

Partnership's Chesapeake Bay Tidal and Non-tidal Monitoring Networks:

Addressing Near term Funding Shortfalls and Long Term Network Funding Strategies

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Outline

- Brief highlights of 2012 CBP monitoring meetings with partners.
- Budget and challenges
- Request for STAC representation in a 6-9 month monitoring review to develop recommendations on program adjustments that meet CBP priorities as constrained by new funding levels of support.

Highlights of the 2012 Monitoring Network Reviews

Good News

- Year long series of monitoring network reviews with each of the seven watershed jurisdictions yielded only minor requests for adjustments to the network.
- Our collective tidal and non-tidal monitoring networks have now all reached a level of maturity where they can be fine-tuned to ensure they are meeting management needs and requirements.



Network Reviews: 2012 Summary Snapshot



Programming status/future interests	MD	VA	DE	WV	PA	NY	DC
2009-2013 Establish and maintaining new sites in the watershed							
Reinstate phytoplankton monitoring support in the Bay	Tidal						
Support recalibration of the benthic IBI for the Bay assessments	Tidal	Tidal					
New watershed long term water quality monitoring network sites supporting the TMDL	1	≤5 2° to 1°	1 BMP	4-5		5-6	
Address funding for programming challenges (e.g. aging boat fleet, rising gas costs, QA support, NELAC stds raise lab costs, nontraditional partner support, analyses, threatened gages, etc)	Tidal + NT	Tidal + NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Interagency site swaps to improve monitoring efficiency					NT		
Stream health stressor id analyses		NT					



Network Reviews: 2012 Summary Snapshot



Programming status/future interests	MD	VA	DE	WV	PA	NY	DC
2009-2013 Establish and maintaining new sites in the watershed	Strategic, gap filling growth to 126 sites						
Reinstate phytoplankton monitoring support in the Bay	Ag. Urban focus. small watersheds STAR requests in 2012 to agencies yielded no additional support.						
Support recalibration of the benthic IBI for the Bay assessments	Requesting reallocation of 55K in MD and VA 117e grants. In progress.						
New watershed long term water quality monitoring network sites supporting the TMDL	Documented requests. Budget-limited to advance these requests.						
Address funding for programming challenges (e.g. aging boat fleet, rising gas costs, QA support, NELAC stds raise lab costs, nontraditional partner support, analyses, threatened gages, etc)	A fuel cost supplement is added to MD and VA requests. Other challenges remain.						
Interagency site swaps to improve monitoring efficiency	Coordination is underway between USGS and SRBC on the path forward.						
Stream health stressor id analyses	ICPRB completed an exploratory analysis in 2012.						

Highlights of the Latest Water Quality Monitoring Program Budgets

Monitoring Network Funding Challenges

Across All Monitoring Networks

- EPA CBP funding challenges under sequester
- Lab costs - Implementation of NELAC Standards increases sample cost
- Economic circumstances leading to cuts to monitoring investments

