



**Management Board  
Program Update  
March 2023**

**CBPO Calendar**

Mar. 10	Agricultural Modeling Team Meeting
Mar. 13	Status and Trends Workgroup Meeting
<b>Mar. 14-15</b>	<b>STAC Quarterly Meeting</b>
Mar. 14	Federal Facilities Workgroup
Mar. 15	SAV Workgroup Winter Meeting
<b>Mar. 15</b>	<b>Land Use Workgroup Quarterly Meeting</b>
Mar. 16	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 16	Diversity Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
Mar. 20	MD Oyster Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 21	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 22	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
<b>Mar. 22</b>	<b>Management Board Meeting</b>
<b>Mar. 22</b>	<b>GIT Chairs Quarterly Meeting</b>
<b>April 6 (tentative)</b>	<b>Principals Staff Committee Meeting</b>

**Program Updates**

**CBPO Releases RFA to Jurisdiction Partners for Advancement of CBP Forest Buffer, Urban Tree Canopy, and Wetland Goals**

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) released a non-competitive Request for Applications (RFA) to Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions for the advancement of partnership forest buffer, urban tree canopy, and wetland goals. Projects that help to implement strategies developed by the CBP Wetlands and Forestry Workgroups, as well as projects that advance the partnership's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice goals, will receive priority consideration. This RFA is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. At least \$1 million in funding is available in FY23. Applications from jurisdiction partners are due to the CBPO by March 31, 2023.

Contacts: Matt Robinson ([robinson.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.matthew@epa.gov)) and Autumn Rose ([rose.autumn@epa.gov](mailto:rose.autumn@epa.gov))

**Winter Ag Meeting & Stream Restoration Tour in Franklin County, Pennsylvania**

On March 1, Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz, Agriculture Advisor Kelly Shenk, and others joined the Franklin County Conservation District, NRCS, and local leaders for a portion of the Conservation District's annual Winter Ag Meeting. The EPA participated in a farmer focus group with ten farmers representing the diversity of agriculture in the county and a larger discussion with 70 farmers, agriculture companies, and conservation district staff from Franklin and Cumberland counties. They discussed topics such as agricultural regulations, EPA's stepped-up inspections in Pennsylvania, water quality monitoring, and crediting agricultural practices for the Bay restoration effort.

Contacts: Kelly Shenk ([shenk.kelly@epa.gov](mailto:shenk.kelly@epa.gov)) and Kaylyn Gootman ([Gootman.Kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:Gootman.Kaylyn@epa.gov)).

### **FY23 Chesapeake Bay Most Effective Basin Funding Announced**

In late February, EPA Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz met with jurisdiction agency secretaries and directors concerning FY23 Chesapeake Bay Most Effective Basin (MEB) funding levels. Since 2020, the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) has provided funding to states for use in MEBs, or river segments that have the greatest impact on water quality in the Chesapeake Bay deep channel. With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, EPA is making the biggest single investment ever in addressing nutrient pollution from MEBs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. MEB funding is also being allocated to disadvantaged communities across the watershed.

Contacts: Matt Robinson ([robinson.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.matthew@epa.gov)), Autumn Rose ([rose.autumn@epa.gov](mailto:rose.autumn@epa.gov)), and Martha Shimkin ([shimkin.martha@epa.gov](mailto:shimkin.martha@epa.gov))

### **CBPO Participates in African American Heritage and History Month Event**

On Friday, February 24th, students at the Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North High School (CMIT) showcased their campus and community environmental work to Dr. Kandis Boyd and Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) staff as part of the school's African American Heritage and History Month celebration. Students in the Earth Optimism Club, the first in Maryland, are part of the Earth Optimism Youth Action and Leadership (EOYAL) program, an educational partnership that establishes a network of national and local organizations to advance youth-led conservation and environmental justice projects. Dr. Boyd led a roundtable discussion with students, highlighting the power of their voices and ideas as agents of change who will conserve the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come. EPA partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Smithsonian Institute, World Wildlife Fund, and the Lighthouse Foundation on this event.

