

Virginia Phase III Local Engagement Program

**RRBC Technical
Committee Meeting
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Phase III WIP Expectations – Top 4

- Programmatic and project implementation commitments for 2018-2025
- Strategies for engagement of local, regional and federal partners in implementation
- Account for changed conditions: climate change, Conowingo Dam infill, growth
- Develop, implement local planning goals below the state-major basin scales

Phase III WIP Schedule

- Local review of the Phase 6 model land use data → October-Nov 2016
- Release of **final Phase 6 model** → September 2017
- EPA releases draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets → October 2017
- EPA releases **final expectations** for Phase III WIPs → November 2017
- EPA releases final Phase III WIP Planning Targets → March 2018
- **Draft Phase III WIPs** due to EPA → December 2018
- EPA feedback and public comment on draft Phase III WIPs → February 2019
- **Final Phase III WIPs** due to EPA → April 2019

Outreach Plan

- January 2017 – June 2018 conduct two tiers of outreach
 - **Tier I – focus local & SWCD elected officials**
 - convey “big picture”
 - communicate benefit to local waters;
 - status of TMDL activities;
 - identify what localities are already doing;
 - explain timeline and outreach plan
 - request input on outreach
 - **Tier II – focus on local & SWCD staff**
 - provide more detail on TMDL activities
 - more detail on existing programs
 - explain timeline and outreach plan
- Meet with Soil & Water Cons. District Association
- Conduct at least two **webinars**

Schedule

- **June through December 2016:** present engagement program to stakeholder organizations (VACo, Assoc. of PDCs, Assoc. of SWCDs, VML, VMA, VMWA, VAMSA)
- **January through second quarter 2017:** Initial presentations to elected officials and Soil & Water Conservation District Directors; local staff
- **Second and third quarter of 2017:** VACo regional meetings for elected officials
- **Third and fourth quarters of 2017:** Peer to peer work shops for elected officials?
- **First quarter 2018:** Two rounds of regional engagement & training facilitated by DEQ for localities, SWCDs local stakeholders and state & federal agencies

What We're Hearing.....

- Localities & SWCDs need incentives to develop pollutant removal strategies, especially in non-regulated areas
- Present elected officials with a realistic picture of Bay water quality status and the work needed to get to 2025
- Stabilize funding opportunities/sources
- MS4s - No credit toward MS4 permit for practices installed outside of the regulated area; therefore, no incentive to do them
- Lack of trust on the part of local officials concerning the Bay Program (model credibility, variable funding)
- SWCDs need more funding as their resources are focused on SL6 and Resource Management Plan development