



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
June 11, 2020**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

June 11	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee quarterly meeting
June 15	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
June 16	Wetland Workgroup meeting (seeking co-chair)
June 17	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
June 19	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting
June 22	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting
June 25	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
July 1	Communications Workgroup meeting
July 1	Land Use Workgroup meeting
July 7-8	Modeling Workgroup quarterly review
July 8	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup meeting
July 9	Management Board meeting
August 18	Executive Council meeting

**Updates**

**Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and Bernie Fowler Wade-in!**

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 6-14) is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. This year marks the fifth celebration and while the Week is typically marked by a wide variety of events spanning the Bay's 64,000 square-mile watershed, this year's celebration will look a bit different, as watershed residents continue to socially distance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's theme highlights the many creeks, rivers and streams that thread through the Chesapeake Bay region and the partnership will be celebrating rivers throughout the entire watershed to raise awareness about this valuable economic and environmental resource.

One of the Bay's iconic annual events will still occur this year: Senator Bernie Fowler's Patuxent River Wade-in. Join in virtually as former Senator Bernie Fowler wades into the Patuxent River during the 33rd anniversary of this event to check water quality on June 14, 2020. The event will be broadcast live from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on the [Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum's Facebook](#) page. For more virtual events throughout the week, visit the Chesapeake Bay Program's [calendar](#).

For more information: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/attend>;

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/join\\_communities\\_across\\_the\\_watershed\\_in\\_celebrating\\_chesapeake\\_bay\\_aw1](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/join_communities_across_the_watershed_in_celebrating_chesapeake_bay_aw1)

Contact: Rachel Felver, [rfelver@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rfelver@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Final CBP Partner Two-Year Milestones Submitted**

On June 1, the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, including the six Chesapeake Bay states, the District of Columbia and six of the CBP partner federal agencies submit their final 2020-2021 two-year milestones for EPA review. Results of final two-year milestones for 2018-2019 were also provided. EPA will evaluate the milestones over the coming weeks and post evaluations on the Bay TMDL website no later than July 31, 2020. The evaluations will consider progress toward attaining the goal of having practices in place by 2025 to achieve Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) planning targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. The jurisdictions are expected to post their final milestones on their respective websites by June 15, 2020. Links to the milestones may be found on the Bay TMDL website at: <https://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl/chesapeake-bay-milestones>  
Contact: Lucinda Power, 410-267-5722

### **Annual Bay Report Card: Overall Watershed Health Is Faring Better Than the Bay Itself**

According to the 2019 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Report Card issued by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), the health of the Chesapeake Bay declined for the second year in a row while the overall watershed—assessed for the first time this year—is in a relatively better condition. The report card features several inaugural research components that provide a more holistic, inclusive evaluation of the Chesapeake region.

Overall, the Chesapeake Bay scored a 44%, the lowest score and first C- since 2011, with a changing climate as the culprit. Higher-than-average temperatures lowered dissolved oxygen levels, damaged underwater grasses and decimated benthic macroinvertebrates (organisms like snails, mussels and insects that live at the bottom of the Bay and its streams and rivers). Extreme and severe periods of rain increased pollution from run-off while lingering effects from the record rainfall in 2018 may also have had an impact.

More information: <https://www.umces.edu/news/chesapeake-bay-health-score-decreased-in-2019>

### **Variety of Topics on STAC Agenda**

The CBP's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) will consider a variety of issues at its virtual meeting on Thursday, June 11. STAC members will hear presentations on connecting EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) research with Chesapeake Bay scientific needs, environmental literacy for students, freshwater mussels, COVID-19 impacts on Bay restoration, and achieving the Bay's water quality goals.

Contact: Lee McDonnell, 410-267-5731

### **Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting Focused on COVID-19 Impacts**

The CBP Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) met virtually on June 4 and focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. Carin Bisland, chief of the Partnerships and Accountability Branch, provided an overview of the impacts discussed at the PSC meeting, while each jurisdiction focused on the impacts from their state perspective. Further, they discussed the impacts to future projects (existing projects were still moving forward) of not being able to have permitting offices open or to hold public meetings. LGAC also discussed the upcoming Executive Council (EC) meeting and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice statement being developed for potential EC signature. They agreed to support the concept of the statement and wanted to promote their interest in workforce development programs in encouraging actions that help both the environment and the economy.