Contacts: Kandis Boyd ([boyd.kandis@epa.gov](mailto:boyd.kandis@epa.gov)), Bo Williams ([williams.james@epa.gov](mailto:williams.james@epa.gov))

### **New Tool to Help Spur Investment in Green Space for Underserved Communities**

A new tool developed through the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Team funding stream is intended to help community and conservation groups identify and invest in low-income communities of color with limited or no access to green space to help increase the public's ability to visit parks, recreational areas, community gardens and the water. The Green Space Equity Mapper is the first tool developed in the Chesapeake region to display data showing the location of underserved communities and their access (or lack thereof) to green spaces. It was designed primarily for non-profit organizations and state and local agencies that are looking to prioritize where open space should be located. The GIS application uses different layers of data that can be turned on or off. It shows the acreage of tree cover, wetlands and impervious surfaces across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, in addition to green spaces, water bodies and areas at risk of flooding. The application also allows for accessibility information, including total green spaces per capita, acres of green space within Census blocks, distance to nearest transit stop and walkability index. The tool specifically looks at green spaces within a 10-minute walk, or half of a mile, from neighborhoods, as well as those within a 10-minute drive, or five miles.

**For more information:** <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/new-mapping-tool-shows-underserved-communities-and-their-access-or-lack-thereof-to-nature>

## **Advisory Committee Updates**

### **Local Government Advisory Committee**

*The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.*

LGAC will hold its next quarterly meeting 100% virtual on March 23-24. This meeting is the annual meeting where a new Chair and Vice-Chairs will be elected. On March 23 LGAC will meet jointly with the CBP Local Leadership Workgroup and discussion will focus on the role of local governments getting to 2025 and looking beyond 2025 to consider local priorities and challenges. In addition, the new Watershed County Tree Sheets from the US Forest Service will be shared and the STAC local government-related recommendations from the Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures Report will be considered.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee**

*The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.*

The Citizens (Stakeholders) Advisory Committee met in Cambridge, MD on Feb 23-24. Their local watershed context was provided by ShoreRivers when they learned about the challenges and approaches to the impacts of the Eastern Shore's industrial-scale agriculture and sediment flows from Conowingo Dam releases.

The members heard from a panel of Bay Funders to continue the discussion on equitable access to grants. Members are interested in further exploring examples of participatory grantmaking and model equitable grant tools.

They learned from MD DNR about MD's progress toward 2025 water quality targets and *Watershed Agreement* goals. They learned from CBPO about the various options to participate in the Beyond 2025 process and in the future will likely hear a detailed briefing on the *Watershed Agreement* indicators behind the outcomes.

Chuck Herrick of DC was elected CAC Vice-Chair.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on May 24-25 in Harrisburg, PA immediately following the annual Choose Clean Water Coalition conference.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and, Vice-Chair, Chuck Herrick (DC).

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Alexa Maione [amaione@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:amaione@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

## **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org))

Visit the STAC website at [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

### ***STAC Welcomes New Projects Manager, Tou Matthews***

Tou is a recent graduate from McDaniel College with a degree in Environmental Studies, Earth Systems Sciences. They have lived within the Chesapeake Bay watershed for the majority of their life and previously volunteered at their local estuary center and at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

Tou can be reached at [matthewst@chesapeake.org](mailto:matthewst@chesapeake.org). Please add them to your distribution lists as appropriate and join me in welcoming them to the Bay Program team.

### ***Upcoming March Quarterly Meeting: March 14-15, 2023***

The upcoming STAC March Quarterly Meeting will be held virtually on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will center around waterborne human pathogens and the Chesapeake Bay. The purpose of this themed discussion is to complete the following: Develop a system-based understanding of the occurrence of human pathogens (e.g., in relation to watershed conditions or environmental flow regimes affecting temperature, salinity, redox status, and nutrient status); evaluate whether waterborne pathogen concerns are adequately addressed within existing CBP goals, objectives, and management strategies; and outline critical information/research needs with respect to existing research priorities.

If you are interested in attending either in-person or virtually, you can find more information on the [meeting webpage](#) or reach out to STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org)).

### ***STAC 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates***

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2022 Quarterly Meetings. Meeting in June and September are planned to in-person.

March 14-15<sup>th</sup>, June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, September 12-13<sup>th</sup>, and December 5-6<sup>th</sup>. Two meeting will be held virtually and two in-person with a hybrid option.

