

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING**

### **ITEM #5: CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The HRPDC staff will provide a presentation on how the Chesapeake Bay TMDL has been implemented to date and improvements being made to Chesapeake Bay Models ahead of the 2017 Midpoint Assessment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL was established by the EPA in December 2010. Concurrently Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia developed Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) outlining how the load reductions would be met in each State. All pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay and its tidal rivers must be in place by 2025. Practices that will meet 60 percent of the necessary pollution reductions must be in place by 2017.

In 2012, the States submitted Phase II implementation plans designed to strengthen the initial cleanup strategies. In 2017, the EPA will conduct a Midpoint Assessment to inform Phase III WIPs. This assessment will evaluate the nutrient reduction progress to date and incorporate the latest science and data into the Bay models used to develop the TMDL. In 2018, jurisdictions will submit Phase III WIPs that will provide additional detail on restoration actions beyond 2017 to ensure that the 2025 goals are met.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

Virginia's Phase II WIP relies on voluntary nutrient reductions from agriculture and unregulated urban areas. These reductions may not be adequately funded to meet the WIP goals. The WIP also set targets based on an equal percent reduction of nutrients in each segmentshed of the Bay watershed. However, the nutrient loading rates and number of existing BMPs are not the same in each segmentshed. Maryland has recently evaluated its segmentsheds and identified the areas where loading rates are highest and opportunities to install new BMPs are greatest. By focusing implementation in these areas, the required state reductions are less expensive.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The HRPDC should encourage Virginia to evaluate the progress of voluntary nutrient reductions and provide funding to the programs that would be most effective at increasing voluntary actions. Virginia should analyze the loading rates and opportunities for nutrient reductions by segmentshed and change the target reductions to areas that will be most cost effective.