaucracies
 - Strive for innovation, leverage new technologies, & develop new implementation approaches

The current recommendation is that the CBPC transmit a letter to the PSC to address local concerns and interests in as part of this Conowingo Phase III WIP process. The CBPC will take this issue up at their July 27th meeting.

Watershed and Water Quality Models– Activities and Issues	COG Contact
<p><u>Bay Watershed Model Finalized</u> At its recent meeting in July, the Bay Program’s Principals’ Staff Committee approved the final set of changes to the program’s watershed model. Bay Program staff and consultants are currently updating CAST, which is the user interface for generating model output. By the end of the week of July 9 – 13, they expect CAST to be updated with final versions of the various model scenarios, including “E3,” “No Action,” and the various progress runs.</p> <p>COG staff will resume some model analysis that has been delayed waiting for finalization of the model. Staff also is available to assist members who are using CAST.</p> <p>http://cast.chesapeakebay.net/</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p> <p>Mukhtar Ibrahim (202) 962-3364 mibrahim@mwkog.org</p>

Bay Outreach Efforts	COG Contact
<p><u>Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week</u> The week of June 2-10 was the 3rd annual and most successful Bay Awareness Week, in part due to a concerted organizing effort by the Bay Program, and partner agencies, including Alliance for the Bay, Choose Clean Water, and COG. There were several COG member proclamations, and concerted media and social media messaging by COG's members and utilities.</p> <p>See separate handout for a detailed summary of the Bay Awareness Week events and outreach efforts.</p>	<p><u>Heidi Bonnaffon</u> <u>(202) 962-3216</u> hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>

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