March 14-15, 2023: virtual

June 13-14, 2023: in-person at the [Potomac Science Center](#) in Woodbridge, VA

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Location TBA

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

### ***STAC-Sponsored Workshops***

The following STAC FY22 workshops are currently in the process of being planned and will convene by May 31, 2023:

1. *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model* (Programmatic Workshop): **March 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Fairfax, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
2. *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes* (Programmatic Workshop): **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on Kent Island.** [Workshop webpage](#)
3. *The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes* (State of the Science Workshop): **March 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 in Woodbridge, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
4. *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality* (State of the Science Workshop): **April 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Manassas, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
5. *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities* (State of the Science Workshop): **May 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Hershey, PA.** [Workshop webpage](#)

The following STAC technical review is in the process of being planned:

1. *Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Proposal: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in Acid Mine Drainage Impacted Watersheds*

Information regarding future workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the STAC [workshop homepage](#).

### **STAC Reports**

STAC recently released the following reports:

1. **Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21)**
2. **Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens (FY 2020)**
3. **Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap (FY20)**

### **Upcoming Reports:**

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC publication page](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership.

Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.

1. **Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services (FY21):** [Workshop webpage](#)
2. **Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21):** [Workshop webpage](#)
3. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations (FY20):** [Workshop webpage](#)

4. *Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)*
5. *Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21): [Final Workshop Session webpage](#)*

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the [STAC past workshop webpage](#).

## **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

### **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

*The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.*

- **COMINGS/GOINGS:**
  - **NEW HGIT STAFFER:** We are excited to announce that a new staffer has been hired for the HGIT Team! Dede Lawal started on 2/27 and will be the staffer for the Black Duck, SAV, and Wetland Workgroups. Welcome, Dede!
  - Cheyenne Owens (USFWS) has left her detail as the Habitat GIT Co-Coordinator and has accepted a job with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).
- **SRS CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY COHORT:** The **Wetland** and **Black Duck Outcomes** are in the middle of their 2-year review cycle. The Public & Signatory Feedback Period for the new 2023-2024 Logic & Action Plans (which can be found on the [SRS Doc Status webpage](#)) is now complete. The finalized documents will be submitted for Management Board approval on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Presently, the two outcomes are beginning to work on updating their science needs. They will be presenting their science needs at the upcoming [STAC quarterly Meeting on 3/14](#). The [current science needs can be found at the STAR website](#).
- **WETLAND WORKGROUP VICE CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT:** Following the recommendations from the Wetlands Workshop, the Wetland Workgroup is reorganizing to have a Chair and two Vice-Chairs (one for tidal and one for non-tidal wetlands). The advertisement for these positions was extended and closed March 3, 2023. Contact: Chris Guy ([chris\\_guy@fws.gov](mailto:chris_guy@fws.gov)), Gina Hunt ([gina.hunt@maryland.gov](mailto:gina.hunt@maryland.gov)), and Bill Jenkins ([Jenkins.bill@epa.gov](mailto:Jenkins.bill@epa.gov)).
- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
  - **SAV WORKGROUP MEETING:** The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for **March 15 from 9:00-4:00 ET**. This will be a hybrid meeting, with the in-person meeting location at the CBP Office. Additional meeting information, including the agenda, can be found on the [CBP Calendar for this event](#).
  - **HGIT WORKGROUP CHAIRS MEETING:** The Habitat GIT Workgroup Chairs met virtually on March 8 from 10:00-12:00 ET. The purpose of this meeting will be to plan the upcoming HGIT Spring Meeting (4/25-26) and discuss other internal HGIT business.

- **FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** the following projects were approved by the CBT for funding in the current GIT Funding cycle. The Scopes of Work have been advertised and the **deadline for RFPs is March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm ET.**
  1. *“Mapping non-tidal wetlands in areas with outdated wetland maps”*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
  2. *“Monitoring vegetation condition through the Delmarva peninsula”*; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
  3. *“Determining the local effect of flow/stormwater runoff on SAV density and acreage and options for targeting BMPs that protect priority SAV areas”*; submitted on behalf of the SAV Workgroup.
  4. *“Literature Review: Building climate resilience of stream restoration practices”*; submitted on behalf of the Stream Health Outcome.

