COG's Understanding the Watershed Model work session – Oct. 9, 2008

Focus   **Understanding how the model can be used to estimate loads from urban areas at the local level (i.e., counties, land-river segments).**

Follow-up Policy Questions

- What are current state (MD and VA) plans for establishing stormwater MS4 wasteload allocations (WLAs) under the Bay TMDL – and to what scale?

    MD – combine MDP's urban land use classification with nutrient loading estimates derived from CBP watershed model to produce MS4 WLAs at the individual jurisdictional level[1]

    VA – use CBP watershed model estimate of 2010 loads from applicable urban lands to produce MS4 WLAs at the basin level.[2]

- Is there a legal requirement for each MS4 jurisdiction to have a WLA for its stormwater program – if so, how will such numbers be developed in Virginia, where at this point the state proposes only to develop an aggregate WLA at the basin level (e.g., the entire Potomac)?

- How will states deal with the issue of TMDLs for watersheds that are nested within a larger watershed with a different TMDL?

- How does the existence of scale issues in the model (i.e. that it is more accurate at the basin level than at smaller scales) affect the policies for suballocating tributary strategies to the individual jurisdictional level or setting WLAs for MS4 permitted areas?

- What other tools besides the watershed model exist for this purpose?

- What is the opportunity for local government input in the process that MD and VA will use to suballocate trib strategy loads or develop individual MS4 WLAs?

- How do uncertainties in the watershed model (or other load-estimating tools) affect the policy for achieving "reasonable assurance" under the Bay-wide TMDL?

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[1] See "Maryland's Proposed Approach for Assigning Stormwater Wasteload Allocations within the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load," Lee Currey memo to CBP, 08/19/08
[2] See Virginia's Proposed Process for Chesapeake Bay TMDL Allocation to MS4s, VA DCR discussion draft of 9/17/07