

Virginia Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)

In 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), or load reduction goals, for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment as a plan to provide for a clean Chesapeake Bay and the connected streams, creeks, and rivers. The strategy used has been to establish and implement initiatives, known as best management practices (BMP), that reduce loads local, regional, and Virginia waterways.

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) are the summary of BMP actions and strategies, or cleanup roadmap, for how Chesapeake states and District of Columbia will achieve the Bay TMDL, clean waters. Bay states are now working on the third WIP phase. *The Phase III WIP includes an update on state and federal strategies (BMPs) and identification of new reduction strategies with special focus on local strategies and engagement.*

The LGC has entered into a \$50,000 contract with DEQ to assist in convening local and regional officials, staff, and stakeholders to evaluate the non-agricultural BMP template, or summary of suggested practices, to make correction and alternations based on local knowledge and local needs. A LGC budget amendment will be presented at a later date.

Key Phase III WIP Points

- PDC's will work with locality and organization staff, stakeholders to review, adjust, make suggestions and indicated implementation gaps, including funding, of the DEQ-provided Non-Agricultural BMP Input Decks, list of potential strategies;
- Local SWCD will be undertaking the same activity with agricultural stakeholders;
- Confirmation of participation notice from area localities;
NOTE: Participation confirmation assures participation representation in the PDC-facilitated meetings but does not represent a commitment to implement BMPs, programmatic actions or strategies resulting from Phase III WIP meetings.
- Meetings August – October
- Project ends in December 2018

Recommended Action

Kelly Hitchcock will manage this project and will be contracting each City and County Administrator and your staff in the next couple of weeks to share the detailed timeline and completion activities. The City and Counties will be asked to provide a letter confirming participation in PDC-facilitated meetings.



Our Rivers, Our Bay:

Virginia's Path to Clean Water

Terms to Know

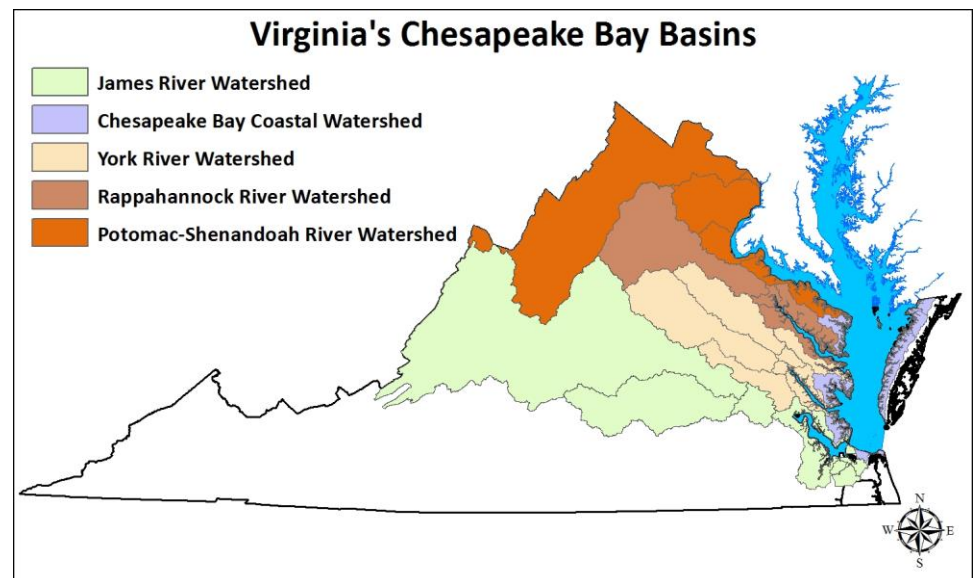
- ✓ **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** a calculation that determines the amount of a pollutant that can occur in a waterway, but still meet water quality standards and ensure clean water.
- ✓ **Local Area Planning Goals (LAPGs):** pollutant reduction goals established for local communities.
- ✓ **Input Deck:** a list of BMP combinations that will address local area planning goals.
- ✓ **Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs):** the holistic combination of BMP actions and programmatic strategies aimed at reducing pollutants in local waterways to achieve the TMDL calculation.

Chesapeake Bay Clean Up

Communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, along with federal and state government, local government, nonprofit organizations, farmers, and private businesses are making significant progress restoring and protecting the health of local waterways and the bay. On Dec. 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a historic and comprehensive cleanup plan to guide federal, state and local actions as their communities clean up the Chesapeake Bay and the connected streams, creeks and rivers. Specifically in Virginia the TMDL calls for a 20.5% reduction in nitrogen, 25.2% reduction in phosphorus and 20.8% reduction in sediment delivered to the bay. The objective is to have clean up practices, known as best management practices or BMPs, in place by 2025 to reach the goal of a clean Chesapeake Bay and local waterways that meet water quality standards!

Watershed Implementation Plans

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) are the roadmap for how Bay states and the District of Columbia, in partnership with federal and local governments, will attain the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Currently, Bay states are working with local stakeholders to develop the third phase of their WIPs. The Phase III WIPs will include an update of state and federal strategies and the identification of new pollutant reduction strategies with a special focus on sustained local engagement and strategies.



5 Major Basins
32 SWCDs

15 Planning District Commissions
96 Localities (Counties and Cities)



Leading the Way

Virginia Planning District Commissions (PDCs)

Through active engagement with local stakeholders, PDCs will develop Input Decks for urban and developed land uses that meet the LAPGs in a format that best suits the dynamic communities in their regions. It is critical that local government leaders are involved in developing the Input Decks to ensure the suite of BMPs are realistic, reflect local priorities, will benefit local communities and clearly identify the resources (e.g., funding, technical support) that are needed to get the job done.

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

Pollutant reductions from agricultural lands are critical to meeting Phase III WIP goals. SWCDs provide critical technical assistance for farmers implementing agricultural BMPs that improve and protect the quality of streams and rivers. SWCDs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will work with local agricultural communities to determine the BMPs that are needed to achieve water cleanup goals while also meeting the needs of farmers.

CONTACTS TO KNOW

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WIP III Resources and Tools

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/ResourcesandTools.aspx>

Virginia Phase III WIP Development Timeline 2010-2025



2010
Chesapeake Bay TMDL established and Phase I WIPs submitted

March 2012
Virginia's Phase II WIPs submitted

January – November 2017
Initial local outreach conducted for Phase III WIP development

October 2017
States present local engagement strategy to CBP leadership/LGAC

December 2017
Partnership finalizes modeling tools and releases draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets

Spring 2018
Virginia finalizes local engagement approach

January – July 2018
Commonwealth develops draft local area planning goals

May - July 2018
Commonwealth conducts coordination meetings with PDCs and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

June 2018
Grants awarded to Planning District Commissions (PDCs) in support of Phase III WIP local engagement

July 2018
Chesapeake Bay Partnership finalizes Phase III WIP planning targets; final local area planning goals established

June 2018
Commonwealth develops fact sheets, draft input decks, templates and other tools for local partners



July 2 – November 1 2018
PDCs and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) conduct meetings to evaluate and update local input decks and identify programmatic actions for the Phase III WIP

November 1 – December 14 2018
PDCs convene meetings with local partners and SWCDs to evaluate recommendations and needs

Spring 2019
Draft Phase III WIPs available for public review and comment

Summer 2019
Final Phase III WIPs posted on states' websites

2025
Practices in place to meet Bay restoration goals set by TMDL

-  Key dates in Bay TMDL process
-  Key activities or information that needs to be communicated to local governments or others
-  Key activities requiring local government engagement
-  Guidance for Phase III WIP development released