Habitat GIT Contact: Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

#### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**

*The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus, and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.*

#### **WQGIT 2023 Outlook**

The WQGIT leadership presented potential ideas to enhance the WQGIT’s meeting schedule for 2023, including a possible face-to-face meeting later in the year, as well as quarterly “themed” meetings focusing on items from our Logic and Action Plan. Initial reactions were collected live via Mentimeter and additional feedback is requested via JamBoard. Revised plans and a tentative schedule will be shared and confirmed after the February WQGIT meeting.

#### **Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

The Healthy watersheds GIT last met on February 13. The meeting was focused on the upcoming land use outcomes SRS meeting with the Management Board, and how the outcomes under the HWGIT have opportunities to work with groups like the Stream Healthy WG and the Climate Resiliency WG. To view the agenda and other meeting materials: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/maintain-healthy-watersheds-git-meeting-february-2023>

The HWGIT has been actively involved with the SRS process for the Land Use Options and Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes. They will be presenting on their last two years to the Management board on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The HWGIT is sponsoring two GIT funding projects that are well on their way. The CHWA 2.0 project is in the process of refining the CHWA and updating it with the latest data. The CCP Habitat Scoping Project is in the process of meeting with stakeholders through a workshop aimed at getting feedback on how a new habitat dataset would be used and other considerations for the update.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: [rthomps@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthomps@chesapeakebay.net); [swaterman@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:swaterman@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists residents, communities, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase engagement and active stewardship.*

#### *Stewardship Workgroup*

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust launched its Request for Proposals (for bids to conduct the GIT Funding projects) on February 10. The Stewardship Workgroup's project is Scope 9 "Stewardship Network Study and Asset Mapping." **Requests close at 4pm on March 13.**
- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently reviewing its Logic and Action Plan following the example set by the Diversity Workgroup to gauge progress and find areas where resources can be focused to move items forward.
- The next full Stewardship Workgroup meeting has been shifted from its planned date of April 27 to occur on **May 5**, to avoid a conflict with the new Management Board schedule. The agenda will include presentations from other Outcome areas that are relevant to engaging stewards – tentatively regarding tree canopy recommended actions as well as messages and best practices for audiences resulting from the STAC Rising Water Temperatures report.

#### *Education Workgroup*

- The Education Workgroup facilitated a debrief of the Environmental Literacy Forum & Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN) partner meetings held in January at the National Conservation Training Center. Discussions centered on the relationship between the Workgroup and ROLN (a state-centered stakeholder effort aligned with CBP priorities that was launched with GIT funding). These conversations are ongoing.
- The Education Workgroup and National Park Service are working on a refined version of the Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative for this year. Feedback from those involved in last year's program noted that a highlight was engagement of youth with CBP leadership as a means to learn more about CBP priorities and about career options. This year's program will incorporate this feedback and look to draw in participants from existing youth leadership programs across the watershed.
- NOAA partnered with Pennsylvania partners to hold virtual and in-person workshops focused on the new PA science standards. Over 200 representatives from across Pennsylvania's school districts joined in to discuss implementation of MWEs into environmental literacy standards.
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Request for Proposals launched on February 10th includes the Education Workgroup's two GIT-funded projects: Scope of Work 7, "Determining Evidence-



Based Criteria to Highlight how Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes;" and Scope 9, "Career and Workforce Programming Landscape Assessment," which will serve multiple Outcomes.

- Staff are in the process of updating the [Bay Backpack website](#) with the environmental literacy planning toolkit for school districts and their partners.

#### *Public Access Workgroup*

- The Public Access Workgroup has scheduled to convene its initial meeting of the year in March to review upcoming goals and actions. The agenda for the meeting includes a presentation on the conclusive results of the Benefits and Barriers Research, which was completed in February. Additionally, the workgroup will provide an update on the status of public access sites for the year 2022.
- Longtime Public Access Workgroup member Lisa Gutierrez, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has stepped up to serve as the new chair of the Workgroup, in place of Jackie Kremer, NPS, who retired at the end of 2022.

