



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
March 12, 2020**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

March 16	Building Cultural Competency training
March 16	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
March 18	Diversity Workgroup in-person meeting (Annapolis)
March 18	Enhance Partnership, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
March 19-20	Local Government Advisory Committee (Washington, DC)
March 23	Water Quality GIT conference call
March 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 26	Webinar: A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice (DEIJ) Assessment and Strategy for the CBP (12:30 pm – 1:30 pm)
March 31	Data Integrity Workgroup meeting (Glen Allen, Va.)
April 1	Communications Workgroup meeting
April 1	Forestry Workgroup in-person meeting
April 1	Land Use Workgroup conference calls
April 7-8	Modeling Workgroup quarterly review
April 9	Management Board meeting

Updates

EPA Begins Review of Two-Year Milestones

On March 2, Chesapeake Bay states, the District of Columbia and federal agencies submitted their 2020-2021 two-year milestones to EPA for review. The two-year milestones represent the next set of commitments from the Bay jurisdictions, EPA and nine other federal agencies to support the water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. These commitments represent activities with the potential to have significant environmental outcomes, require significant resources, or directly support the jurisdictions in meeting Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) commitments. These commitments remain contingent on receiving adequate state and federal funding in the 2020 and 2021 fiscal year budgets. Links to the jurisdictions' milestones are posted on EPA's [Bay TMDL website](https://www.epa.gov/bay-tmdl) and links to the federal milestones may be found at: <http://federalleadership.chesapeakebay.net/> EPA's final evaluations are due no later than July 29, 2020.

Contact: Dana Aunkst, 410-267-5100

Executive Council Meeting Set for August

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan has announced that the next meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council will be held in Maryland on August 18 at a location to be determined.

Contact: Greg Barranco, 410-267-5778

NFWF Soliciting Proposals for High Priority Projects – The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, is

soliciting proposals for projects to implement one or more high-priority nutrient and sediment load reduction practices in eight Pennsylvania counties in the Bay watershed (Adams, Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York). NFWF estimates awarding about \$1.2 million in grants under the Pennsylvania Local Government Implementation (PA-LGI) funding opportunity. Proposals are due by Thursday, April 16, 2020.

Contact: Rebecca Hindin, 410-267-5770

CBP Hosts Finance and Investment Forum

On March 11, the CBP in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay held a one-day Finance and Investment Forum at the University of Maryland, College Park. The workshop was intended to be a shared learning opportunity, between the Chesapeake Bay Program environmental management and conservation financial experts. Members of the various work group and Goal Implementation Team members were paired with conservation finance professionals to mutually learn about and explore how different financial vehicles might be used to advance Bay restoration goals.

Contact: Greg Barranco, 410-267-5778

Redirected Funds to Help Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Protect Local Streams

On February 18, EPA announced that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will receive \$464,200 to hire eight staff members to assist with stream improvement projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The EPA Chesapeake Bay grant funds were redirected from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to the Commission due to PADEP's high amount of unliquidated obligations, or ULOs. EPA also announced that it redirected \$2.4 million in Bay grant funds from PADEP to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for 14 stream restoration projects.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

EPA, West Virginia Sign Agriculture MOU – On February 19, EPA and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand joint activities supporting the agencies' shared goal of cleaner water and sustainable farms. EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio and West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner Kent Leonhardt signed the agreement at the West Virginia State Capitol Building in Charleston. The MOU formalizes a partnership between the two agencies and expands activities to prioritize funding, coordinate on regulatory issues, recognize farmers for environmental stewardship, and provide educational opportunities for producers.

Contact: Kelly Shenk, 410-267-5728

Virginia Passes Legislation to Help Keep Cattle Out of Streams

Legislation passed by the Commonwealth of Virginia in early February will help keep cattle out of local streams by requiring fencing on livestock properties by December 31, 2025. The bill will apply to any person owning property on which 20 or more bovines are pastured. It calls for voluntary actions until December 31, 2025. At that point, if Virginia's Bay TMDL goals are not met, the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and the Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry must jointly determine if streamside fencing should become a requirement. To help landowners pay for the fencing, Virginia's Agricultural Cost Share Program would be revised to provide more flexible financial support and technical assistance to install fences.

