

Virginia Chesapeake Bay Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan

Overview

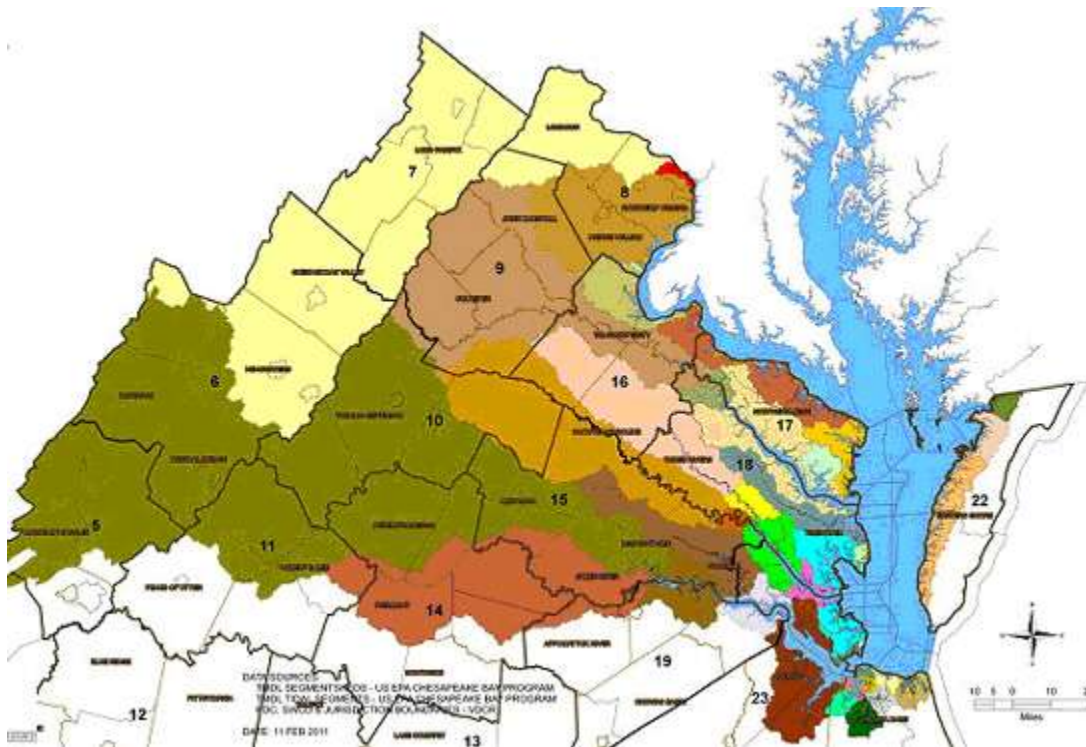
- Virginia submitted its Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) in November of 2010
- The next step in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process is the development of a Phase II WIP
- The Phase II WIP will involve:
 - State's development of local area targets; and
 - Working more closely with local governments, Planning District Commissions (PDCs), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed organizations and other stakeholders to identify specific practices to reduce water pollution at the local level.

Tidal Water Segment Map

For the purposes of developing a TMDL, the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters have been divided into 92 tidal water segments.

There are 35 segments controlled by Virginia and another five Maryland owned segments that include Virginia drainage areas.

Shown by the different colors on the map below are Virginia lands that drain to each of those tidal segments.



Working with localities on Phase II

- Each of Virginia's 39 segment sheds has been assigned a load allocation for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.
- An allocation is the reduction the state is required to meet in each segment shed.
- Using EPA data, the state will give each of the 96 localities in Virginia's bay watershed a reduction goal.
- The sum of these goals will equal Virginia's TMDL allocations.
- For localities, this is just a goal, not a legally-binding assignment.
- To help develop strategies to meet these targets, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) staff will work with PDCs and localities on a process to develop nutrient reduction strategies to meet goals by 2025.
- In this process, DCR will provide each locality with information on its current nutrient and sediment loads, land use, conservation practices coverage and other data.
- This data will be derived from EPA's Watershed Model.
- Each locality will be able to draw from its particular data to develop local reduction strategies
- The data will include land use, green infrastructure, water quality, and local agricultural and urban BMP implementation levels.

Phase II Watershed Implementation Planning Process – Information Requested from Local Governments, PDCs and Soil and Water Conservation District

- Develop a current BMP inventory – this information will be used to update implementation progress data in the Chesapeake Bay model;
- Evaluate the land use/land cover information included in the model and provide more accurate land cover information;
- Review the 2017 and 225 BMP scenarios as identified in the Phase I WIP and develop preferred local BMP scenarios that provide a similar level of treatment;
- Develop strategies to implement the preferred BMP scenarios; and
- Identify any resource needs to implement the strategies and BMP scenarios.

Secretary of Natural Resources Presentation to the CRC Board

- During March and April, Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for Chesapeake Bay Restoration Anthony Moore, or his designee, visited each of 16 planning district or regional commissions
- On April 7, 2011, his designee Joan Salvati, DCR Division Director, spoke to the Commonwealth Regional. She gave a recap on Virginia's Phase I WIP and introduced the current thinking on the development of the Phase II version.

CRC Staff Meet With DCR Representatives

DCR staff met with staff of the Commonwealth Regional Council on May 10, 2011 to discuss in more detail the process for the development of the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan. Discussions were held on scheduling a regional meeting for the dissemination of Chesapeake Bay Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan data to impacted localities within this region. Counties affected are Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Nottoway and Prince Edward.

