



## WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WRTC) MEETING

WRTC meeting 11/9/18  
Briefing Points for CBPC

### Meeting focus:

- How climate change models will affect the Bay TMDL

### Presentations:

- Gary Shenk (USGS) on how the Bay Program is modeling climate change
- Mustfasa Faizullahoy (TetraTech) on adapting urban BMPs to address climate change

### Summary Points:

- Climate change is already affecting the Chesapeake Bay and the region; effects such as rising seas and warmer waters are observable
- A preliminary simulation of the impact of climate change on efforts to attain water quality standards under the Bay TMDL indicated that significant additional nutrient loads (20 percent or more atop the reductions otherwise needed to reach the planning targets) caused by climate change would need to be offset by 2025 to reach the TMDL targets
- The Bay Program is also projecting the effects of climate change on the Bay out to 2050, when the impact on the Bay – and the associated impact on local government level of effort— will be greater
- The increased risk of localized flooding could also be a significant issue
- Current Bay Program policy calls for the Bay Partner jurisdictions to address climate change impacts quantitatively through their WIPs by 2022, although they have the option of doing so sooner
- In the meantime, the Bay Program will adjust its models to better simulate climate change impacts and generate new results by the end of 2019
- Climate change also has an impact on the efficiency of stormwater BMPs

### WRTC findings for the CBPC:

- Bay Program efforts to date represent sound science on the climate change issue, but further upgrades will be needed before the Partners' 2021-2022 decision on addressing quantitative impacts
- More research is needed to determine how to adapt current BMPs and design new ones to better address climate change impacts
- Impacts on local governments could include requirements for installing additional BMPs or new stormwater BMP design standards that could increase the cost of development

### WRTC recommendation for CBPC action:

- Advocate that more Bay Program and state resources be devoted to researching the issue of BMP impacts and adaptation options