The Environmental Protection Agency report, [Guidance for Federal Land Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) provides estimates from the Chesapeake Bay Program's suite of modeling tools that show manure accounts for 19% of nitrogen and 26% of phosphorus pollution reaching the Bay. The 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture notes there are

approximately 6.1 million hooved livestock (e.g. cattle, pigs, horses, sheep) residing in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

More information: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/fencing_out_manure_pollution

Chesapeake Bay Region Celebrates Record Oyster Shell Collection Year

The Oyster Recovery Partnership recently reported that its shell recycling program collected 36,000 bushels of oyster shell from hundreds of seafood businesses throughout the Chesapeake Bay in 2019—a an overall record since the Shell Recycling Alliance’s launch in 2010. Since that time, ORP has reclaimed 213,000 bushels of shell, which equates to 7,400 tons kept out of area landfills, approximately \$350,000 saved by local businesses in waste collection fees, and enough substrate to support the planting of 1 billion spat on shell in local waters. The program is the nation’s largest shell recycling network with approximately 340 member businesses and over 70 public shell drop off sites in Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Results of Second Diversity Survey Show Progress Toward Meeting Watershed Agreement Outcome

In 2016, the Chesapeake Bay Program distributed its first-ever diversity survey to those who work for or with the partnership. In 2019, a follow-up was distributed by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Diversity Workgroup. This latest survey showed a 6.5% increase in the percentage of respondents who self-identified as people of color and a 12.8% increase in the percentage of respondents who self-identified as people of color in leadership positions.

More information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/attracting_a_diverse_workforce_continues_to_be_a_priority_for_the_chesapeake

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’s next meeting is March 19-20 in Washington DC at the DC Water’s Blue Plains Facility. This is the Annual meeting where elections take place for jurisdiction vice-chairs and chair. Members will discuss priorities for 2020 and consider recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. Additional topics on the agenda include innovative trading and offset efforts, BMP verification and exploring DC’s Clean Water Initiative as a model to replicate.
- LGAC finalized and shared its Local Government Forum report on Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Workforce Development. This invitation-only, one-day problem-solving work session was held September 11, 2019. Recommendations include the following:
 - LGAC recommends that the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partners charge each state or region (more localized) with conducting a needs assessment around the demands of the stormwater and related industries to implement, maintain and inspect BMPs and supply of the workforce.

- LGAC recommends identifying the components of workforce development programs that create a successful job pipeline and work to replicate them in other programs as they are developed. Two specific strategies are (1) to connect training programs with the businesses and public agencies and build a relationship from the get-go, and (2) encourage public agencies to include credentials such as certificate or certification criteria in job descriptions.
 - LGAC recommends that transferable credentials across the Watershed should be developed in order to be most valuable to standardize the base requirements needed.
 - LGAC recommends the Chesapeake Bay Program consider promoting policy and incentives that support the installation, inspection, maintenance, and enforcement of green infrastructure, creating job opportunities to fill these roles.
- LGAC still seeks New York representative.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at 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.

- Previous meeting: The Citizens Advisory Committee held their first 2020 quarterly meeting on February 20-21 in Berkeley Springs, WV. Members learned about WV's approach to the Phase III WIPs from WV DEP, Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council and WV Rivers Coalition on how they collaborate on river recovery in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The members also learned about NY's approach to nonpoint source components in the Phase III WIPs from CAC Members, Mike Lovegreen, who is with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.
- Conowingo: CAC members decided to follow-up with letters addressing concerns that the Conowingo Dam Settlement poses to the Bay TMDL and proposed regulatory changes to the CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification. CAC will also send letters to the EC/PSC highlighted AML funding available for stream restoration that could help states meet their Phase III WIPs; to conduct a study of the amount of Bay Watershed shoreline that is publicly accessible; and to assess the trends and status of old growth forests in the Bay Watershed.
- Next meeting: The next CAC meeting will be in Richmond, VA on May 21-22 following the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference.
- 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 for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn 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)

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2019 on March 10-11, 2020 **as a conference call**. Members will continue to work on the STAC Scientific Gap Analysis effort (to be renamed). This effort brings together the varied expertise from STAC membership to assess important system limits, knowledge gaps, and research needs to facilitate future dialogue related to the feasibility and consequences of post-2025 policy choices. STAC aims to inform policy-makers, the interested public, and scientific community about the state of the science surrounding the gaps associated with the Bay attaining WQS. The membership is split into three workgroups to closely examine these issues; Watershed, Estuarine and Living Resources. Beyond the science, STAC members are examining the most effective delivery and communication for this body of information. STAC will continue to refine the intent and content of this two-year effort.

During this meeting, the Estuarine workgroup will share the findings of their past discussions and outline their portion of the report. STAC members will also discuss a new title that will accurately capture the intended outcomes of the report and will continue to refine the

STAC will also hear from STAR for updates on the SRS process and received updates from recent STAC workshops. More information will be made available on the [March Meeting Page](#).

Workshops:

On March 5-6, 2020, STAC sponsored a workshop titled "Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership" at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Philip Merrill Center in Annapolis, MD. This two-day workshop synthesized the current knowledge of how freshwater mussels could be best used in support of Chesapeake Bay Program Goals and Outcomes. More information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).

STAC has one remaining workshop for FY2019. Information regarding upcoming workshops can be found on the [future workshops homepage](#).

1. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program: Session 3, February 25-26, 2020; Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)

Finalized Report:

1. [**Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units \(AEIOU\): Using Eutrophying Units for Management \(FY2018\)**](#)

Upcoming Reports:

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

2. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
3. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
4. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
5. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
6. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Indicators

The following indicators were updated since the February Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Status/Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Diversity	<p>In 2019, the Chesapeake Bay Program's diversity survey indicated a slight increase in the percentage of respondents who self-identified as people of color from 13.7% in 2016 to 14.6% in 2019. The partnership has set a target to increase the percentage of people of color in the Chesapeake Bay Program to 25% by 2025. The Chesapeake Bay Program has also set a target to increase the percentage of people of color in leadership positions to 15% by 2025. The 2019 survey results showed an increase in the percentage of people of color in leadership positions from 9.1% to 10.3%.</p> <p>While both the 2016 and 2019 surveys were distributed to approximately 750 people who work for or with the partnership, the latest survey had a low response rate of 38% compared to 50% in 2016. The lower response rate may have affected the results.</p>	<p>https://www.chesapeakeprogram.com/engaged-communities/diversity</p>

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

- Water Quality Standards Attainment
- Water Quality Pollution Loads and River Flow

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, 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.

- The Fish Habitat Action Team held a conference call filled with updates on ongoing projects related to the [2020-21 Logic and Action Plan](#), including efforts by the GIS team to map shoreline condition Bay-wide and develop a habitat suitability visualization tool, opportunities for partnering with other workgroups on behavior change and local engagement, and ongoing fish habitat assessments by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and Chesapeake Bay NOAA/USGS.
- Acoustic receiver: NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and the Sustainable Fisheries GIT are continuing to evaluate options for an acoustic receiver array to track species movements in the Chesapeake Bay mainstem, focused on using existing resources to establish and maintain several critical gates at the Bay mouth and Bay Bridge.
- Oysters: Virginia Marine Resources Commission plans to complete oyster restoration in the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, a fully funded project to restore reefs at the level of 100% currently restorable oyster bottom. Because the tributary will follow the same rigorous process as the 10 tributaries selected for restoration by 2025, the Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will vote to approve the area as a 'bonus' 11th tributary under the Oyster Outcome.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; 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.

- Wetland BMP Expert Panel report: After several months of discussion, PADEP has released their hold on the most recent Wetland BMP Expert Panel report. A memo describing the proposed solutions to each of PADEP's concerns has been finalized and approved by the WQGIT chairs, HGIT chairs, and other Bay Program leadership. Comments on the memo from the WQGIT and HGIT members will be accepted until March 18th and consensus on the expert panel report by each of the GITs will be sought via email.
- SAV: The SAV workgroup has requested and been approved for an extension on the final SRS materials. They will join the Stewardship cohort for this cycle and will submit their updated Management Strategy and Workplan to the Management Board by the May 12th deadline.
- The Wetland Workgroup met on March 2, 2020 at the Chesapeake Bay Program office. The focus of this meeting was on identifying actions in the work plan to move forward with and

getting commitments from workgroup members on these actions. The meeting also focused on wetland mapping with a presentation on the Virginia Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT) and a presentation on planned updates to wetland land use/classification in the Bay Program.

- The Stream Health Workgroup met on February 21, 2020 at the Chesapeake Bay Program office. The focus of this meeting was on evaluating a possible revision of the stream health indicator from stream miles to an area-based metric. The group also discussed work being done with USGS to better identify and quantify stressors to stream health throughout the watershed.
- The 2019 GIT funded project Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure in Vulnerable areas has continued to work with its steering committee to identify potential sites for the project. The group is overlaying GIS information to screen for areas that best meet project of habitat value, climate resilience, and under-represented communities in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.
- On March 11, 2020, members of the Habitat GIT plan to attend the CBP Finance and Investment at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD.
- On March 16, 2020, members of the Habitat GIT plan to attend a training on cultural competency hosted by the Diversity Workgroup at the Chesapeake Bay Program office.
- Habitat GIT meeting: The Habitat Goal Team will have its next meeting at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, Virginia on May 6 and 7, 2020. The theme of the meeting will be focusing on how social science and behavior change interacts with habitat restoration and conservation work.

Habitat GIT Contact: Jennifer Greiner, jennifer_greiner@fws.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 an in-person meeting on February 10-11, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- **Policy I:** *Year to base Climate Targets (2025 / 2035 / 2045 / 2055?)*
Action: At this time, the WQGIT has not made a final decision on the year to base climate targets. Further discussion and more information are needed before a decision can be made. However, the WQGIT discussed aligning the climate base year to the year in which those reductions would be achieved.
- **Policy II:** *Adoption of Refined or 2018 Climate Targets*
Decision: The WQGIT will use the updated climate model when assessing the allocation options.
- **Policy III:** *Timing for Achieving Targets (by 2025? / post 2025?)*

Action: At this time, the WQGIT has not made a final decision on the timing to achieve targets. Further discussion and more information are needed before a decision can be made. However, the WQGIT discussed aligning the climate base year to the year in which those reductions would be achieved.

- **Policy IV: Options for Allocating Climate Targets**

Action: The WQGIT requested further modeling analysis on the following allocation options:

Open Water

Include Open Water with other segments

Separate allocation for Open Water and Deep Water , Deep Channel, then reconcile

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Responsibility

Only non-WWTP

Include WWTP

Variances

Keep variances the same and consider volume balance

Relative Impact: Conowingo

Current status (2010)

Relative Impact Segments

Use group of segments being protected (only look at Open Water and Deep Water, separately)

Watershed Loads

Take out jurisdictions loads first

Do not consider jurisdictions loads

Decision: The WQGIT approved using the Conowingo Dam's current status (2010) when analyzing its relative impact on the allocation of climate targets.

Decision: The WQGIT approved only looking at Open Water and Deep Water, separately, when using groups of segments being protected to analyze the relative impact segments on the allocation of climate targets.

Decision: The WQGIT approved focusing on year 2025 and 2035 for the modeling analysis of the allocation options (see above).

Action: Hilary Swartwood will add the modeling analysis of the 8 allocation options (see above) to the April 27th WQGIT agenda. This is in line with the WQGIT's timeline to present recommendations at the PSC meeting in March 2021 (see **Policy V** below).

Action: The WQGIT leadership will generate a narrative rationale and pros and cons list for the final allocation options selected.

Action: Once the WQGIT finalizes the allocation options, they will meet with the CBP communications team to walk through each of the policy decisions. This will help the WQGIT prep these decisions for approval at the Management Board and the PSC meetings.

- **Policy V: Deadline for Final Policy Recommendations**

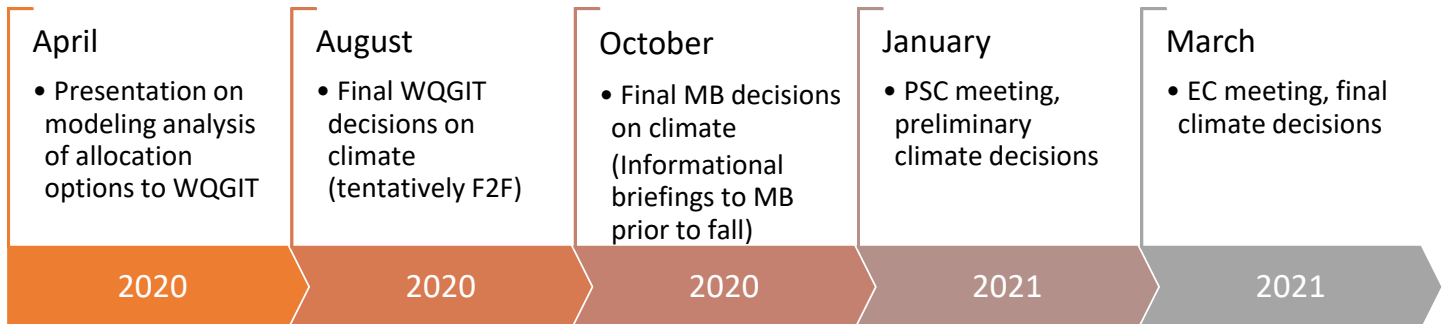
Action: The WQGIT tentatively put a placeholder on August 24th, 2020 for another Face- to -Face (F2F) meeting to go over the final climate change policy recommendations before presenting to the Management Board in October (see timeline below).

Action: The WQGIT will provide an informational briefing to the Management Board prior to seeking approval of the WQGIT’s final recommendations at their October 2020 meeting.

Decision: The WQGIT will seek final approval from the Management Board on their climate change recommendations at their October 2020 meeting.

Decision: The WQGIT will have climate as a standing agenda item on their monthly conference calls in order to reach final consensus recommendations on climate Policy Issues I-V.

Decision: The WQGIT approved the following timeline for seeking approval on the final climate recommendations, with the understanding the membership can review and revise as needed:



- **Cross GIT & Workgroup Collaboration:**

Action: The WQGIT will regularly update the Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) on actions and decisions regarding Policy Issues I- V. The WQGIT and CRWG will also explore any opportunities for cross-GIT / Workgroup collaboration (ex. the CRWG has a face- to- face meeting in May 2020, the WQGIT could present opportunities here).

Action: The WQGIT signatory members will review the list of [Phase III BMPs](#) that drive implementation and provide any additional BMPs to Hilary Swartwood (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov) by **COB, Friday, February 21, 2020**. This list will be sent to Julie Reichert, the CRWG Coordinator, to be used to help inform the STAC Workshop on BMP assessment.

Action: Julie Reichert, CRWG Coordinator, will bring the question on BMP maintenance to the principal investigator for the STAC workshop on BMP assessment.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on March 23, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Ag Ditch BMP Panel Report and Recommendations
- BMP Cost Estimates in CAST
- CAST 2019
- New Land Use Classification
- Overview of SRS Review

Contact: Lucinda Power, 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.

- [Forever Maryland Foundation](#) conference (May in Baltimore, MD)
 - HWGIT coordinator submitted an abstract for a panel presentation at the Forever Maryland Foundation conference that was accepted.
 - Through a series of short lightning talks and interactive discussion, partners from the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Land Trust Alliance/Chesapeake Land and Water Initiative will share updates and “news you can use” and gather input to inform the development of new programs, initiatives, and tools.
- The coordinator and staffer attended the [ESRI Federal User Conference](#) in D.C. where they learned about the latest tools and advances in ESRI mapping, analysis and data visualization. This knowledge will help as to oversee the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds assessment data and work to add it to the Chesapeake Bay Program websites.
- In addition, work on the protected lands indicator project, a FY18 GIT funding project continues to move forward.
- Coordinator and staffer have been working with the climate resiliency workgroup in their indicator and framework development.

Contact: Renee Thompson; 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 2020-2021 Logic & Action Plan was available on Chesapeake Decisions for signatory and public feedback from February 10th - 28th.
- Citizen Stewardship Team

- In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in February, the Citizen Stewardship Team has been working to (1) identify current GIT funded projects that can infuse social science principles (2) identify social science needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program in order to increase the effectiveness of the partnership. These findings will be shared with the Management Board on March 12.
- Education Workgroup
 - 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.
 - The Education Workgroup is analyzing data from the biennial ELIT survey. This data is crucial for assessing the needs and directing resources for planning student environmental literacy activities and sustainable schools.
 - The Education Workgroup had its kickoff meeting with the SRS Planning Team on March 4. The workgroup has begun collecting feedback from members on its three Watershed Agreement Outcomes.
- Public Access Planning Team
 - In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in February, the Public Access Team has been collecting a breakdown of jurisdiction and federal funding sources to determine which of those can be used to cover maintenance of public access sites. Once compiled, this breakdown will be shared with Management Board members.
 - The Public Access Team met with Tuana Philips, Coordinator of the Diversity workgroup, to get her feedback on DEIJ items in its Logic and Action Plan. This meeting produced ideas for Science Needs that will be shared with the STAC workgroup on 3/10.

Diversity Workgroup

- The Diversity Workgroup had their Quarterly Progress Meeting in February. This presentation to the Management Board outlined the progress and challenges the workgroup has experienced over the past two years. The workgroup will meet in person on March 18th to incorporate priority actions and goals for the next two years and update the Logic & Action table.
- On March 16, the first of three trainings centered on building cultural competence will be held at CBPO. This training, led by Skeo Solutions, is an outcome of a GIT-Funded project that aims to improve Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) at the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The 2019 Demographic Profile has been analyzed by a contractor, ERG. The data was compared to 2016 data and showed a slight increase in the number of people who identify as people of color: 13.7% in 2016 to 14.6% in 2019. The 2016 data was corrected during the analysis and in response the Diversity Workgroup will discuss whether a target of 15% people of color in leadership by 2025 is still appropriate or needs to be updated.

Diversity workgroup contact: Francesca King; king.francesca@epa.gov

Contact: Olivia Wisner; 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 next cohort to go through the SRS process is the Stewardship Cohort. Their “check-in” presentations took place on March 4, 2020.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Spring 2020

The GIT 6 Spring 2020 Quarterly Meeting will take place on March 18, 2020 at the CBPO in Annapolis, MD. Agenda topics will include: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System (SRS) process and facilitation updates and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY 2019 GIT Funding

The Chesapeake Bay Trust will be notifying project groups of who “won” the contract to work with them on their projects shortly. Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The next Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Quarterly Meeting will take place on April 29, 2020 in the CBPO's 305 Conference Room. Agenda topics will include Finance Forum feedback and GIT Funding updates. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The next Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Quarterly Meeting will take place on May 12, 2020 in Prince George's County, MD. Agenda topics will include processes for vetting shareable content, GIT Funding project updates, and workplan updates. This year, the workgroup plans to create cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a new 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; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, 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.

