



# Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Assessment



Presented to the Potomac Watershed Roundtable

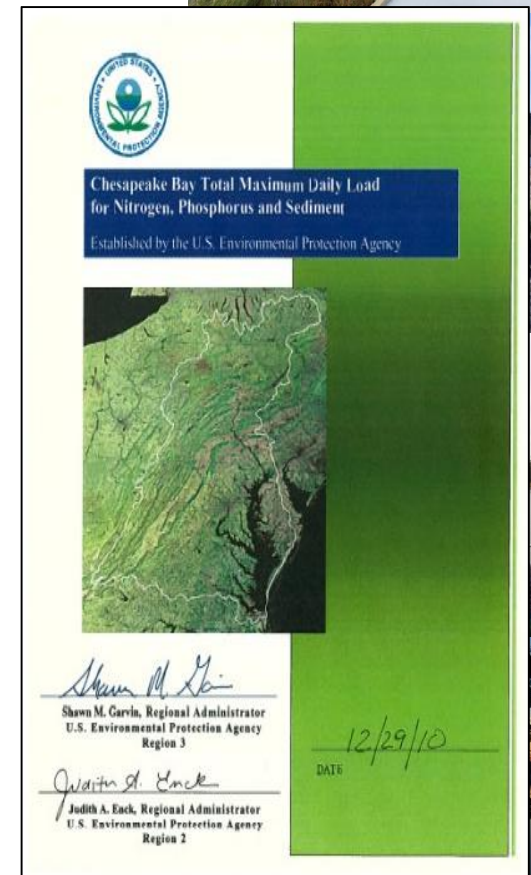
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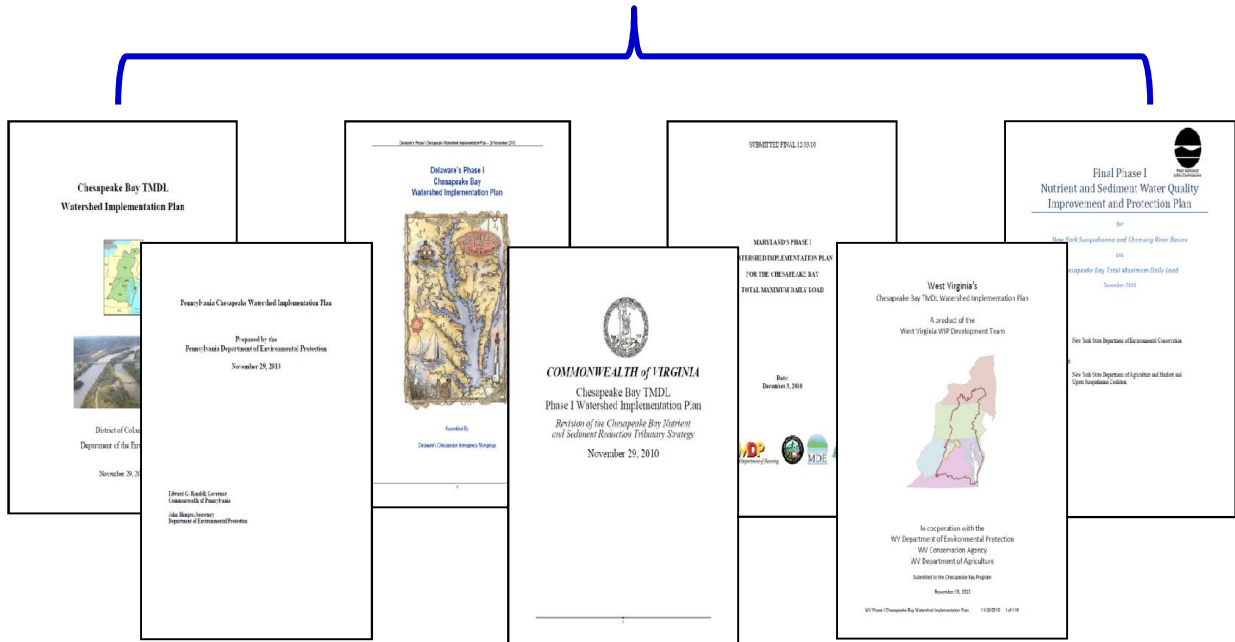
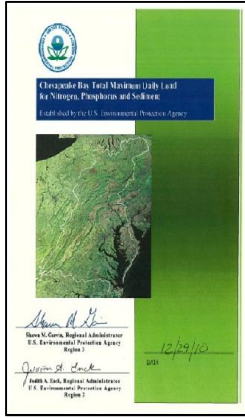
# Chesapeake Bay TMDL

- TMDL: Set limits for sources of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to meet water quality standards.
- Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs): States/DC describe what amount, how, where, and when.
- 2-Year Milestones: States and DC, working with local partners, implement actions to reduce pollutant loads
- 60% by 2017, 100% of practices in place by 2025
- Consequences: State contingencies and/or EPA consequences if targets aren't met.

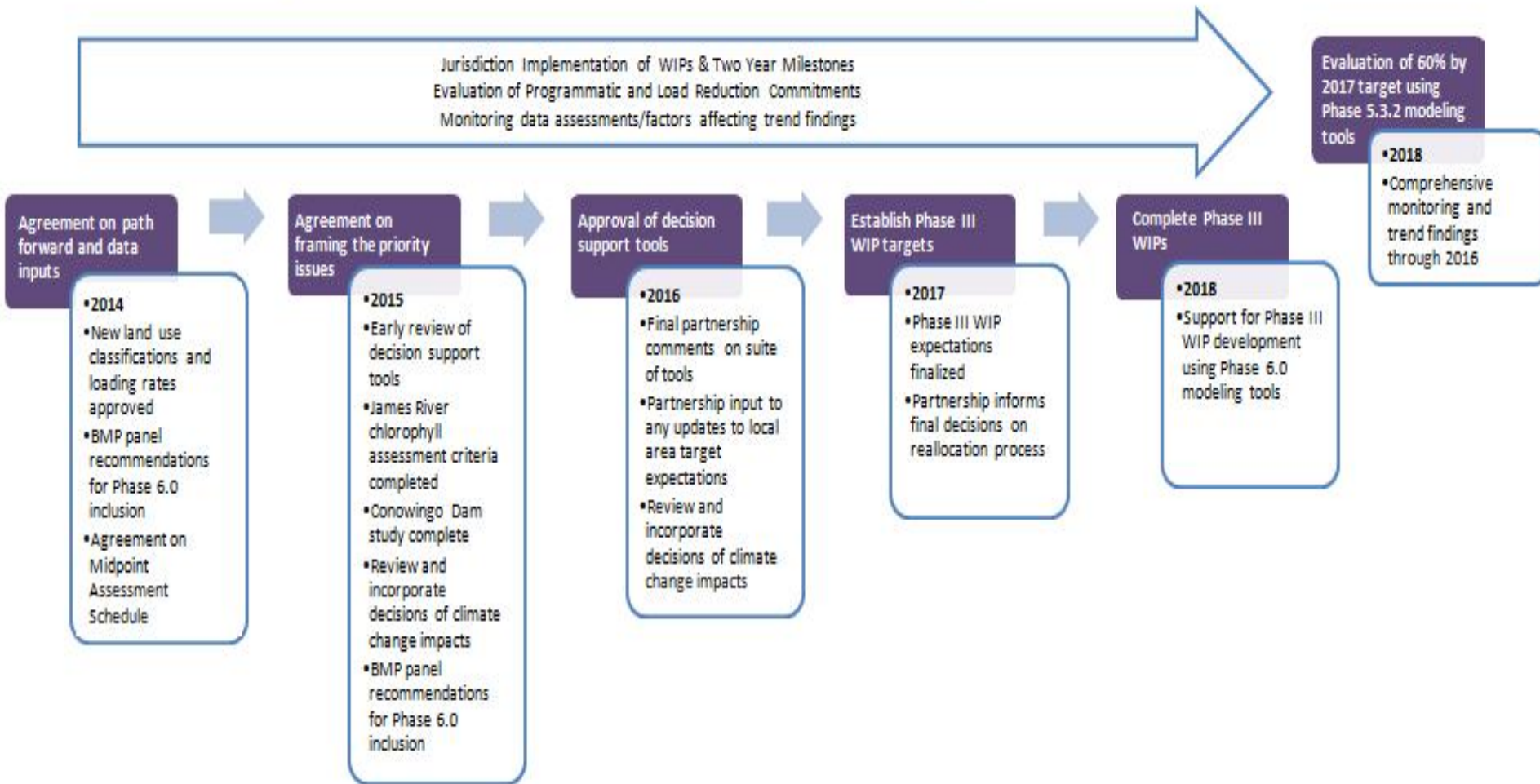




# Chesapeake Bay TMDL Based on 7 Watershed Implementation Plans



# Midpoint Assessment Timeline



# Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Assessment Process

## What we want to understand

- What aspects of the Phase I and II WIP process facilitated implementation?
- What topics does the Phase III WIP process need to address more directly?
- How Phase III WIPs and the oversight of implementation could better engage local partners and accelerate the implementation of pollution reduction practices?
- Other topics as appropriate and/or as suggested by stakeholders.

## Target diverse stakeholders

- Secured recommendations from Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Goal Implementation Team for stakeholders to contact.
- During conversations with stakeholders, asked each of them who else would be helpful to listen to.

## Stakeholder Conversations

- April 30 - Sep 24: Spoke to 121 stakeholders, 46 more than initially proposed.
- All states and D.C, EPA and other federal agencies
- Local governments
- Agriculture, wastewater, stormwater sectors
- NGOs

## Draft Assessment

- Sept. 25: Prepared a draft Stakeholder Assessment summarizing the issues that were discussed and the range of input and opinions presented.
- Provided stakeholders the opportunity to review and confirm that the draft assessment has accurately captured their views.
- Presented findings to WQGIT, Principals Committee, Management Committee, LGAC



# Stakeholder Breakdown

- Contacted 204 stakeholders throughout watershed
- Spoke to 122 individuals
  - District of Columbia: 8
  - Delaware: 10
  - Maryland: 13
  - New York: 3
  - Pennsylvania: 32
  - Virginia: 28
  - West Virginia: 8
  - EPA: 19
  - Additional federal landowners: 2



# Stakeholder Breakdown (continued)

- Agriculture: 9
- Stormwater: 6 (undercounted)
- Wastewater: 15 (undercounted)
- State government: 28 + 8 D.C.
- Local government: 19 + 8 D.C.
- NGO: 11



# Three Stories

- Story One
  - *Implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and meeting applicable water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal rivers is our highest priority*
- Story Two
  - *The Bay TMDL is one priority among many, largely because of regulatory or institutional mandates*
- Story Three
  - *The Bay TMDL is an unfair burden that impinges on other priorities*







## Story One

*Implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and meeting applicable water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal rivers is our highest priority*

- Complete the Chesapeake Bay TMDL on schedule
- There are substantial benefits to the Bay and local waters
- EPA needs to provide backstop measures to stay on schedule
- Advocates for the Bay have worked hard to secure funding
- Monitoring shows less improvement than modeling





## Story Two

*The Bay TMDL is one priority among many, largely because of regulatory or institutional mandates*

- Recognize political and financial realities at state and local levels
- The Bay TMDL schedule can't be met
- Too much uncertainty and confusion about what is and what will be required
- Demands keep growing while support has not kept up





## Story Three

*The Bay TMDL is an unfair burden that impinges on other priorities*

- The Bay is not important for my jurisdiction or sector
- We need more support and a realistic schedule
- Participation should be voluntary – no unfunded mandates
- No backstops and contingencies





## What Has Been Valuable

- Early outreach and continued communication
- Stakeholders can work out differences when involved early
- Money & technical support are vital
- Show local benefits
- Listening – adapting Model & mandates





## Many Shared Concerns and Ideas

- 1) Equity
- 2) Communication & Collaboration
- 3) Accountability and Flexibility
- 4) Need for Support
- 5) Schedule
- 6) Role of the Bay Model





## Equity

- Treat sectors and jurisdictions fairly – share benefits & burdens
- Target funding and support to where needed most, e.g., rural areas
- Be transparent and equitable in burdens and benefits



# Communication and Collaboration

- Need more opportunities for sharing what is learned
- Communication strategy
  - States to localities: what, why, resources, and the implications of success and failure
  - EPA to each state and each sector - same
  - EPA Bay-wide: show the value to local waters and local economies
- Bring localities and sectors within states to work with each other, to learn together, and to build consensus for actions that reflect experience

# Accountability and Flexibility

- Create more innovative and cost-effective BMPs
  - But: more testing and/or verification for BMPs, which will drive up costs
- Too little credit has been given for some jurisdictions or sectors
- More flexibility on the “how” - focus on results, not checking off boxes







## Need for Support

- Localities and sectors feeling the pain!
- Worry about changes in Phase III
- Need more consideration about the cost-effectiveness of practices
- Trading is problematic – inconsistent in watershed
- Most cost-effective practices generally involve agriculture
- Funding, technical assistance, and regulatory structures need to keep up with demands





## Schedule

- Schedule is too rushed
  - States had too little time to learn from and gain support from localities & sectors
  - Localities too - for elected officials and local stakeholders
- 2025 deadline is not practical – will harm planning and implementation
- But - concerns that easing schedule means abandoning TMDL and provoking lawsuits



## The Bay Model

- Confusion over Model has been harmful
- Model is being asked to guide decisions at scales that are not suitable
- Too many assumptions don't match realities
- But - Model may be better than monitoring due to lag time





## Locality Questions

- Will loads change? will the TMDL have to be reopened?
- How can we make reductions real to the people who have to make them?
- Will there be a new model for funding for Phase III?
- What do we need to do?





# Stakeholder Assessment Action Plan

- **Purpose:** Translate assessment findings into actions to inform development of Phase III WIP expectations.
- **Goal of Action Plan:** Strengthen local engagement in Phase III WIP development
- **Specific actions under review:**
  - Identify and share local engagement successes
  - Develop and implement communication plans
    - Identify target audiences for communications and engagement
  - Explore development of local area targets





## Bottom line for 2025 goal

1. Partnership needs to be able to engage local partners in order to get practices on the ground
2. Use midpoint assessment priorities to optimize implementation of WIPs to help achieve 2017 and 2025 goals
3. Changes to modeling inputs and assumptions will allow us to work with key partners
4. Healthy step in adaptive management process



# Next Steps in Assessing Progress

1. 2016-2017 milestones due January 15, 2016
2. EPA will work with federal partners to provide leadership and coordinate with jurisdictions on WIP and milestone implementation
3. Continue work on Midpoint Assessment, which will guide future WIPs, milestones and implementation from 2018 - 2025

