

## **Calculating and Working with TMDLs and Discharge Footprints**

**Claire Schary**, Water Quality Trading Coordinator, U.S.EPA, Region 10, Washington

**Ann Swanson**, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission, Maryland

Ann and Claire treated this presentation as a chance to continue addressing the issues brought up during the “Addressing Water Quality and the Bottom Line” session providing more detailed about how their respective organizations are dealing with TMDLs. Anne emphasizes that “nature is resilient and can handle some pollution and we can still have clean water.” The goal of TMDLs is to figure out what that limit is and make that the goal.

For the Chesapeake Bay they have created a model that includes 60 best management practices (BMPs) and they have determined the efficiency of each of them in reducing nutrient loading. They have made a lot of progress towards their goals but they didn’t get as far as they wanted. As a result new TMDLs were issued that reduced the goals for the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the system. She believes that the TMDLs will be the driver for water quality change. For her Farmers have been supportive once they have been educated about the program. Municipalities she said are “the biggest nut to crack”

Claire Schary added that trading doesn’t create new issues it just brings together all the issues together at once. For her one of the problems has been the lack of a TMDL due date for many of the areas she has been working. “You can’t have a valid trading program without a TMDL due date” because without it there is no push to meet goals and no incentive to take action.