Contact: Carin Bisland, [bisland.carin@epa.gov](mailto:bisland.carin@epa.gov), 410-267-5732

### **CBP Principals' Staff Committee Meeting**

The COVID-19 pandemic was a major topic at the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) virtual meeting on May 22. The jurisdictions reported multiple impacts on their operations due to COVID-19, including budget and staff shortfalls, monitoring and reporting interruptions, scaled back hatchery production, ag sector problems, and shut down projects. Nevertheless, the partners indicated they are adjusting to the crisis with innovations such as virtual inspections and remote data analysis and are largely staying on track to meet partnership timelines. However, several expressed uncertainty about additional future impacts. The PSC agreed that the pandemic would be a theme of the 2020 Executive Council meeting on August 18, which will be held virtually rather than in-person. The PSC discussed and adjusted the timeline for development and public release of the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan and approved for EC consideration, a Bay Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice statement.

Contacts: Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732; Greg Barranco, 410-267-5778

### **Chesapeake Research Symposium 2020**

The bi-annual Chesapeake Community Research Symposium 2020 sponsored by the Chesapeake Research Consortium and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was held virtually June 8-10, 2020. The three-day event brings together managers, scientists, and stakeholders for a series of plenary talks, panel discussions, and special sessions. It highlights recent progress, challenges and prospects for research, monitoring and modeling efforts that are used to guide management and restoration efforts in Chesapeake Bay. This year's event featured three tracks and a wide range of science-based topics focusing on the progress and future of Bay restoration.

The symposium was free of charge for all participants.

For more information: <https://ccmp2020.chesapeake.org/#program>

### **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 held its quarterly meeting via webinar June 4. Members and jurisdiction representatives discussed the impacts of COVID-19 in their communities and considered means to continue to support Bay restoration in innovative manners. Members also discussed priorities for 2020 and determined annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. LGAC discussed the DEIJ CBP endorsement and statement. Additional topics on the agenda included planning for the September Local Government Forum on building local community resilience against climate. This Forum will be jointly developed and implemented by LGAC and the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup.
- LGAC still seeks New York representative.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@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 CAC held their quarterly meeting virtually on May 21st. Members discussed impacts on Watershed restoration amid the COVID-19 health crisis and their annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), Vice-Chair.

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

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

*The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.*

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey ([harveya@cheapeake.org](mailto:harveya@cheapeake.org))

### ***STAC Response to COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities:***

While COVID-19 restrictions will prevent STAC from meeting in person in the near future, STAC Staff and members have been exploring the advantages of virtual meetings, workshops, and project planning. Virtual meetings present unique challenges, as well as new opportunities to engage with STAC and the CBP Partnership. Web conferencing services provide interactive digital tools such as polling, instant 'reactions', file sharing, and 'breakout groups'. With STAC members from all over the Bay region, virtual meetings will bring together science and technical experts while reducing STAC's carbon footprint. Last year, STAC members traveled an estimated 33,000 miles to attend quarterly meetings and workshops. If we assume all STAC members have average to medium cars with 21 mpg fuel economy, STAC business emitted as much as four typical passenger vehicles in 2019. This past March, the STAC quarterly meeting was remote due to social distancing measures. Working from a conference room on the Smithsonian Environmental Campus with a small number of CRC and CBP partner staff, our March meeting emissions costs were 3.4% of last year's total emissions.

STAC Staff continues to conduct extensive research on web conferencing services and strategies in order to maintain the productivity of the committee, and we look forward to continuing our work to bring the latest science to the Chesapeake Bay management community.

### ***Quarterly Meetings:***

STAC will host its first meeting of FY2020 on June 11th over web conferencing services. This meeting will focus on reviewing draft products for the STAC effort “Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Evaluation of System Response”. STAC receive a report-out from the workshop Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership, updates on the SRS process, and prepare the STAC letter to the CBP Executive Council. STAC will hear from EPA ORD and Workgroup Chairs to increase STAC input on science needs within the region. Various talks will be given on the impact of COVID on CBP goals, such as the agricultural industry and local government. Since this quarterly meeting conflicts with the June Management Board meeting, if you are interested in any of the presentations or discussions feel free to contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey.

### ***STAC 2020 Remaining Quarterly Meeting Dates***

All dates are subject to change in response to COVID-19 and time needed to complete the SGA effort.

September 15-16, 2020

December 14-15, 2020

### ***Workshops:***

FY2019 STAC Workshops have all concluded. The workshop titled Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program has cancelled its final fourth session. The report will be based on the findings from the previous three sessions of the workshop, with intentions to provide updates after Summer 2020 initial collection of test satellite imagery.

### ***FY2020 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals***

STAC released an RFP for FY2020 workshops in December 2019 and received 3 proposals. During the March quarterly meeting STAC members reviewed the initial scores and comments and voted to approve the 3 proposals. Planning for FY2020 workshops will begin June 1, 2020.