#### *Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)*

- An active effort to recruit members for the Protected Lands Workgroup from each of the Bay jurisdictions has resulted in interest from multiple individuals. Representatives from most states have agreed to join the Workgroup, though we are still working to identify participants from West Virginia and New York. The first meeting for the workgroup will take place mid to late March, and members will soon work on assessing, prioritizing, and mobilizing more of the planned actions to help address state needs to accelerate land conservation.
- Based on the CCP meeting in November, preliminary discussions and research have begun in an effort to help partners become more aware of available funding with specific connections to geography. This effort would involve identifying land conservation programs or grant programs that lend themselves to conservation with criteria that imply eligibility based on mappable features. These funding programs may be from different sources such as federal and/or state. Initial research has been focused on compiling a comprehensive list of grant programs and identifying the geographic criteria that could be used to create GIS layers, and eventually to produce a useful tool to help partners find funding to match where they're working on priority projects.

#### *Diversity Workgroup*

- The Workgroup is exploring options to utilize a small budget (funds from National Park Service Chesapeake) to support advancing its work. The Diversity Workgroup staff team is reviewing its Logic & Action Plan for a current progress check as well as to see which action items could be benefitted by funding to enable additional services, in particular as a move toward equity. If effective, this pilot could be spread to other workgroups. After this review, the action items that were considered for utilizing the small budget will be brought forward to the larger workgroup to get their input and gauge their interest in accomplishing tasks identified.
- The Diversity Workgroup's next [quarterly meeting](#) will occur from **1 pm - 3 pm on March 16** and will feature a guest presentation from Rona Kobell of the Environmental Justice

Journalism Initiative.

- The Diversity Workgroup is hosting a four-part virtual workshop series focused on building capacity for equitable grant funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The virtual workshop series is designed to help improve awareness about equitable funding challenges, best practices, experiences of under-resourced communities, and strategies for funders to measure their progress in improving equity in grantmaking. Throughout the fall of 2022, consultants interviewed under-resourced organizations and government and foundation funders to (1) understand the challenges communities face when applying for grant funding; and (2) understand equitable changes funders in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are currently making to grantmaking. These workshops have been designed to respond to the challenges heard during the interviews, and to build community among grantmakers and between grant-makers and community-based or community-serving organizations. Workshops 1 & 2 are for funders only, and workshops 3 & 4 are open to funders, nonprofits, intermediaries, and technical assistance (TA) providers working in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Registration numbers are high for these workshops.

GIT 5 Contact: Britt Slattery, [britt\\_slattery@nps.gov](mailto:britt_slattery@nps.gov) (Coordinator); Wuillam Urvina, [urvinaw@chesapeake.org](mailto:urvinaw@chesapeake.org) (Staffer); Jimmy Looper, [looperj@chesapeake.org](mailto:looperj@chesapeake.org) (Staffer)

#### **Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.*

**Organizational Analysis** – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in 2023.

*Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov); and Kristin Saunders ([ksaunders@umces.edu](mailto:ksaunders@umces.edu))*

**Budget and Finance Workgroup** - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Winter Quarterly Meeting took place on February 28, and highlighted funding opportunities under Chesapeake WILD. To receive a summary of the meeting and a document outlining eligibility criteria for the grant programs discussed, please reach out to Greg Allen ([allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)).

*Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), [shimkin.martha@epa.gov](mailto:shimkin.martha@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)*

**Local Leadership Workgroup** - The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its Fall Quarterly Meeting on November 15, 2022 as a conference call. The meeting was focused around strategic planning and the SRS process. Meeting topics included a discussion on the LLWG baseline survey results and development of the indicator, a look back at the past 2 years, and a planning for the 2023-2025 Logic and Action Plan. **The LLWG will hold its next meeting on March 23, 2023** as a joint meeting with the Local Government Advisory Committee.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Michelle Edwards (Chair), [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org); Martha Narvaez (Vice Chair) [mcorrozi@udel.edu](mailto:mcorrozi@udel.edu)

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov)