Regional Chesapeake Bay Phase II WIP Data Delivery Meeting

In conjunction with DCR, the Commonwealth Regional Council arranged a regional meeting on June 21, 2011 for the delivery of Chesapeake Bay Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan data to impacted localities within the region. Attendees included staff from local government and planning commissions (Counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Nottoway and Prince Edward), Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District, Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District, the Piedmont Health District and the Virginia Department of Forestry. Watersheds impacted by the Bay within the CRC region include the upper James and Appomattox. DCR staff gave an overview of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Accountability Frameworks. DCR Staff reported that a substantial portion of the nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment controls necessary to meet the Bay TMDL allocation will be implemented at the local level by partners. Localities and partners were asked to review the data and provide input to any corrections to the data where appropriate. The deadline for input is February 2012.

CRC Staff Presentation to the CRC Board

- On July 7, 2011, CRC Staff provided a report to the CRC Board as to Virginia's efforts to develop the Phase II WIP during their monthly meeting. The report included the Regional Chesapeake Bay Phase II WIP Data Delivery Meeting held at CRC on June 21, 2011.
- On October 6, 2011, CRC Staff provided a report on the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) grant funding availability in support of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) planning efforts.
- On September 28, 2011, CRC held discussions with CRC Executive Committee Members (due to time constraints) as to desire to participate in Multi-PDC Application for grant funding in support of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) planning efforts.
- On January 6, 2012, the CRC Board unanimously approved participation and execution of Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Middle Peninsula PDC for this Multi-PDC Planning Project.

CRC Participates in Coordinated PDC Approach to the Virginia WIP for Cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay

- On September 21, 2011, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the availability of grant funding in support of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) planning efforts.

- On September 27, 2011, Planning District Commission's with jurisdictions impacted by the Phase II WIP partnered together under a proposed joint application to DCR under the Chesapeake Bay Locality Planning Assistance Program. Under the proposal, PDC's would bring interested local governments together to help them become better informed to make critical and important decisions related to the five (5) WIP deliverable outcomes DCR has requested local governments to address.
- The Commonwealth Regional Council Executive Committee elected to participate in the coordinated PDC approach application on September 28, 2011.
- The Multi-PDC Application was submitted by the lead PDC (Middle Peninsula PDC) on September 30, 2011.
- In Mid-December, the lead PDC (Middle Peninsula PDC) was notified that the application was funded.
- On January 6, 2012, the Commonwealth Regional Council unanimously approved participation and execution of Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Middle Peninsula PDC for this project.
- As a participating PDC, the CRC will not be accountable for the impacted localities decisions regarding their level of participation. The CRC's goal will be only to facilitate and coordinate the process.

VAST Training Workshop

In conjunction with DCR, the Commonwealth Regional Council arranged for a VAST (Virginia Assessment Scenario Tool) Training Workshop on Thursday January 19, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library, Farmville, Virginia 23901. The training was conducted by DCR Representatives. The Virginia Assessment and Scenario Tool (VAST) was developed to help localities, PDCs and others take existing land use and BMP data and develop local nutrient reduction scenarios needed to meet pollution-reduction targets established under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and state Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). Those in attendance included representatives/staff from the following:

- Cumberland County
- Prince Edward County
- Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District (PFSWCD)
- Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD)
- Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC)
- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

CRC Staff / DCR Representatives Presentation to the Regions CAO's

- On July 26, 2011, CRC Staff provided a status report to the regions Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) on Virginia's efforts to develop the Phase II WIP during their monthly meeting.
- On August 23, 2011, CRC Staff provided a status report to the region's Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) on Virginia's efforts to develop the Phase II WIP during its monthly meeting.
- On September 27, 2011, Chip Rice, DCR Representative provided a status report to the region's Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) on Virginia's efforts to develop the Phase II WIP during the monthly meeting.
- On September 27, 2011, CRC Staff provided an overview on the Request for Proposals – Chesapeake Bay Locality Planning Assistance Grant Program (Deadline September 30, 2011)
- On January 24, 2012, CRC Staff provided complete overview/status report to the region's Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) on Phase II WIP Process, including the VAST Training Workshop held on January 19, 2012. Discussions were held on letter dated November 9, 2011 to localities from David Johnson, DCR, and the following information being requested by DCR from local governments:
 1. Develop a current BMP inventory
 2. Evaluate the land/use/land cover information included in the model and provide more accurate land cover information
 3. Review the 2017 and 2025 BMP scenarios as identified in the Phase I WIP and develop preferred local BMP scenarios that provide a similar level of treatment.
 4. Develop strategies to implement the preferred BMP scenarios
 5. Identify resource need to implement the strategies and BMP scenarios

CRC Staff reported that during the VAST Training Workshop, DCR Representatives stressed to localities the importance of each County responding to the November 9, 2011 letter. A response letter should be submitted even if the County elects not to provide additional information. The deadline for submission of local information in support of the Phase II WIP is February 1, 2012. If local information is not provided before that date, the BMP scenarios developed as part of the Phase I WIP process in 2010 will be used as the default information for your locality.

- On January 27, 2012, CRC Staff sent a follow-up email to the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) of Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Nottoway and Prince Edward as to a reminder of a response needed to November 9, 2011 letter from DCR. In the final plan, each locality will be identified as to whether they have responded to the letter or not. If a locality intends to NOT provide any additional information, a response letter should still be mailed to DCR. The deadline for submission of local information in support of the Phase I WIP is February 1, 2012. If local information is not provided before that date, the BMP scenarios developed as part of the Phase I WIP process in 2010 will be used as the default information for the respective locality. CRC Staff also provided appropriate DCR recipient contact information (for formal response, actual data submission or informal response).