- 1. Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations*
- 2. Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption*
- 3. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens*

**In May of 2020, STAC received an additional proposal that will be considered for approval at the June STAC Quarterly Meeting.**

- 4. Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap*

### ***Upcoming Reports:***

STAC is working to finalize the following five reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

- 1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)*
- 2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)*
- 3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)*

4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
6. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)
7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)
8. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program (FY2019)

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

**Indicators**

The following indicators were updated since the April Management Board meeting.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Status/Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Oysters	Updated with 2019 data	<a href="https://www.chesapeakeprogram.com/abundant-life/oysters">https://www.chesapeakeprogram.com/abundant-life/oysters</a>

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- SAV – update with preliminary 2019 data and post final 2018 data
- Public Access – update with 2019 data
- Reducing Pollution Indicator - update with 2019 Progress Run data

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

**Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

*The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.*

- Dredge Survey: Results of the blue crab 2020 Winter Dredge Survey were released by state jurisdictions, and are being compiled in the annual Advisory Report, expected to be released by CBSAC in July. The population maintains a healthy number of spawning-age female crabs.
- Catfish: The Invasive Catfish Management Strategy includes the following recommendations for the workgroup and management jurisdictions to implement: 1) conduct outreach and marketing campaigns 2) remove processing barriers, 3) conduct scientific research, and 4) use tributary-specific management approaches.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov)

**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.*

- Leadership positions: The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (HGIT) is seeking nominations from Management Board members for three volunteer leadership positions: HGIT Co-chair, Wetland Workgroup Co-chair, and Stream Health Workgroup Co-chair. The position descriptions will be shared with MB members at the June meeting and nominations are being requested by the August meeting.
- The Wetland Workgroup has a meeting on June 16th from 2-4 pm. The meeting will focus on work plan item progress updates from workgroup members, applications for EPA Wetland Program Development Grants, and next steps on developing a 2021 STAC workshop proposal regarding a systems approach to BMP crediting.
- The final SAV Management Strategy and Workplan have been submitted to the SRS team for the Management Board to accept as complete.
- The GIT is reviewing five proposals for the 2020 round of GIT funding, including two from the Wetland Workgroup, two from the SAV workgroup, and one from the Stream Health Workgroup.
- The Brook Trout Workgroup is sponsoring a webinar *eDNA Method Development and Applications for Assessing Aquatic Integrity* by Amy Bergdale (EPA Region 3) on June 24, 2020 from 1:00-2:30pm.
- Chair of the Stream Health Workgroup, Neely Law, is co-hosting a session at the Chesapeake Community Monitoring Symposium on June 10 at 11:00am. The session is titled *Approaches for Maintaining and Improving Chesapeake Bay Stream and Watershed Health*.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann  
(greenberg.julianna@epa.gov; ossman.megan@epa.gov)

### **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.*

#### **The WQGIT held a meeting on May 24, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:**

- The WQGIT did not reach consensus on CAST 2019 and will revisit for final approval at their June 22 meeting.
- The GIT Funded project technical leads presented their proposals to the WQGIT.
- The WQGIT discussed climate change allocation options and will seek approval at their June 22nd meeting.

#### **The WQGIT will hold a conference call on June 22, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:**

- Challenges during COVID-19
- Finance and Investment Forum Consulting

- Climate Change Policy Allocation Options
- CAST 2019
- BMP Verification Ad- Hoc Actions Team
- SRS Review

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

### **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 HWGIT met on [Wednesday, May 27](#) to review progress on the logic and action plan and share updates on multiple ongoing projects.
- The [Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment](#), is complete, including the final geodatabase, and related projects to visualize and share the data are already underway. This includes the CHWA visualization project, Healthy Watersheds Literature review, as well as a project with EPA creating Storymaps.
- GIT Funding: HWGIT staff are continuing to collaborate with other workgroups and GITs on cross-outcome goals and will be assisting with the development and submission of FY20 GIT Funding ideas
- A shared session with the stream health workgroup, USGS and the HWGIT coordinator will be part of the [Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) (online June 8-10<sup>th</sup>). A description of our shared session can be found [here](#).

