Dorchester County WIP, Phase II Local Team Meeting

Dorchester/Cambridge Airport 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

April 27, 2011Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mike Moulds - Dorchester County DPW (Local Team Leader)
Keith Lackie - MDP, Lower Eastern Shore Regional Office (State Liaison)
Mike Bonsteel - Dorchester County Planning and Zoning
Greg LeBlanc - City of Cambridge
Jennifer Dindinger – Choptank Tributary Team
Bill Giese - Blackwater Refuge
Bill Edwards - Dorchester County Farm Bureau
Beth Ann Lynch - Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth
Chuck Weber - Dorchester County DPW
Erik Fisher – Chesapeake Bay Foundation

- Approved minutes from March Meeting
- Distribution of agenda and agricultural materials from Jim Newcomb
- Keith asked about the webinar, if there were any difficulties or suggested improvements. Next webinar is scheduled for May 16th from 10-12:00 on milestones, MAST, and land use designations
- Keith handed out the revised EPA schedule
    - numbers due from EPA by late July
    - State turns it around in a few weeks
    - local teams have from mid-August to October to develop plans and get local approval
    - Question: Are local elected officials supposed to just accept the plans?
        - An email from Mike Moulds expressing concerns with the rush would help.
- WIP, Phase I State Data (load summaries) has lost accuracy going from State to County level and recalibration will change the numbers anyway. The Phase I numbers are intended to give the Local teams a sense of priorities in drafting 2-year milestones prior to EPA "actual numbers"
- Handouts:
    - DNR with website for Watershed Assistance Collaborative
    - MDA letter regarding Ag. Sector working on separate tract from Local Team (already in agenda packet)
- MDE intends to have a webinar or meeting targeted at rural counties. The message will be, "don't panic".
    - MS4 punitive flexibility has caused much concern
    - people are scared by the cost estimates of the pilot projects

- Topics:
    - EPA New Guidance and Schedule
        - schedule cast in stone as far as EPA is concerned
    - Local Team Coordination
        - no feedback on adjustments
        - webpage in the works
            - Suggestions to include minutes, meeting dates, links, team members, contact information, etc.
            - Mike Moulds to contact Jane Baynard with official request
    - Phase I Load Summaries
        - bar charts from statewide numbers
        - start talking about 2-year milestones based on uncertain numbers
            - We should schedule a meeting with the County Council in July with preliminary concepts and, possibly, State numbers. A follow-up in August with local numbers would be beneficial.
        - the State wants a local team member to be trained on MAST in July so that they can run the numbers with MDE help later
        - the WIP II process should be on the summer MACo meeting agenda
        - approval by Cambridge and local towns also required
    - Current Capacity
        - Question: How is agriculture integrated with our group?
            - they will need to come to each team when they are done or near-completed
        - Bill Giese has received no guidance on determining the role of federal lands
            - DoD has said it will do what it must of standards are identical state-wide, which they may not be
            - State will remove State lands from the County numbers
        - Bill Forlifer noted that MDE calculations for septic usage (people per household) are not correct or up-to-date
            - 3.2 p/h (EPA) vs. 2.3 p/h (Dorchester County)
        - he also asked about forests
        - Question: Where do we find the assumptions used by the EPA in making their graphs?
            - Can we give them our numbers to correct what they've shown?
        - Question (Bill Giese): How do permitted outputs change, if at all, in this process?
        - Space between limit and cap is allowed growth.
        - State and EPA will want tight control over WWTP capacity due to their investment.
        - Question (Keith Lackie): Where are we on filling out sheets?
            - County/Cambridge stormwater rough numbers in play
        - Projects from January 1, 2006 apply, when considering model inputs. {Post meeting note by KL – I have been told by MDE that they will provide a summary of data which IS included in the model, so that Local

Teams can provide additional BMP's, post January 1, 2006, for "additional credit"}

- DNR checking into whether FCA numbers are incorporated in the model
- when strategies are developed, new tracking methods may be useful
- Question (Mike Bonsteel): Can we use WIP I Section 5 data?

  - Current Capacity + Options for Increasing Capacity Resources + 2-year Milestones
    - Question: What has the State proposed?
      - year one = implement; year two = prepare for next cycle
    - our milestones will be fairly broad
    - strategies will be more specific

- Have current capacity to Keith by the end of next week
- Think in more general terms about strategies, enhancing local programs, and creating new programs
- Question: How do we fit in the WIP I numbers?
- Bill Giese mentioned that cover crop success is based in large part on weather
  - Question: Was any consideration given to this?
  - EPA needs "reasonable assurance" through contingencies
- MAST training: Mike, Mike, and Greg are possible trainees
- Tracking
  - Question: What are we tracking now that can be reported easily?
  - Question: What can we track which can be reported?
  - Question: What kind of follow-up is conducted?
  - Question: Can the follow-up be considered a "reasonable assurance"?
    - Bill Forlifer cannot force people to maintain their septic systems
    - he would like operating permits incorporated into law (a possible strategy)
  - tracking should not be complicated
    - a brief description
    - Jennifer: The State wants to know who what and how we are tracking to develop its own method.
- May meeting is on the 25th

END OF MINUTES

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Lackie, Regional Planner
MDP, Lower Eastern Shore Regional Office