

Proposed STAC “Proactive Workshop” for FY 2001

Potomac Watershed Workshop on Nutrient Management

Summary:

Two daunting challenges face the Potomac watershed: (1) achieving and maintaining the year 2000 40% nutrient reduction goal; and (2) resolution of long-term nutrient- and sediment-driven water quality impairments. For the latter, the key steps include: (1) defining “endpoints” by 2001; (2) defining requisite N, P, & sediment goals by 2001; (3) revising tributary strategies by 2002, including final cap strategies; (4) state initiation of process to adopt of water quality standards to conform with endpoints in 2001. This is all aimed at achieving compliance by 2010.

The Bay Program has developed a protocol: “Process for Integrating the Cooperative and Statutory Programs of the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries” with a goal of achieving attainment of water quality standards without having to develop a formal TMDL. The Nutrient Subcommittee has agreed to take the lead, in partnership with WashCOG, ICPRB, and others to conduct a Potomac workshop focused on planning in March 2000. This proposal is for STAC to become a co-sponsor of a follow-up workshop focused on implementation. It is recommended that STAC contribute \$5,000 of its allocated proactive workshop budget assuming that additional funds would augment the total.

Purpose:

The purpose of the March 2000 workshop is to: (1) improve stakeholder awareness; (2) foster interstate cooperation on technical and policy issues; (3) provide stakeholder input to development and tracking of Potomac Cap Maintenance Strategy; and (3) provide stakeholder input to long-term Potomac tributary strategy. Each of these will include substantial technical, procedural, and policy issues.

The purpose of the 2001 workshop would be to identify a range of technical requirements and approaches. The workshop could be structured to help STAC fulfill its obligations under the “Integration” protocol.

General Format:

Two days are envisioned for the March 2000 workshop with about 75-100 invited participants. The attendees would be from throughout the watershed, would represent all levels of government and the full range of stakeholders. The outcome would be in the form of specific recommendations to CBPO & states, emphasizing planning and identification of scientific technical issues. The 2001 workshop would also be two days, but would emphasize resolving the scientific and technical issues.

Outcomes:

STAC’s interest would focus mainly on the technical aspects of the workshop, which would be useful throughout the Bay watershed. Some of the key concerns are:

1. Identification of control measures to maintain the cap by sector & by state.
2. Selection of water quality “endpoints” defining a health waterbody, in terms of: chlorophyll a, DO at different levels, and water clarity.
3. Identification of control options for point sources, urban runoff, and agricultural runoff.
4. Defining how best to measure progress and monitor compliance.