

Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2017 Midpoint Assessment: *Building the capacity for success in Phase III WIPs*

2017 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference
Baltimore, Maryland
April 4, 2017

What is the Midpoint Assessment?

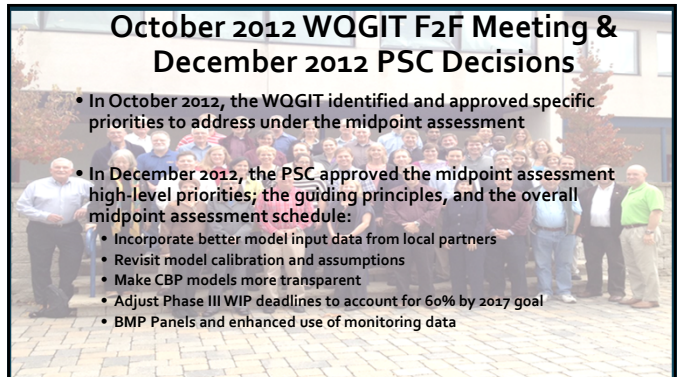
- Review of progress towards meeting the 2017 60% interim target and the 2025 Chesapeake Bay TMDL goal
- Optimize implementation of the Bay jurisdictions' WIPs and ensure we're on track for development of Phase III WIPs
- Gather, review, and incorporate new data and science into the Partnership's decision support tools

Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles

1. Continue implementation, tracking progress and reporting results, with stable tools through at least 2017
2. Enhance decision support and assessment tools to enable successful engagement of local partners
3. Incorporate new or refined BMPs and verification of practices into existing accountability tools and reporting protocols
4. Address emerging issues (e.g., climate change)
5. Prioritize midpoint assessment actions and use adaptive management to ensure goals are met

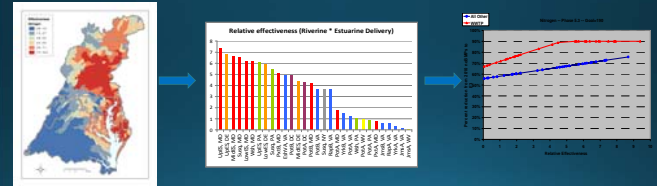
October 2012 WQGIT F2F Meeting & December 2012 PSC Decisions

- In October 2012, the WQGIT identified and approved specific priorities to address under the midpoint assessment
- In December 2012, the PSC approved the midpoint assessment high-level priorities; the guiding principles, and the overall midpoint assessment schedule:
 - Incorporate better model input data from local partners
 - Revisit model calibration and assumptions
 - Make CBP models more transparent
 - Adjust Phase III WIP deadlines to account for 60% by 2017 goal
 - BMP Panels and enhanced use of monitoring data

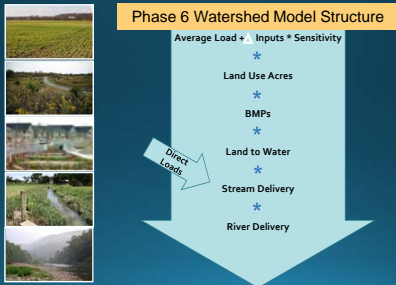


Current Status of Midpoint Assessment Priorities and Impacts to the Phase III WIPs

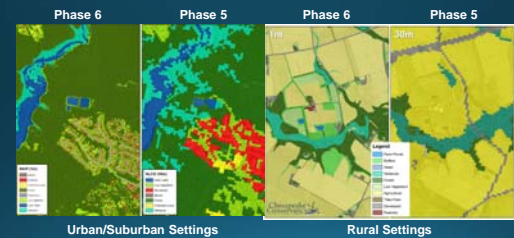
Partnership Approved Methodology for Establishing Phase III WIP Planning Targets



Completed 1 Year Partnership Review of Phase 6 Modeling Tool Refinements



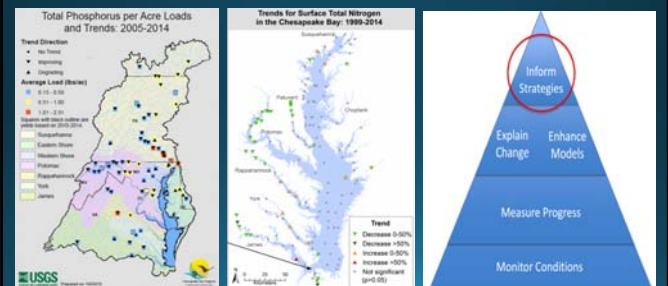
Advanced from 30 Meter to 1 Meter Resolution of Land Cover Basinwide



STAC Workshops & Peer Reviews



Monitoring Trends to Support Phase III WIPs



Overview of Phase III WIP Expectations

Phase III WIP Expectations: Schedule

- **Preliminary Draft – June 2016**
 - EPA solicited Partnership feedback over the summary and early fall and revised document accordingly
- **Interim Version – January 2017**
- **Final Version – Fall 2017 (anticipated)**
 - EPA will update document to reflect Partnership policy decisions on how to address Conowingo, climate change and growth

Phase III WIP Expectations – Top 4

- Programmatic and numeric implementation commitments for 2018-2025
- Strategies for engagement of local, regional and federal partners in implementation
- Account for changed conditions: climate change, Conowingo Dam infill, growth
- Develop, implement local planning goals below the state-major basin scales

Partnership Approved Local Planning Goal Recommendations

WQGIT Approved – December 15, 2016

Final Recommendations of the Local Planning Goals Task Force

Introduction:
This document serves as a framework of the key questions and options that the Local Planning Goals Task Force (Task Force) recommends that jurisdictions consider when developing their Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). The charge given to the Task Force by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) poses three primary questions: 1) Should the Phase III WIPs include local planning goals; and 2) If there are local planning goals, what are the options for the scale of the goals; and 3) How these goals could be expressed in different jurisdictions, in order to provide jurisdictions with the flexibility to develop plans that fit their needs, this paper presents options for how a jurisdiction could define "local", and what is meant by a goal. Below is the full charge to the Task Force as well as the Task Force's recommendations.