Contact: Renee Thompson; [rthomps@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthomps@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

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

- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
  - The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership is currently preparing for a virtual Steering Committee meeting on June 26th, 2020.
  - The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and GIT 5 Leadership have been working with partners to revise the 2020-2021 Logic & Action Plan.
  - The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform [success.chesapeakeconservation.org](https://success.chesapeakeconservation.org). Management Board Members can email

Olivia Wisner ([wisnero@chesapeake.org](mailto:wisnero@chesapeake.org)) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed

- Citizen Stewardship Team
  - In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in February, the Citizen Stewardship Team has developed its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plan and incorporated comments from the Public and Signatory Feedback Period. The updated Logic and Action Plan will go before the Management Board for approval on June 11, 2020.
  - Workgroup Chairs Kacey Wetzel and Suzanne Etgen have been working closely with Amy Handen (EPA) to brainstorm ways to integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.
  - The Stewardship workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
  
- Education Workgroup
  - In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in May, the Education workgroup is updating its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plans for the Student, Planning, and Sustainable Schools outcomes.
  - The Education Workgroup has begun work on its GIT funded project to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
  - The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September, 2019 to increase sustained and systematic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks include (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals. This effort continues during the current health crisis through virtual meetings with school staff and partners.
  - The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.
  
- Public Access Planning Team
  - In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in February, the Public Access workgroup has developed its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plan will go before the Management Board for approval on June 11, 2020.

***Diversity Workgroup***

- The Members of the Diversity Workgroup are meeting the week of June 8th to continue discussing a project idea that will be potentially included in this year's Goal Implementation Team Funding. The workgroup is pursuing a path forward for formal endorsement of the CBP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Strategy. On May 22nd, the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) agreed to review the strategy and accompanying DEIJ Strategy Endorsement Statement. The PSC also agreed to review the proposed CBP DEIJ Statement to be taken to the Executive Council for formal adoption at their August meeting. PSC comments on all three documents are due by June 15th.

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; [phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:phillips.tuana@epa.gov)

Contact: Olivia Wisner; [olivia\\_wisner@nps.gov](mailto:olivia_wisner@nps.gov)

### **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.*

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System**

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS). [ChesapeakeDecisions](#) is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Goal Implementation Teams \(GITs\) and Management Board members](#) through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The Clean Water Cohort is currently going through the SRS process. Their Quarterly Progress Meeting will take place on August 13, 2020. The Climate Change and Resiliency cohort will be the next cohort to undergo the process—starting in September 2020.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, [vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@epa.gov)

### **Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Summer 2020**

The GIT 6 Summer Quarterly Meeting will take place on June 17, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include: A discussion on the draft Organizational Analysis Data Collection and Communication Plan, Strategy Review System (SRS) process and facilitation updates, Governance Document Log of Revision updates, and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **FY 2019 GIT Funding**

GIT 6 kicked-off the FY20 GIT Funding cycle with the Chesapeake Bay Trust in late April and released the Call for Ideas (Request for Ideas) on April 23. GIT 6 and the Trust held a Project Idea Sharing and Q&A session on May 20 and Technical Lead Training on June 2. The Trust is working to solidify a date for Table 1 and 2 training in the coming week. Table 1 Ideas are due to the Trust's online portal by June 22.

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov) or Chantal Madray, [madray.chantal@epa.gov](mailto:madray.chantal@epa.gov)

### **Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on April 29, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts as a result of COVID-19, Finance Forum feedback and next steps, and GIT Funding updates. The next BFWG meeting will take place on July 29, 2020. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)

### **Local Leadership Workgroup**

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting will take place on August 25, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include GIT Funding project updates, 2020 conference updates, successes, and workplan updates. The workgroup is working toward developing cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a FY19 GIT-funded project and is excited to start sharing these, and other vetted resources, via workshops, panels and roundtable discussions in collaboration with trusted sources. Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Matt Pennington (Chair), [MPennington@region9wv.com](mailto:MPennington@region9wv.com)

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, [madray.chantal@epa.gov](mailto:madray.chantal@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.*

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup coordinator and staffers participated in the kickoff meeting for the FY19 GIT-Funded project, “Building a Bay-Wide Scorecard to Track Climate Resilience for Watershed Communities” with the RAND Corporation (grant awardee) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (subcontractor), on May 1, 2020. This project focuses on developing a scorecard that will allow watershed communities (inland and coastal) to track progress toward implementing climate adaptation efforts, the success of those efforts, as well as bring awareness of management actions to implement in the future. Representatives from the CBP Local Engagement Team, Local Government Advisory Committee, and STAR are participating on the advisory team to assist the Climate Resiliency Workgroup connect the project outcomes at the local level and structure the scorecard for decision-making. Additionally, the Climate Resiliency Workgroup met on [April 20, 2020](#) where the CBP Modeling Workgroup updated the workgroup on the proposed allocation method options to address climate change risk in the Chesapeake Watershed and tidal waters and presented Phase 6 climate modeling results. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup met on [May 18, 2020](#) where invited speakers shared data sources that could support the development of potential climate indicators related to stream condition and bay water temperatures. The workgroup will also discussed climate resilience-related GIT-Funded ideas for FY20. The next workgroup meeting is [June 15, 2020](#).