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)**

The February STAR meeting focused on the theme of tools used to improve decision making for restoration and conservation. The meeting began with a presentation on a new authoritative National Hydrography Dataset Catchment layer developed for the Chesapeake Bay Program and partners by the U.S. Geological Survey. STAR discussed the new product, the methods used to create it, and any implications for using this data product. The next part of the meeting focused on case studies developed by the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative to highlight how community science has been leveraged to address critical data gaps. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the Watershed Resources Registry which demonstrated its usage and new functionality for providing a holistic approach for targeting sites for restoration. STAR provided feedback on how to expand or improve the case studies and the Watershed Resources Registry. **The next STAR meeting is on March 23, 2023.**

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its quarterly review on January 10 and 11, 2023. The January 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the Phase 7 suite of models in development. The 12 presentations ranged from the modeled consequences of climate change on striped bass habitat and SAV habitat, to discussions on proposed refinements to the summer hypoxia forecasts and the developments in model optimization efforts. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on April 4th and 5th, 2023.

### **Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)**

The February ITAT meeting began with a discussion of analyses to apply Maryland DNR's newly developed striped bass water temperature and dissolved oxygen thresholds to look at how summer habitat conditions for resident striped bass have changed since 1986 and to examine future conditions through 2055 using several modeling scenarios, such as climate change and achieving or not achieving Watershed Implementation Plan goals. Additionally, ITAT members provided feedback on a draft outline for the new climate change section in the tributary summaries and for the initial analysis plan of University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences students examining hypoxia in the Patuxent River. The next ITAT meeting will take place on March 22nd, 2023.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute the Tributary Summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use

the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, and Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan ([bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net)) and Kaylyn Gootman ([gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov)).

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their quarterly meeting on February 28th. The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, citizen monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, blind audits, and field audits. Elgin Perry provided an overview of the 4-Dimensional Interpolator tool being developed by the Bay Oxygen Research Group. Alex Fries gave updates on citizen monitoring and proposed the citizen science groups to prioritize moving from Tier 2 to Tier 3. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator**

The BORG Team met in early January to continue discussion on GAM model development. The meeting focused on elements needed in the short-term variability component (2nd stage) of the 4-D DO estimator and to propose mathematical tools for implementing these concepts. The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled soon.

### **Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup**

The February 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting focused on NTN data updates and next steps for the workgroup. Chris Mason presented the updated 2020 NTN loads and trends, noting where data issues were discovered and how they were resolved. This was followed by a discussion of data issues. The meeting included an update on the revised NTN scope and purpose document and concluded with a brief overview of next steps in implementing monitoring recommendations for the NTN. The next NTN Workgroup meeting is scheduled for March 15th, 2023.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup**

The November 2022 CAP Workgroup meeting focused on prioritization and soliciting input from members on two decisions. The CAP WG reviewed and prioritized a list of topics that are being, or need to be, addressed regarding protocols for water quality criteria assessment during the months ahead. The workgroup then considered the impacts of bathymetry changes and potentially needed station change in the tidal fresh Rappahannock. This discussion included impacts on assessment due to issues of non-stationarity in the ecosystem. The CAP WG was introduced to the proposed designated use modification for CB6PH, CB7PH, and Mobjack Bay with the analysis and results produced in coordination with VADEQ and the Modeling Workgroup. CAP WG members have been asked to review, provide comments on, and approve/disapprove of the proposal to modify the designated use boundaries for the previously mentioned segments. The next meeting of the CAP WG has not yet been scheduled.

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroups February Meeting focused on sharing information and hearing updates about recent Chesapeake Bay Program resiliency related efforts. Jennifer Starr with the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) shared the findings from the 2022 LGAC Forum focused on incorporating resilience into local planning. This forum focused on how to successfully build resilience into new and existing plans and identify the barriers to doing so. Molly Mitchell (Virginia Institutes of Marine Science) presented findings from the final report from the GIT-Funded Synthesis of Shoreline, Sea Level Rise, and Marsh Migration Data for Wetland Restoration Targeting Project. This project

developed a methodology for using results from marsh migration models combined with social, land-use, and environmental data to inform marsh management, conservation, and restoration under sea level rise. Nicole Carlozo (MD Department of Natural Resources) presented an update on the ongoing GIT-Funded Partnership-Building and Identification of Collaborative Marsh Adaptation Projects effort. The project team is reviewing existing partner resilience, conservation, and social vulnerability/Environmental Justice metrics (GIS mapping) to inform potential areas for marsh adaptation projects. They will soon be performing partner outreach to identify geographical priorities and compare with metrics to select two regional focus areas for in-depth workshop conversations to identify specific projects and potential partners to pursue new funding opportunities.

