May Maryland WIP Webinar Q &A

Topics: EPA 2-Year Milestone Guidance; Maryland's Nutrient Trading Program; MAST and CBP Land Use Presentation

May 16, 2011, 10 AM

First Presentation: Two Year Milestones – Jim George

Where are the state default published?

A: The State default WIP Strategy and Milestones are yet to be developed. They should be available in mid-August.

Second Presentation: MD Trading Program – John Rhoderick

Questions and Answers to this presentation are available on the web at:
http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/PhaseIIBayWIPDev.aspx#webinarphaseii

Third Presentation: MAST - Lee Currey

The Center for Integrative Environmental Research (Univ. of MD) is developing a WIP Decision Making Tool - does this complement MAST?

A: MDE is not familiar enough with the proposed tool to comment. However, a key component of any tool that will be compatible with MAST is that BMP information must be base on the CBP model 5.3.2 in order for information to be evaluated consistently.

How does the 'Draft WIP from County on Nov 1' correlate to the schedule that Jim George presented with milestones due in September?

A: The counties have been assessing their current implementation capacity in order to form the basis for developing 2-Year milestones in the fall, September time frame. Draft Phase II WIPs are due to the State on November 1st, and the State will turn the draft WIPs into EPA on December 1st as required. This is consistent with the schedule provided.

Do the land-river segments match the 8-digit watersheds that are used for the Water Resources Element required by the counties for the update of their Comprehensive Plans?

A: Yes, the land-river segments aggregate to the Maryland 8-digit watersheds in order to develop local TMDLs and to be consistent.

What year land cover does MAST utilize to estimate pollutant load and how does it adjust for future growth/land cover into 2020 and beyond.

A: MAST can use any year of Bay Program land use: 2002, 2009 and will try to forecast land use (TBD).

How often will you refresh the Land Use data (i.e. monitor and account for land use changes)?

A: Ag Census data is updated every 5 years. The next Ag census is 2012; not sure about LANDSAT.

How are rural towns accounted for in the urban source sector?

A: They are likely to be accounted within non-MS4 land use but where they are located within an MS4 jurisdiction, then they will be analyzed to determine if they are regulated or non-regulated urban.

If non-regulated urban is shown to be consistently underestimated in rural counties, is there an alternative baseline available that provides a better accounting?

A: CBP landuse estimates appear to be reasonably close to State estimates, especially in more urbanized counties, but we must move forward toward 2017 and will have an opportunity to resolve issues of this kind at that time.

Will this data be available on the land-water segment scale?

A: Yes, the data in MAST will be at the land-river segment scale. We will include 24 handouts at the county scale, but we can work in MAST at a smaller scale.

Can a county's detailed impervious surface land use layer, which may be more accurate than what is available in the model, be used?

A: In general, no, for the present time. Maryland, just as the other jurisdictions must use data from the CBP as the basis to track progress toward meeting the Bay TMDL requirements. However, in 2017, which is referred to as Phase III of the TMDL implementation, there will be a re-evaluation and refinement of the CBP data.

Is MAST preloaded with all the data needed for accounting or will local jurisdictions utilize this tool to update the State with information? In other words, who will have the ability to enter data into MAST and is there a review/QAQC process to validate the data entered into MAST, especially BMP and information as it relates to implementation strategies.

A: MAST uses information from the Bay Program Model. It will not be updated with local information at the present time in order to maintain that consistency. Bay Program loading rates and land use will be used to be consistent with the Bay Model. Only county BMP information will go into MAST for strategy scenarios.

When calculating impervious cover, is the State calculating it in accordance with the lot coverage standards established by the critical area program?

A: If the question is understood correctly, it is likely that the State is not using the standards in the Critical Area law to calculate impervious cover. This response will require further research.

How are you accounting for land in conservation easements?

A: TBD. This response will require further research.

Is model 5.3.2 finalized and going to be used in the future and if so, can you send out load reductions for agricultural practices in pounds reduction per unit of BMP?

A: Phase 5.3.2 is currently being calibrated (hydrology and water quality) and model output will be released June 30. Yes, we will use it to move forward.

Will MDE determine the urban load reduction by municipality or will that be up to the county teams?

A: The urban load will be divided up among NPDES-regulated stormwater permit entities in the Phase II WIP.

Do the WIP-II's require extremely accurate land use information? Can MDE and its partners, including the counties, complete all this data collection and meet the deadlines without help from private consultants?

A: We are using the best information available now. We must use this for now and revise as necessary in 2017.

Not all the things local jurisdictions are doing are counted in the Bay Model, such as urban tree planting, (e.g. street trees) and residential bioretention, how will progress in such practices be counted and/or reconciled with progress towards two-year milestones?

A: Urban tree planting is counted as conversion from urban to forest. Bioretention is also credited, with efficiencies based on soil type.

Will municipalities have their own allocations or will they be part of county urban total?

Will agencies like MNCPPC that have their own Phase II NPDES permit be given their own allocations?

If some of Maryland's new stormwater BMPs are not currently assigned efficiencies in the model, how can they be counted while we wait for them to be accepted into the model?