

***In my Backyard: An Innovative  
Look at the Advances of Onsite  
Decentralized Wastewater  
Treatment Systems***

**Proposal Requestor:**

Tanya Spano (Chair- CBP Wastewater  
Treatment Workgroup, on behalf of  
membership)

## **Justification:**

- Wastewater is more than industrial and municipal facilities and their pipes
- Non-point sources just as important
- While municipal facilities receive millions of dollars to upgrade, responsible homeowners are left to manage the systems in use on their property, often spending thousands of dollars on upkeep and repair. Others fail to provide the needed maintenance, leading to significant health and environmental concerns.
- Therefore onsite treatment systems and the benefits associated with advancing technologies are very important
- An open forum to further discuss decentralized systems issues is needed to bring the watershed as a whole into a new era of management.

## **Objectives:**

Provide local government managers, consultants and state regulators with:

- a) Information on cutting-edge technologies in onsite/decentralized wastewater treatment that have been successful in real world applications;
- b) A suite of options and alternatives that they should also evaluate to as they contemplate how to meet TMDL and other program objectives;
- c) A forum for sharing experiences amongst the participants and presenters. Identifying viable options and alternatives that can be reliably applied at facilities fits with EPA's concept of Adaptive Management - as new and innovative technologies and practices are tested.

## **Workshop Details:**

- Present information on proven approaches that improve treatment efficiency and identify relevant costs, impacts, reliability, and associated nutrient reduction capabilities. This would also include identifying process mechanisms, regulatory tools, and/or program changes that have been/can be used to address challenges.
- Describe how non-conventional approaches such as improved operational reliability.
- Investigate other non-traditional alternatives. These discussions may include real world examples of on-site and decentralized systems used in concurrence with wastewater treatment facilities, as well as address options associated with offsets and trading.

## **Anticipated Audience:**

- Local government managers, engineers and the consultants supporting them
- State regulatory staff that would manage the onsite system BMP implementation for achieving the TMDL goals

## **Deliverables:**

- Provide information to those in a position to use it
- Provide an open forum for participants to address question and concerns
- Share informative literature – factsheets, list of references and project information for those applications that have proven to be viable alternatives, and will include recommendations for addressing those alternatives that appear promising but require further development and/or piloting in order to be more viable.
- Formal report to the Wastewater Workgroup and subsequently the Water Quality Goal Team in the fall 2012 timeframe.

**Potential Workshop Partners:**

MWCOG

WERF / WEF

NAHB

**Budget:**

Approximately: \$15,000

Request to STAC: \$10,000

Pursue additional contributions from our partners

**Workshop Date:**

Fall 2012