Task Force Charge¹ – as Assigned by the WQGIT
"To make recommendations to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) regarding whether the Phase III WIPs should include local area planning targets (LAPTs) and, if so, options for how these targets could be expressed in different jurisdictions. The Local Area Planning Targets Task Force (Task Force) will address findings from the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) Stakeholder Assessment, including the goal of raising awareness of local partners' contribution toward achieving the Bay TMDL, the technical capacity of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Phase II modeling suite, how local implementation addresses local conditions, needs and opportunities, such as local water quality; and the availability of tools to assist in the development and optimization of local implementation strategies. The Task Force will review the efforts of some jurisdictions to develop LAPTs as part of the Phase III WIPs and recent work to establish federal facility targets. Task Force recommendations will be presented as part of the development of the Phase III WIP expectations by EPA."



Communications & Engagement

PHASE III WIP GENERAL INFORMATION FACT SHEET
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' ROLE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP EFFORT

On Dec. 29, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a federal and comprehensive cleanup plan with accountability features to guide federal, state and local actions as they clean up the Chesapeake Bay and the streams, creeks and rivers that feed into it. Specifically, the TMDL calls for a 25% reduction in nitrogen, 34% reduction in phosphorus and 20% reduction in sediment delivered to the bay. The TMDL was required under the federal Clean Water Act and responded to court orders in Virginia and the District of Columbia from the late 1990s.

Local governments throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, along with federal and state government, nonprofit organizations, private business and citizens, are making significant progress in reducing the "loads" of local wastewater and the bay. By taking actions such as upgrading wastewater treatment plants, reducing stormwater runoff and offering incentives to reduce erosion, local governments are ensuring that wastewater is not polluted, communities can attract new businesses, home values increase and drinking water quality is protected. Although this progress is commendable, more wastewater treatment throughout the region remains required. Localities must continue working to meet the pollution reduction targets established in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.


How Are We Doing?
Bay Program partners are conducting a "Midpoint Assessment" to evaluate progress toward the 2017 goal of having practices in place to meet 50% of the need for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions required in the TMDL. As part of this assessment, the state of computer analysis models that inform ongoing restoration actions, commonly referred to as the Chesapeake Watershed Model or "Model", is being enhanced. The revised model will allow reporting of newly approved pollution reduction practices, and now includes updated land use and land cover data that more accurately represent what's happening on the ground. In July, the Model has been calibrated using almost three decades' worth (1985 to 2013) of water quality monitoring data from a watershed-wide network of more than 200 monitoring stations (bays and rivers).

What Do Local Governments Need to Do?

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED
Spans 64,000 square miles and includes the Districts of Columbia and portions of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

POPULATION
18 million residents live in the watershed.

WATERS OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Avg. 5,000



Midpoint Assessment Policy Decisions – Impacts to Phase III WIPs

Conowingo Dam Infill Policy Decisions

Who?



How?

Allocation equity rules
used in the Bay TMDL

Most cost effective
practices and locations

When?

By 2025

Beyond 2025

Post 2025

Climate Change Policy Decisions

• The Partnership will decide whether to address climate change considerations:

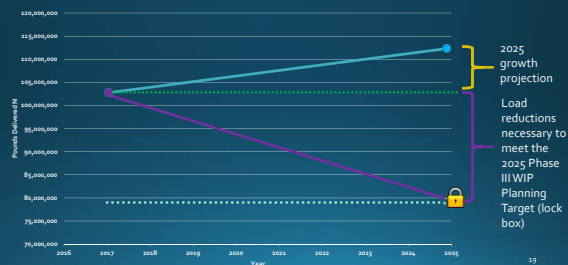
- **Quantitatively**—accounting for additional loads due to climate change impacts projected through 2025 in the Phase III WIPs

AND/OR

- **Qualitatively**—adaptively manage climate change considerations through the implementation of BMPs (with climate resilient characteristics) through the Phase III WIPs and 2-year milestones

Accounting for Growth

Using 2025 growth projections in Phase III WIPs



“Getting to Yes” on the Midpoint Assessment

- Focus on incremental, consensus decision-making up through the Partnership
- Topics fully vetted through webinars and informational briefings to tee up policy decisions to wider partners, stakeholder, public audiences
- Principals’ Staff Committee is driving decision-making schedule for the Partnership

Links to Additional Resources

- Midpoint Assessment Website (updates in progress):
<https://mpa.chesapeakebay.net/>
- WQGIT web page:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/water_quality_goal_implementation_team
- Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool: www.casttool.org
- Chesapeake Progress / Water Quality:
<http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water#water-quality>

Lucinda Power
Implementation and Evaluation Team Leader
U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410-267-5722
power.lucinda@epa.gov



www.chesapeakebay.net
www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl