Goal - Allocate Pollutant Loads

Decision Criteria

A total of five decision criteria were identified:

1. **Allocations must be equitable.** Most of the Committee’s suggested criteria were variations on this theme
   Three components of the ‘equitable’ criterion were identified:

   A. *An equitable allocation must consider the current observed load.* The current load contribution can be expressed in different ways, such as;
      - loading from the entire watershed.
      - loading in total pounds of phosphorus from each subwatershed
      - loading based on pounds of phosphorus per acre of each subwatershed.

   Question – How should the current observed load be taken into account in the allocation – Should it be used to calculate needed reductions on a watershed scale, subwatershed scale? Should this be expressed as a %, total pounds, or pounds per acre?

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   B. *An equitable allocation recognizes the capacity of MS4s to meet the reduction goal associated with the allocation.*

   Question – What is “capacity”? Ability to pay? Land area to put BMPs? Staff capacity to conduct maintenance?

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   C. *An equitable allocation must include all of those who contribute to the problem.*

   Question – Who is the “all”? MS4s? Industrial permit-holders? Individual land-owners or businesses?

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Part of the “equitable” criterion includes considerations for the implementation process. These considerations probably will not affect the allocation, but will need to be incorporated in constructing the implementation plan. The considerations are:

- Allowing for pooling to meet necessary reductions among MS4s and
- Allowing for cost sharing on implementation efforts.
2. **Allocations should consider other limitations**

Two specific limitations were described to be components of this criterion:

A. *Allocations should be “realistic.”*

   Question - Is there a reasonable way to measure “realistic”.

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B. *Allocations should be “politically acceptable.”*

   Question - What is an example of an allocation that is not “politically acceptable”?

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3. **Base allocations on scientific data**

The modeling results estimate how many pounds of phosphorus come from each subwatershed, how much total reduction in watershed phosphorus is needed, and can be adjusted to account for BMPs installed after 2007.

   Question - Are these data enough to meet the criterion or are there additional scientific data needed for the allocation process?

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4. **Allocations should look forward and backward in time**

The model results include the actual effects of BMPs installed prior to the calibration years (2004-2007) and will be adjusted to include BMPs installed after 2007.

   Question – Are there additional concerns about the timing of BMP installations or the fairness of allocations relative to historic efforts?

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5. **Allocations must meet minimum regulatory thresholds**

The allocations will be made to meet the TMDL.

   Question – Are there additional minimum regulatory thresholds that should be made explicit in the allocations?

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