Across Tidal Monitoring Network

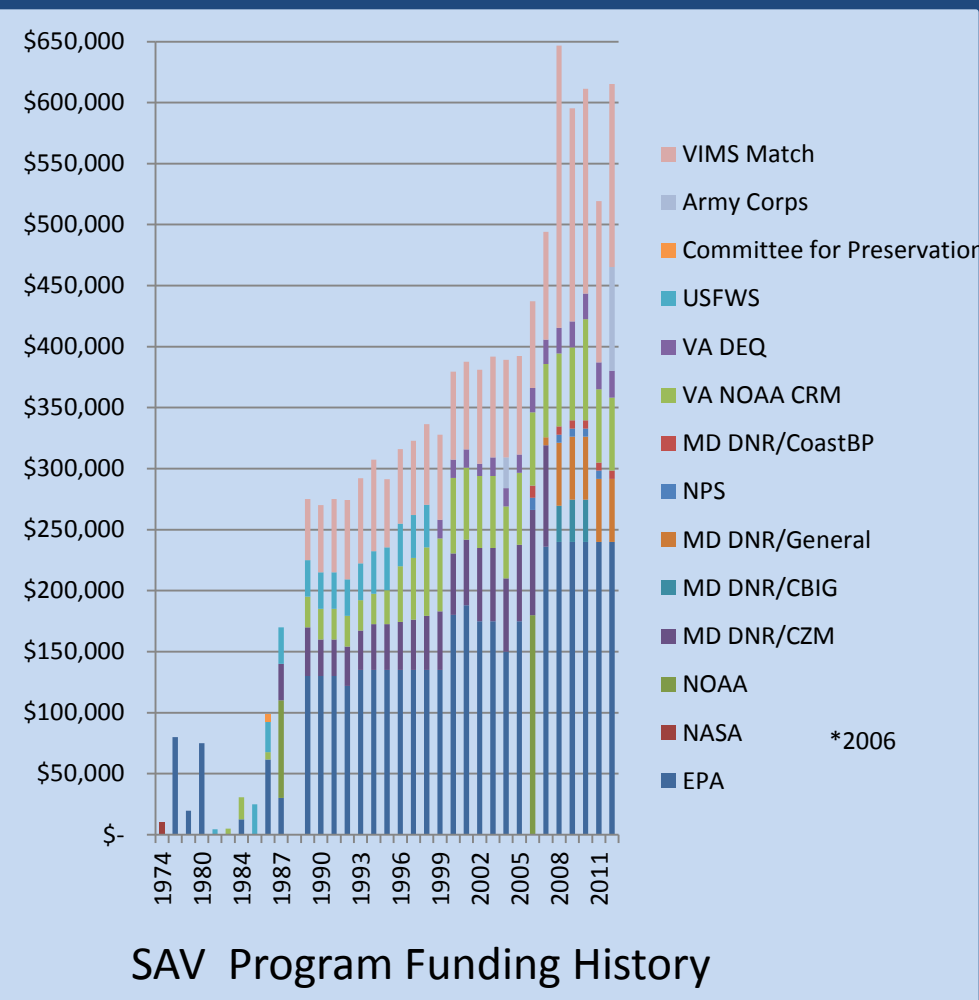
- Boat fleet: aging/offline (fire)
- Fuel costs – a 2.5x increase in <10 yrs.
- Recession impacts – e.g., MD phytoplankton costs lost; VA state funds for shallow water monitoring not renewed
- Fewer federal funding partners – e.g., SAV aerial survey

Across Non-Tidal Monitoring Network

- Underestimation of the total costs for full network implementation
- Network expansion funds diverted to cover funding network critical stream gage stations being discontinued due to state and federal budget cuts
- Sequester impacts – e.g., NY lab costs lost April 2013
- Annual budget cuts – e.g., threatened stream gages (example: Unadilla, NY flow gage station)

Example: Baywide SAV Survey

- Stepwise increased costs in response to management-driven requests for products
- Near term challenge: EPA-funding support declined coincident with continued declining State support—shortfall in 2013
- Mid-term challenge: development and commitment to long term funding strategy



Monitoring Network Shortfalls

Tidal Monitoring Network

Non-Tidal Monitoring Network

Cumulative Monitoring Networks Shortfall

Near term Decisions and Long Term Realignment of Monitoring Network Priorities

We've Made Strategic Adjustments to Our Monitoring Programs in the Past

- 2000-04

Partnership's incremental decisions

- Discontinued toxics monitoring
- Zooplankton monitoring converted into Shallow Water Monitoring Program (EPA 500K)
- Non-tidal Network was established with signing of MOU (EPA 300K)

- 2009

Management Board's monitoring realignment decisions produced:

- Streamlined tidal Bay monitoring network
- Enhanced watershed monitoring network
- Expanded data analysis/interpretation support

2009 Monitoring Re-Alignment

“The removal of tidal segments of the Bay from the impaired waters list (delisting) and...

...determining the effectiveness of our management actions...

...are the responsibilities of the partnership and should be the priorities of the monitoring program.”

Decisions Being Requested of the Management Board 6/14/2013

- Direct STAR's tidal and non-tidal workgroups to develop options for temporary adjustments to the monitoring networks to align with available 2013 funding.
- Direct STAR to work with STAC on setting up a 'mini' monitoring realignment process to enable the Partnership to make decisions on changes to the networks for ensuring long term funding.

Request to STAC

- CBP requests STAC representation and guidance during the next 6-9 months for a mini-MRAT style review approach to provide:
 1. Recommendation options for adjusting tidal and nontidal monitoring programs that consider partner priorities coincident with the new level of funding support.
 2. Contributions to the discussion and recommendation options on a long term funding strategy that helps limit the variability in the Chesapeake Bay monitoring program annual levels of support.