

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATE

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WRTC Meeting
March 12, 2021



Current Issues

- Virginia issues new Chesapeake Bay Action Plan Guidance
- Updated land use
- Questions about septic numbers and loading
- DEIJ emphasis
- Conowingo WIP, climate change, litigation

VA's Bay Action Plan Guidance

DEQ issues new Action Plan Guidance in February

- Equivalent to MDE's Accounting Guidance document
- Rules and calculations for how Phase I and Phase II permittees meet Bay TMDL nutrient and sediment reduction requirements
- Still based on cumulative 40% Level 2 scoping run reduction developed for Phase I WIPs
- Still uses 5.3.2 WSM loading rates, but incorporates changes in BMP efficiencies and protocols made since then (e.g. street sweeping and stream restoration)
- Same basic approach to grandfathering as MD guidance (credit for existing projects using old guidance; new projects to be credited using new guidance)
- Unlike MD guidance, VA guidance based on directly meeting nutrient, sediment reduction goals; new development and redevelopment requirements based on P load calculations

Updated Land Use Under Development

- Current CAST land use based mostly on LIDAR imagery from 2013-14
- Now updating with high-resolution imagery from 2017-18 for incorporation in CAST 2021
 - In urban areas, 2013-14 – 2017-18 comparison will show changes in imperviousness, tree canopy
- Biggest change will be in total ag acres
 - No longer based on Ag Census
- Likely to be incorporated in a way that minimizes load differences between model versions
- Land use review to be available through Land Use Viewer (*not yet running*)
 - Loudoun one of 14 test counties
- Land cover review at:
<http://chescon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=08a9ea0008614af3af34621f570b464e>



Other Developments

Septics

- NVRC analysis shows major discrepancies with Bay Program #s where up-to-date sewershed and state data is lacking

DEIJ emphasis

- Recent EC statement, strategy and workgroup

Conowingo WIP – still waiting for financing plan

- PSC: new direction?

Climate change – work on updating IDF curves continues

- Draft due in April

Bay TMDL litigation – no new developments