Additionally, Jamileh Soueidan shared the results of the CRWG Membership Survey, which gathered information to help the leadership team update the membership, plan the structure of the workgroup meetings, develop actions, and identify expertise and interests to help align climate resiliency priorities between the CBP and participating partners.

August Goldfisher (Chesapeake Research Consortium) and Breck Sullivan (USGS) also shared announcements regarding the Bay Monitoring Kick-Off Meetings, which follow up on the PSC monitoring recommendations from the [Enhancing CBP Monitoring Report](#) and a potential USGS opportunity for supporting a watershed monitoring network.

The March CRWG meeting will be held **March 30, 2023 from 1:30 PM-3:30 PM**; the focus of the meeting is to be determined.

### **Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)**

The core members of the STWG last met on January 9th to review the 2022 workplan and discuss priority items for 2023. Discussion included evaluating where progress has been made in address workplan items, the role of the workgroup in preparing for 2025, and setting priorities for the new year. The STWG will next meet on March 13, 2023, to discuss indicator needs and potential avenues and resources for addressing those needs.

CRWG Contacts: Julie Reichert-Nguyen, [julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov](mailto:julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov) (Coordinator); Jamileh Souidan, [jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov](mailto:jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov) (Staffer)

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) (Coordinator), Amy Goldfisher (Staffer); [agoldfisher@chesapeake.org](mailto:agoldfisher@chesapeake.org), Alex Gunnerson (Staffer); [gunnersona@chesapeake.org](mailto:gunnersona@chesapeake.org)

### **March 2023 Management Board Indicators Update**

#### March MB Indicators Update

Since the February MB meeting, we have not updated any indicators to ChesapeakeProgress.

We anticipate finalizing the following additional indicator updates in advance of the April MB meeting:

- Forest Buffers (2021 data)
- Land Use Methods and Metrics: Impervious surface cover (2013/14 and 2017/18 data)
- Local Leadership (2022 data)
- Tree Canopy (2021 data)
- Fish Passage (2021 data)

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov)

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

On February 9, the Strategic Engagement Team met with members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to discuss the Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures— Ecological Implications and Management Responses report.

### **Communications Office**

On February 21, the Communications Office hosted a public webinar, Increasing Access to Green Space Where It's Needed Most. John Griffin, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and Bianca Boggs, Skeo Solutions discussed the [Green Space Equity Mapper](#) and Phyllis Joris, [NeighborSpace](#) discussed the work her organization is doing in Baltimore.

- Access a recording of the webinar here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KTzQIGi9gY&list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTXyiO2P\\_wP2vO4R2v&index=13](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KTzQIGi9gY&list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTXyiO2P_wP2vO4R2v&index=13)

### **40th Anniversary Planning Committee**

The Communications Office is leading the 40th anniversary planning effort and convened a team of planners for each jurisdiction and federal agency. The kick-off meeting took place on January 19. The Communications Office is in the process of hosting one on one meetings with each partner.

### **Executive Council**

Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting began on January 11, 2023.

The following blogs were published in February:

- Blue-billed and bound for the Bay <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/blue-billed-and-bound-for-the-bay>
- Is the Chesapeake Bay's water rising or is the land sinking? <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/is-the-chesapeake-bays-water-rising-or-is-the-land-sinking>
- A Baltimore-based climate activist puts people at the center of sustainability <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a-baltimore-based-climate-activist-puts-people-at-the-center-of-sustainability>
- Chesapeake Bay Program expands on grant equity efforts with new workshop series <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake-bay-program-expands-on-grant-equity-efforts-with-new-workshop-series>
- My Clean Water Story: Lucinda Power <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/my-clean-water-story-lucinda-power>
- New mapping tool shows underserved communities and their access (or lack thereof) to nature <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/new-mapping-tool-shows-underserved-communities-and-their-access-or-lack-thereof-to-nature>