

Appendix 2 - Presentation Questions and Answers

What follows is a series of questions asked and answered by leaders at the WIP Workshops held in November and December of 2018. Present to respond to questions were: MDE and MDA & the Maryland Sea Grant Watershed Implementation Specialists.

The purpose of this appendix is to provide agencies with a record of questions and comments from the workshops to support planning and management of the WIP program. Questions were grouped into four themes:

- **Future Planning**
 - Aligning for Growth
 - Climate Change
 - Policy and Program Changes
- **Credit Allocation and BMP Concerns**
- **Collaborative Partnerships**
 - Private Entities
 - Nutrient Trading
- **Accountability**

Lower Eastern Shore — Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester counties

Upper Eastern Shore — Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, Talbot counties

Central MD North — Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford counties

Central MD South — Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s counties

Southern MD — Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s counties

Western MD — Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, Washington counties

Future Planning

Location	Question/Comment
Lower Eastern Shore	If an area has zero growth but a large wastewater treatment plant, is the state going to direct those to the area with a large allocation for growth?
Lower Eastern Shore	There is an issue with getting people onto public sewer in areas where there is projected growth but no actual growth.
Central MD: North	When will nutrient reduction goals be clearer?
Central MD: North	What are you doing about smart growth?
Central MD: North	What happens if federal funding is lost?
Central MD: North	Are current trajectories assuming continuation of current efforts in addition to new requirements?
Central MD: North	Do projections account for an increase in stormwater?
Central MD: North	Large rain events are ruining the water quality for waterfront homeowners in some regions.
Central MD: North	How is climate change affecting conversion to wetland goals?

Central MD: North	What is the timeline for counties?
Upper Eastern Shore	How are we accounting for growth in Phase III?
Upper Eastern Shore	What assumptions have been made about the impact of the Conowingo and the Clean Air Act?
Upper Eastern Shore	If the Clean Air Act is changed, how does that influence 2025 goals?
Upper Eastern Shore	As populations expand, so will demand for grain and meat. How is Phase III accounting for any increase in poultry density or crop production that is necessary to sustain a growing population?
Central MD: South	When will we have number targets?
Central MD: South	When will there be more information on updated permits?
Central MD: South	Can you elaborate on any expected changes to the MACS program?
Central MD: South	If the farm bill does not get through, or CREP is not improved, how will that affect the target numbers?
Central MD: South	The next Phase 1 MS4 seems very secretive. Is MDA going to have different requirements?
Southern MD	Is the erosion from strange rain events going to be addressed?
Southern MD	TMDL is required for every segment of a watershed, but specific areas are where there are the largest nitrogen reductions. Will the projected reductions result in TMDL compliance overall?
Southern MD	What is the next call after 2025? Is it 2050? 2035?
Southern MD	Is there trading in sediment?
Southern MD	There is a worry that water quality trading will just allow polluters to pay away their nutrient loads to the bay.
Southern MD	Has the state made a policy decision about who is offsetting impacts of growth?
Southern MD	Can it be promised that there will be state funding to address climate change?
Western MD	Do loads include effects of climate change?

Credit Allocation and BMP Concerns

Location	Question/Comment
Lower Eastern Shore	Were voluntary practices that were not paid for with cost-share accounted for?

Lower Eastern Shore	Where do credits go when an agricultural field becomes a solar farm?
Lower Eastern Shore	Is there any potential to use buffers required for solar panels as mitigation practices?
Central MD: North	There is an interest in more information for land use policies BMP (crediting conservation).
Central MD: North	Multi-functional riparian buffers can be used as an alternative to practices that supply no income to the implementer.
Central MD: North	Do projections account for BMPs that are lost from the development of agricultural land?
Upper Eastern Shore	Can solar be a BMP?
Upper Eastern Shore	Do agricultural land conversion numbers include solar?
Southern MD	Has the aquaculture BMP been discussed?
Southern MD	There is no more creation of agricultural land, only conversion to urban. What is the cost of taking land out of agriculture land and developing it?
Southern MD	Shoreline protection is included in agriculture BMPs. Is there cost-share funding, and if so, is it for armoring current shorelines or trying to treat shorelines that have already been damaged?
Western MD	What happens to verification numbers when agricultural land is converted to some other use?
Western MD	The way the county boundary is drawn in Frederick County there is an overlap between agriculture and urban sectors. How we discern where credits go?

Collaborative Partnerships

Location	Question/Comment
Lower Eastern Shore	What are Phase III plans for water quality trading?
Lower Eastern Shore	Will water quality trading be able to cover costs of agriculture practices like cover crops once funding runs out?
Central MD: North	Some of the dysfunction in stormwater management can be explained by uninvolved homeowners and HOAs that lack funding.
Central MD: North	Homeowners are burdened by the requirements of environmental site design. Flexibility in environmental site design and incentive programs will increase homeowner involvement.

Upper Eastern Shore	Please comment on the difficulties of increasing agricultural conservation practices on leased land.
Central MD: South	There is very little work being done on private property for MS4s.
Southern MD	Would water quality trading be reductions or just cost-savings?
Southern MD	Has there been any interest in commercial/private involvement in the cleanup program?
Western MD	The most cost-effective reductions are in agriculture. How do we incentivize the agriculture community to help develop water quality trading markets?
Western MD	Once private property BMPs are put into a database, they require tri-annual inspections. This is not feasible for private lands and prevents sectors from taking credit for these practices.
Western MD	The reason that county Soil Conservation Districts are so successful is because of its robust partnerships with the state. This is lacking in the urban sector and MDE should provide more funding for it.

Accountability

Location	Question/Comment
Central MD: North	Do nutrient numbers include sewage pipe leaks and overflows?
Central MD: North	More information on the cost-benefit analysis of septic systems.
Central MD: North	Comparison of mid-Atlantic states, especially Virginia would be helpful.
Central MD: North	Why is so much money going into annual practices instead of longer-term alternatives? The money is unbalanced.
Central MD: North	Why is there more funding for less efficient practices like cover crops than for cost-efficient practices like forest buffers?
Central MD: North	Do projections account for BMPs that are lost from the development of agricultural land?
Central MD: North	How realistic are these projections?
Upper Eastern Shore	Are sewage overflows being accounted for? Where is this information available?
Upper Eastern Shore	After meeting with individual counties, has the state updated the number of acres using nutrient management practices?

Central MD: South	Agriculture and wastewater are the sources of the biggest reductions and it seems they will continue to be. What are septic and stormwater sectors doing to contribute more?
Central MD: South	If agriculture is expected to continue offsetting other sectors, will it be given additional resources?
Central MD: South	Are any MS4 counties reaching nutrient reduction goals?
Southern MD	How are county goals established?
Southern MD	County packets for Southern MD show either increasing or no change trends. How is this fair to these counties to ask them to set goals when other counties have clear trajectories?
Southern MD	Calvert County has a program for crediting conserved lands. Is that going to still work and give Calvert County credits?
Western MD	How can the agriculture sector be expected to develop a real plan when there are outdated animal numbers?
Western MD	How are retrofitting of impervious acres justified costs when the most cost-effective reductions are in agriculture and wastewater?