

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #5: CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATE

SUBJECT:

The HRPDC recommended numerous research and model revisions in its report, *Chesapeake Bay Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan, Hampton Roads Regional Planning Framework, Scenarios, and Strategies*. The Chesapeake Bay Program has taken several actions to address the Region's concerns and suggestions.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2012, the HRPDC developed the *Chesapeake Bay Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), Hampton Roads Regional Planning Framework, Scenarios, and Strategies*. The report was appended to localities' Phase II WIP strategies and submitted to Virginia DCR.

The localities in Hampton Roads identified numerous strategies and practices that will reduce nutrient loads that are not included in the Bay Program's models. The report suggested Virginia and the EPA should lead efforts to research and approve the effectiveness of alternate Best Management Practices (BMPs) including illicit discharge elimination programs, harvested wetlands, oyster restoration, and shoreline erosion control.

The HRPDC also recommended further research and revisions to the Chesapeake Bay model in order to improve water quality management programs and guide WIP implementation strategy decisions. Recommendations included developing a process to incorporate local land use data into the Bay models, revising segmentsheds to reflect regional hydrology, and designating wetlands as a separate land use category.

The Chesapeake Bay Program is currently identifying program and modeling priorities to address before the 2017 Midpoint Assessment. The HRPDC staff has been tracking this process and many of the Region's recommendations are being considered. The most significant has been the formation of a Land Use Work Group to explore the options for incorporating local land use data in the Bay TMDL models.

Jennifer Tribo, HRPDC Senior Water Resource Planner will provide an overview of the actions the Chesapeake Bay Program is taking to address the HRPDC's concerns with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL process.