

## Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Realignment: Reprogramming to Address Senior Management Partnership Priorities

*Peter J. Tango*<sup>1</sup> and *Richard A. Batiuk*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Annapolis, MD, USA

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Annapolis, MD, USA

A comprehensive review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Partnership's Bay and Basin water quality monitoring programs was conducted from 2007 through 2009. The process involved the CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee coordinating a workshop series with Senior and Program Managers representing the jurisdictions and agencies across the watershed. Managers recognized a need for a wide-range of information but requested programmatic optimization focusing the limited Federal and Match funding resources on a narrow set of objectives:

- To support monitoring needed for accountability in tracking Clean Water Act 303d listing and delisting analyses in Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, and
- Simultaneously, to support the assessment of management action effectiveness in the watershed.

The CBP Management Board used a stakeholder developed and ranked disinvestment-reinvestment-consequences matrix to evaluate trade-offs supporting decision options of the CBP Bay and Basin Monitoring Program realignment.

Since 2009, implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Program monitoring realignment decisions has occurred sustaining Chesapeake Bay Tidal Long-term Water Quality Monitoring Program needs of the partnership with acknowledged gaps. Management Board decisions further supported updates to the Basin monitoring programming that focused on areas with watershed targeting efforts for best management practices. Targeting management actions relied on modeling efforts identifying high nutrient and sediment yield regions impacting Chesapeake Bay water quality. Priority watersheds were small watersheds slated for focused and increased management action implementation efforts. Enhanced monitoring needs were identified to focus on addressing priority watershed monitoring needs. CBP Workgroups worked with stakeholders to identify additional monitoring sites needed to address key gaps in land use representativeness for watershed assessments while also improving calibration needs of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model as funding becomes available. Site recommendations were made to better address accountability of management actions and their effectiveness from the existing Basin monitoring network.

Contact Information: Peter J. Tango, USGS@Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Ave - Suite 109, Annapolis, MD 21403 USA, Phone 410-267-9875, Email: [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net)