



## Chesapeake Bay Program Developments

### CBPC Meeting - January 18, 2013

COG staff has highlighted several recent developments of significance to our members.

#### TMDL/WIP Schedules

The Bay Program has **moved back the deadlines for Phase III WIP submissions by one year - to June 2018 (draft) and December 2018 (final)**, in response to concerns expressed by several states. This extension will allow the states and EPA to evaluate the results of the 2017 Progress Run (using the existing Version 5.3.2 of the watershed model) against the 60-percent interim reduction target before having to issue their draft WIPs. It also will give the Bay Program an extra year to complete work on a new version of the model, which will be used for the Phase III WIPs and for progress accounting going forward from 2018. (Note: EPA has not yet committed to modifying the TMDL based on the revised model output.)

#### Model Enhancements

Between now and 2017, the Bay Program is pursuing a number of refinements to its existing suite of models to address concerns raised with the models used to establish the TMDL in 2010 and the first two sets of watershed implementation plans in each of the Bay member jurisdictions. Among other things, Bay Program staff hopes these refinements will make model output more accurate at the scale at which local governments operate.

#### BMP Expert Panels

One specific set of model refinements has been to establish nutrient and sediment reduction levels for new types of best management practices for stormwater and wastewater management that have recently come into use, and to re-examine and potentially redefine the reduction levels for many/several (?) established practices. A series of expert panels has been pursuing this work, addressing topics such as urban nutrient management, stream restoration and septic/off-site systems.

#### BMP Verification Process

In response to criticism by the General Accounting Office and other parties, the Bay Program has undertaken an effort to better document that the programs and policies being put in place to protect the Bay truly exist and are working. It recently approved a set of five Verification Principles that address practice reporting, scientific rigor, public confidence, adaptive management, and sector equity. It also is working on state verification frameworks that are likely to include a requirement for local governments to periodically inspect stormwater BMPs.

#### Nutrient Trading

The Bay Program continues to work on the development of common principles to assist states in developing their trading programs. EPA recently issued draft guidance for how states can meet the offset requirements of the Bay TMDL.

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