

Meeting Summary

StateStat website, September 29, 2009

Agency: BayStat

Date of Meeting: September 29, 2009

Template: Vol III, No. 3

Following is a summary of the issues that were discussed at BayStat on September 29, 2009. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

General Discussion

- At the September meeting, the BayStat team discussed in detail the recently-released federal agency reports regarding Chesapeake Bay restoration. News was shared about many recent contacts and discussions with federal officials on the subject, and planned a unified approach to deliver Maryland's official comments to federal agencies before they combine the separate reports into a single draft strategy to restore the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Blue Plains.** The cost of the ENR project is approximately \$1 billion: Installation of an enhanced nitrogen removal (ENR) system: Blue Plains currently discharges approximately **5.5 million** pounds of nitrogen into the Potomac River each year which flows directly into the Bay. As result, it is the single largest point source of nutrient pollution in the Bay's entire watershed. Using ENR pollution control technology, we will be able to reduce the quantity of nitrogen and other nutrient discharges from Blue Plains by nearly **4 million** pounds each year. Reducing nutrient pollution from Blue Plains will have a direct, measurable impact on the health of the Bay.

Blue Plains	
Total project cost: \$3.2 billion (ENR and CSO)	
Federal ask:	\$1.7 billion (55%) over ten years, beginning in FFY10
State match:	\$1.5 billion (45%)
Source: Letter to President from MD, DC, VA and CBC, dated Feb 2, 2009	

- The estimated cost for the Combined Sewer Overflow project is \$2.2 billion: Construction of a new underground storage tunnel system in the District to combined sewer overflows during periods of significant rainfall. This project, which also includes necessary upgrades to pumping stations, interceptor points and outfalls and existing storage and conveyance tunnels, will result in a 96 percent reduction in the approximately billion gallons of combined sewer overflows that enter the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and Rock Creek (and make their way to the Bay) each year.
- Investment to-date: The District, Maryland and Virginia have invested nearly \$700 million in upgrades to the Blue Plains facility in the last decade, which the Federal government has matched with grants of about \$135 million, for a total expenditure of nearly \$835 million.

- **Assessment Key.** Assessments are based on agency reported progress to date against the benchmark projections by August 2009 provided by the agencies in their GDU Action Plans. Assessments were then scored as follows:
 - Considerably Behind = 0-39% of projected August 2009 progress
 - Behind = 40-79% of projected August 2009 progress
 - On Track = 80-119% of projected August 2009 progress
 - Ahead = >120% of projected August 2009 progress
 - For example, if MDE projected that 200 septic system retrofits would be installed by August but reported only 150, the project score = $150/200 = 75\%$ = Behind.

	Assessment Key
A	Ahead/Exceeding Expectations
OT	On Track
B	Behind Schedule
CB	Considerably Behind Schedule

- **Reducing Pollution for Urban Areas.** MDE is reporting that the Chestertown and Brunswick plants are operating to ENR standards. Construction work at the Indian Head and St. Michael's plants is complete but performance improvements have not been established to-date. 10 plants are currently under construction. MDE began reporting storm water management (SWM) retrofit projects this month.
- DNR has revised its target for septic system retrofits on State lands from 81 to 75 systems. The number of completed projects remains the same (13), but 8 projects under construction. At this time MES, MDE, and DNR are reviewing the schedule and negotiating changes to the MOU to allow MES to bid projects through their procurement system. MDE anticipates going to the BPW on October 21st with a full list of projects to be pre-approved and aid in streamlining the process and improve the schedule of completion. MDE has resolved to provide up to \$1.2 million to DNR for completion of the OSDS projects. This amount will be enough to complete approximately 64 out of 75 total projects on the list.

Contributing Actions Deliverables	Implementation Targets	Progress to Date	Target nitrogen removed (lbs/yr)	Estimated nitrogen removed to date (lbs/yr)	GDU Assessment and % Action Completed of 12/31/11 Goal
Total			1,379,228	368,417	27%
Wastewater Treatment Plants ENR	15 plants upgraded and ENR effectiveness confirmed	2	740,000	75,809	10%
MD Healthy Air Act	All affected power plants upgraded to meet Health Air Act nitrogen-related standards.	Legislation passed, upgrades completed	305,882	305,882	100%
Upgrade Blue Plains to BNR	190,000	0	190,000	0	0
Stormwater runoff management retrofits	90,000 acres	26,250	119,700	34,913	29%
Septic retrofits inside Critical Area	1,080 systems	615	13,133	7,478	57%
Septic retrofits outside Critical Area	1,920 systems	658	10,042	3,441	34%
Upgrade 75 DNR septic systems	75 systems	13	424	68	16%
Upgrade 9 State-owned non-DNR septic systems in Critical Area	9 systems	3 upgrades complete	47	16	33%

- Restoring Natural Filters on Public Lands.** DNR has completed all 3 Regional Land Manager Land Audit Review meetings with MD DNR land managing units to confirm the restoration sites identified through the GIS desk audit, and conducted 4 tributary team meetings with the Upper Eastern, Lower Western, Patuxent River Commission and the Tributary Team Chairs to discuss natural filters on other public lands. Two living shorelines projects have been completed at Federalsburg and Weems Creek, a total of two acres.
- As of September 9th, 18,450 trees (37% of goal) have been registered at www.trees.maryland.gov. Reconciliation audits have been initiated and the staff expects a substantial increase in the number of verifiably registered trees to be tallied by the end of October. 72 participating tree nurseries are posted on the state website and 35,000 Marylanders Plant Trees marketing pieces (w/coupons) were distributed at State Fair on August 29. A Fall marketing campaign is planned that includes outreach to additional tree nurseries, the State's registered boaters (90,000), fishing enthusiasts and schools.
- 5,203 oyster cages were ordered by the 11 new tributaries, and 4,068 cages were delivered. By the end of September, the goal to distribute 5,000 cages is expected to be met.

Contributing Actions/Deliverables	Units	Implementation Targets	Progress to Date	Target additional nitrogen removed (lbs/yr)	Estimated additional nitrogen removed to date (lbs/yr)	GDU Assessment and % Action Completed of 12/31/11 Goal
Expand Natural Filters on Public Lands				125,192	10,849	9%
Streamside Forest Buffers	# properties		2	60,312	3,389	6%
	# acres	2,100	118			
Streamside Grass Buffers	# properties		1	17,060	628	4%
	# acres	1,000	40			
Wetland Restoration	# properties		4	28,720	6,778	24%
	# acres	1,000	236			
Retire Highly Erodible Land	# properties			19,100	0	0%
	# acres	2,000				
Achieve No Annual Net Loss in Forest Land by 2012						
Forest Brigade (DPSCS)	# acres	1,551	259	NA	NA	19%
	# trees	1,000,000	190,300			
Stewardship						
Marylanders Plant Trees (2009)	# trees	50,000	18,450	NA	NA	37%
Marylanders Grow Oysters (2009)	# rivers	6	12	NA	NA	200% (rivers)
	# cages	5,000	4,548			86% cages