### **STAR**

During the May STAR Meeting, STAR members had a theme meeting on ecosystem services. Amy Handen provided an overview of the history of social science and the Chesapeake Bay Program and discussed the next steps in developing a social science strategy. Emily Trentacoste along with Susan Yee

and Ryann Rossi from EPA Office of Research and Development provided an overview of a current collaborative EPA project which will identify and quantify the ecosystem services provided by key habitat-related restoration practices such as forest buffers and wetlands. USGS scientist Emily Pindilli briefed STAR on a new ecosystem services assessment focused on stream benefits of water quality restoration practices in the watershed. Jessica Daniel from EPA's EnviroAtlas team provided a demonstration on how GITs can utilize this web-based decision support tool that combines maps, analysis tools, downloadable data, and informational resources. STAR will gather specific interests on EnviroAtlas and follow up with a meeting to discuss potential ideas of incorporating EnviroAtlas data into projects. Next STAR meeting will be held on June 25th 2020.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling WG continues to develop potential approaches to allocate climate change risk nutrient loads as directed by the WQGIT. Next Modeling WG Quarterly Review will be held on July 7-8.

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; [cwu@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:cwu@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Communications Workgroup**

*The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.*

#### Communications Workgroup:

The Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting on June 3. We coordinated shared messaging around Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 6-14) and Pollinator Week (June 22-28). We also held an open discussion about how we're adjusting our planned communications in light of the recent nationwide protests and how we can be cognizant of making our messaging more diverse and inclusive.

#### Communications Office and Web Team:

On Wednesday, June 3, the Communications Office announced this year's Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week in a partnership press release. Partners involved in the planning included the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office and Pennsylvania Sea Grant. This year's event, which focuses on the rivers of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, takes place June 6-14. Follow along on social media with the hashtag #OneChesapeake.

For the first time, the Communications Office will be releasing the Bay-wide summer hypoxia forecast, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). The University of Michigan will issue a separate release the same day. The University of Michigan is in the process of transferring their hypoxia model to the Bay Program.

On June 1, we welcomed two summer interns to the Communications Office—Myra McAdory, a graduate student at the University of Delaware, in communications, and Carlin Stiehl, a graduate student at Ohio University, in multimedia.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in May:

- [Born to stand out](#): Five-lined skinks provide a pop of color to the forest floor
- [Wastewater treatment plants use technology to tackle a lingering chemical](#): Man-made contaminants continue to pollute the Bay and its tributaries
- [South, West and Rhode Rivers in Maryland saw more grasses, better health in 2019](#): A year of data from the Arundel Rivers Federation paints a detailed picture in their new report card
- [How choosing the right tree can help adapt to climate change](#): By planning for the future, you can increase forest resiliency
- [Chesapeake Bay water quality declines by four percentage points](#): Record amount of freshwater contributed to lower score
- [Small markets step up in a big way during the coronavirus pandemic](#): Two Maryland businesses work tirelessly to meet consumer demand
- [Beautiful invaders](#): Forgo ornamental invasives for equally attractive native alternatives
- [Get to know these five Chesapeake Bay wetlands](#): Explore the unique beauty and benefits that wetlands offer
- [Annual Bay report card notes overall watershed health is faring better than the Bay itself](#): Researchers include new indicators to provide an expanded, holistic view of watershed health
- [With fewer dams, a river near Baltimore flows more freely](#): Fish are returning to the Patapsco just a year after the demolition of Bloede Dam
- [Five species that provide a vital link in the Chesapeake Bay food web](#): Meet some of the Bay's most important forage species
- [Chesapeake farms are feeling the heat](#): Changes to our climate can have serious impacts on agriculture
- [Seafood businesses go online to stay afloat](#): Restaurants, markets and wholesalers use digital marketing to make their summer sales

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### **Recent Meetings and Events**

May 15	Stream Health Workgroup meeting (seeking Co-Chair)
May 18	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
May 20	GIT Funding Idea Sharing and Q&A meeting
May 21	Citizens Advisory Committee quarterly meeting
May 22	Principals' Staff Committee meeting
May 26	WQGIT conference call
May 27	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT meeting
May 28	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
June 2	GIT Funding Technical Lead Training
June 3	GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting
June 4	Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) webinar
June 10	Toxic Containments Workgroup meeting