

Harbor TMDL Oversight Group Meeting

February 2, 2007

1. The meeting was convened at EPA offices at 10:30. Participants included Kevin Bricke, Wayne Jackson, Bob Nyman, Rosella O'Connor, Mark Reiss, Marco Al-Ebus (on phone), Shadab Ahmad, Kerry Kirk-Pflugh (on phone), Jeff Reading, Deb Hammond, Narinder Ahuja, Barbara Hirst (on phone), Phil O'Brien, Dick Draper, Phil DeGaetano (on phone), and Robin Miller. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, with the addition of Narinder Ahuja to the attendance list and clarification that it was the one month geometric mean that was no longer being considered for the pathogens analysis.
2. Robin Miller provided a status report on the toxics/CARP work. She said that the CARP model was OK for organics and work was being completed for metals. They are in the process of finalizing reports and management documents. She said that next steps included checking model outputs vs. standards, checking which standard or media is driving various contamination problems (water, sediment, etc) Deb Hammond asked if the model could be used to analyze for PCBs based on toxicity vs. total PCBs. Ms. Miller responded that it could be done. There was a discussion about various levels of clean-up required by different laws and that site remediation based on CRCLA was different from CWA levels.
3. It was noted that Wayne Jackson is developing a paper on options to address standards and it is currently under review by the Office of General Counsel. His information was to be shared with the Oversight Group. He was asked to complete the paper and share it with the group. The Toxics TMDL Work Group was asked to develop a work assignment for their next steps. EPA was asked to develop a proposal for a toxics implementation work group. The Gantt charts were to be updated as necessary. Narinder said he wanted to start cost discussions for toxics.
4. Bob Nyman gave a report out on the January 18, 2007 Nutrient Work Group conference call. On the call, the NWG reviewed and recommended the proposed approach for next steps. The group also discussed how both point and nonpoint sources would be considered in TMDL development.
5. Robin Miller then gave an overview of the proposed approach, which involved modeling scenarios moving from the geographic periphery of the system to the central shared waters. For Jamaica Bay, two options would be run and the NWG would need to pick which one to carry forward for the next set of scenarios. There was also a brief discussion of carbon and nutrient cost analysis and it was noted that the dischargers would provide information on treatment processes that will result in both carbon and nitrogen reductions. The NJHDG needs to identify effluent levels and get that information to HydroQual to allow the process to

move forward. The oversight group decided to move forward with the proposed approach, with the caveat that they be allowed two weeks to provide any additional comments prior to initiation of any work.

6. Phil Degaetano gave a quick overview of the proposed revisions to NYS water quality standards, noting which waters they would be applied to. The proposal is currently out for comment and is available on the DEC website.
7. The Hackensack River model developed for the Bergen County Utilities Authority was then discussed. At the request of NJDEP, information on the model had been provided to the oversight group and HydroQual had made an assessment of the model. Najarian Associates, the creators of the model, then gave a response to that assessment. NJDEP said that the BCUA model could be improved to meet their needs, but that it would need to be linked to SWEM and that the code would need to be made available. A conference call was to be set up with Barbara Hirst, Jeff Reading, Kevin Bricke, Bob Nyman, and Antony Tseng to discuss how to respond to BCUA.

The meeting was then adjourned.