

Dorchester County WIP, Phase II Local Team Meeting
Dorchester/Cambridge Airport 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
July 27, 2011 Meeting 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
Jim Newcomb – Dorchester County Soil Conservation District
Bill Edwards - Dorchester County Farm Bureau
Bill Forlifer – Dorchester County Health Department
Jennifer Dindinger – Choptank Tributary Team
Beth Ann Lynch - Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth
John Avery - Town of Hurlock

Visitors:

Eric Fisher – Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Megan Ward – Nanticoke Watershed Association

- Handouts
 - Copies of the May and June meeting minutes approved and will be posted to site.
 - Team received correspondence regarding Circuit rider services available through Center for Watershed Protection for help with WIP preparation. Concern about timing to be able to get them under contract and still meet November deadline. JD: noted it is similar to her work. Bryan Seipp is the local contact.
 - A copy of a June 24th letter from MDE responding to team's questions about timing to get Plan submitted was reviewed. MDE would allow final document to be submitted by 11/23 if a draft is provided within the original deadline.
 - Guidance for local teams to prepare WIP. Proposed State plan format and first snapshot of what the WIP II will look like. Local County Plans would be presented as appendices or chapters.

- Discussion of 2-year milestone guidance.
 - The looming deadline of September 30th for draft
 - Implementation and program development actions need to be identified.
 - Will plan on working on this at August meeting.
 - 2013 language will probably need to be fuzzy using terms like “study, plan or investigate”.

- E-mail from County Council
 - Council is meeting with legislators in August.
 - They requested some input regarding TMDL on needed proposed legislation.
 - e-mail Mike with suggestions, i.e., State taking lead with septic regulations (per Bill Forlifer last time)
 - Jim N: stormwater management district
 - JD noted they are looking at it in Ocean City & Berlin.
 - Jim doesn't see County Council going for it

- Bill F: consistency needed, can be provided by State regulations, not local ordinances.
- Jim N. need for more time to develop a plan.
- Mike M: conversion of septic systems funding and funding for updating Water and Sewer Plan/Comprehensive Plan.
- Bill F: we don't know what other State initiatives are out there until they're introduced.
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- Mike M: we are scheduled to update County Council in September (the 6th)
 - Keith L: should MDE staff be there?
 - Mike M: not necessary as this will be informational.
 - Greg L. will meet with the City Council the following Monday.
 - Mike M: will put together PowerPoint and send it out for comments
- Comment on Rural Webinar: we're not panicked anymore, maybe confused.
- Keith L: September regional meetings
 - Stumping for upper and lower shore meetings
 - Audience: local teams or public (as in Somerset)
 - Send topics to Mike M. & Keith L.
 - Somerset wants a frank discussion on cost
- Beth L: Is working on a mini-grant, and another grant in the works for water quality monitoring.
 - Letter to the editor of the Baltimore Sun sent.
 - Need to communication to the general population and be consistent about the value of WIP process.
 - Choose Clean Water Coalition is involved organizing other water quality groups in the watershed to get the word out.
- Jim N.: expressed concern about baseline numbers being different between counties? Example Washington County is using a July 2009 baseline.
 - Discussion on Decision/Precision Agriculture. What is the definition?
 - Some numbers added to 2020 goal in draft summary table (for agriculture)
 - Bringing new BMPs online, incorporating information never before registered to meet goals
 - Mike M: Can agricultural land no longer in protection be tracked to get credit?
 - Jim N: Some problems with model as far as considering different operation types. His numbers are conservative
 - Jen D: These are all practices they will be asking farmers to voluntarily implement as opposed to regulation.
 - Concern about the getting legislative support for more SCD staff.
 - Jim N.: people ask, "Why is agricultural getting credit for what they already do?"

- If farmers know that they are losing nutrients, they will improve their practices.
- Jen D: the model should show it but is loaded to assume it's not being done.
- Recording actions never before accounted for will help.
- Comments on MAST Model training.
 - Greg L.: baseline numbers confusion at MAST training.
 - Mike M: Noted a comparison of Bay Model 5.3.0 and 5.3.2 shows wide variation of wastewater, urban and septic numbers.
 - Keith L: MDE thinks August 15th allocations will end up being about the same
 - will look into discrepancies between model numbers
 - Jim N.: How do they measure WWTP loads vs. actual water usage?
 - measured on front end (flow through plant)
 - Mike M: Need to start plugging numbers into MAST.
 - Keith L: August 15th allocations will allow for entering data.
 - Mike M: Will develop Mast scenarios for 2009 baseline + (January 1, 2006 – 2009) + 2020.
 - Greg L.: Need to get septics broken down by percentage in Critical Area, within 1,000 feet and beyond.
 - Mike M: MDE still working on tightening model for wastewater plants.
 - Jen D: is the MAST tool useful?
 - Mike M: there's a comfort level, but is it accurate?
 - Keith L: MAST provides instant answers, but is it correct?
 - Greg L: No information on how the numbers are run; blind manipulation until you get the right answer.
 - Jen D: Need to keep in mind we will be held to these goals.
 - Greg L.: must have a practical approach
- Mike M: MAST group order is important
 - Need to start putting ideas on paper in coming meetings
 - Mike M: are reductions a bottom line?
 - Can we share credit between sectors?
 - Jen D: will agricultural sector give extra credit to others?
 - Jim: why should agricultural pick up when WWTP caps are exceeded?
- Keith L: Sierra Club called, happy with Beth's participation.
- Current capacity
 - Mike M: section narrative required in WIP.
 - Keith L: MDE will return information in uniform manner.
- 2-year milestones
 - Mike M: EPA guidance delayed
 - Keith L: Jim George confident that MDE guidance appropriate

- Mike M: Due September 30 to State.
- Phase II WIP report
 - Mike M: MDE letter and stretched timeline
 - Discuss tracking?
 - What about septic systems?
 - CBF: MAST could be converted to a tracking tool also
 - MM: MAST can't be modified at this time
- Tracking Concerns
 - Stormwater Mike M. and Greg L. due tracking.
 - State tracks WWTP's and Agriculture.
 - Bill F.: septics are in paper files. Need to digitize records to facilitate GIS use
 - Mike M: Big issue is funding for staffing for record tracking and inspecting.
- August 24th Meeting
 - Mike M We need to develop rough language on milestones.
 - Play with MAST on concepts based on new allocations.
 - Get with team members on BMPs.
 - PowerPoint/synopsis on presentation to County Council.

END OF MINUTES

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Moulds