

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATES

ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING DECISION POINTS

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TODAY'S OVERVIEW

- **Guiding Policy Principles** – Why do they still matter?
- **Key Developments** – What's new?
- **Bay TMDL 2017 Mid-Point Assessment** – What's current schedule?
- **Critical Decisions & Input** – What are they? Why should we care? When will they happen? How can we influence them?
- **CBPC Guidance to staff** – Do we have the right focus?

COG POLICY PRINCIPLES

These principles continue to guide ongoing staff work within the complex Bay Program process, at meetings/workshops, and in both formal and informal correspondence:

- Holistic Requirements
- Equitable Responsibility
- Sound Science
- Communication and Voice
- Implementation Flexibility and Innovation [Proposed]

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **SCIENCE**
 - Many technical improvements being made to Bay Watershed Model (WSM) – i.e., tool used to generate nutrient/sediment loads from land to tributaries & Bay waters
 - Changes include, but not limited to:
 - Better landuse data (local scale)
 - Updated wastewater & biosolids data
 - Updated stormwater & agricultural management practices
 - Conowingo Dam
 - Climate Change implications

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- EQUITY
 - Establishing Local Area Targets
 - Scale/features TBD
 - Accuracy relative to WSM output (?)
 - What do COG's members need?
 - Local voice
 - COG staff
 - Norm Goulet (NVRC) – CBPC endorsed
 - Comparing model assumptions to monitoring data
 - Are Ag and Urban sector reductions accurate

2017 Mid-Point Assessment

- **SCHEDULE**
 - But work is taking longer than originally anticipated
 - As a result, updates to WSM are delayed
 - WSM outputs (that convey ‘What more do we have to do?’) are also delayed
 - Those impacts alone add at least 3 more months to process
 - Several technical decisions will happen Fall of 2016
 - 2017 Mid-Point Assessment Schedule
 - Now end dates range from Dec. 2018 to Feb. 2019

CRITICAL DECISIONS & INPUT

- VOICE
 - Need to balancing between different views:
 - Explicit commitment/desire to allow adequate time for local review
 - How much time is needed?
 - Desire (by some) to start Phase III WIP work soon
 - EPA's desire to not have schedule run into 2019
 - COG staff actively working with other to ensure strong local voice at various technical & policy levels
 - NVRC
 - VAMWA/MAMWA/VAMSA/MAMSA
 - TMDL coordination group
 - LGAC

CRITICAL DECISIONS & INPUT

- **SCIENCE**
 - Technical decisions re: Conowingo, etc. Fall of 2016
 - These will automatically include policy decisions
 - Need for COG input this Fall – CBPC’s Forum
 - Won’t know if Bay TMDL allocations will need to be reconsidered or loads reallocated until:
 - All technical work done
 - Progress recalculated
 - Uncertain when assessment needed – but may not be clear until spring of 2017
 - Spring CBPC meetings/presentations
 - Implementation schedule for urban stormwater sector inconsistent with 2025 end date

CBPC GUIDANCE

- Overall – COG staff focused primarily on ensuring that:
 - Sound Science is used
 - Locals have an active Voice/input in process
- What issues are the most important to you?
- Are we focused on the right issues?
- Anything else of concern?
- Any preferences about briefings, need for background briefings for new members, etc.?

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