CAP Workgroup

The CAP WG met at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission in Colonial Beach, VA on January 22nd, 2020. Key topics included 1) a review of the updated James River chlorophyll a criteria that were recently approved by EPA and adopted by VA in their water quality standards, 2) the application of continuous monitoring data for assessing short duration dissolved oxygen criteria that have been part of tidal bay water quality standards but assessment methods had not been adopted. Method adoption was supported by the publishing of the EPA 2017 Ambient Water Quality Criteria technical addendum, 3) considerations for updating kd regressions used to produce water clarity maps and assess water clarity standards in tidal waters, 4) discuss the growing diversity of cross-GIT meaning tagged to the words “shallow water monitoring” where historically it mean water quality monitoring but is now referencing more varied habitat information needs associated with physical, chemical and biological data, and 5) a review of findings to date regarding an in-progress STAC-workshop for exploring the use of new, high spatial resolution satellite imagery for improving the SAV survey. Two of four workgroup sessions are complete. The summary workshop and report out is expected in mid-Spring 2020.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on July 18 at the Chesapeake Bay Laboratories in Solomons. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by the co-chair Bruce Michael, DNR. A summary of the Summer Hypoxia results was presented to the group by Bruce with specific details from the June monitoring cruise results. Also discussed was the Mid-Bay Hypoxia study. A brief update on the status of Tier III water quality monitoring program was provided by Caroline Donovan (UMCES). Two new groups, Arundel Rivers Federation and MDE are already collecting Tier III data, with Shore Rivers being targeted as a likely candidate in the near future. An assessment of Data Quality Indicators as a performance measuring tool for watershed-wide data was presented by Durga Ghosh, Chesapeake Bay Program QA Coordinator. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) presented data from historical pH trends and posed the question of method/lab changes affecting these trends. Jerry Frank (CBL) discussed the Spring 2019 Blind Audit Results. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager), and USGS Reference Sample results Breck Sullivan (STAR staffer). The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) met on [February 18, 2020](#) to review the ideas presented by the Healthy Watersheds, Sustainable Fisheries (Fish Habitat and Fish Forage), and Vital Habitats (SAV, Wetlands, and Forestry Workgroups) Goal Implementation Teams on potential future climate change indicators to develop. The CRWG agreed on a framework that tracks climate resilience progress by linking physical indicators (signals of change) to impact indicators (ecological and community threats) to eventual climate resilience indicators (preparedness) to monitor actions to withstand/adapt to changing

climate conditions that minimize negative impacts to living resources, habitats, and communities. The CRWG will review existing climate change indicators on Chesapeake Progress during their [March 16, 2020](#) meeting to discuss connections with the above framework.

STAR

[During February STAR meeting](#), STAR members provided feedback on the Climate Resiliency Workgroup indicator development framework. Additionally, the Modeling Team briefed STAR members on the 2019 climate change assessment results, and STAR had a discussion on how these results can be used by the Goal Teams. The draft Plastic Pollution Action Team charge and membership list were approved by STAR and approval by MB will be requested in March. Next STAR meeting will be held on March 26.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is preparing a deeper analysis of climate change risk to Chesapeake water quality standards to be presented at the Modeling Quarterly on April 7 and 8. The implications of a warmer climate on shallow water quality, and the potential approaches to allocate nutrient reduction loads in response to climate change will be discussed at the April Modeling Quarterly and also at the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) meeting on April 27. The findings and initial recommendations of the WQGIT will be presented to the Management Board at their May meeting.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Between April and June 2019, ITAT organizers will work with STAR to establish future priorities and activities based on outcomes from the SRS process.
- Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. The purpose of these webinars is to communicate management-relevant research findings to the CBP Partnership's natural resource managers. December 2018 – March 2019 presentation topics included:
 - Agricultural Conservation Practice Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Dean Hively, USGS)
 - A pilot implementation of high frequency nutrient monitoring to assess effects of large storms (Lora Harris, UMCES)
 - Assessing urban BMP function, performance, and delivery of co-benefits to stream ecosystems (Rosemary Fanelli, USGS)

Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

Integrated Monitoring Network

The NTN WG held a conference call on January 29, 2020. Budget priorities were discussed for sustaining the long-term network operations, at-risk station support for Conococheague Creek, MD – a site with over 100 years of monitoring information in our watershed that could be discontinued without funding beyond the present FY, and multi-agency interest in siting a water quality monitoring site on Chiques Creek, Lancaster County PA where NRCS is setting plans in motion for significant stream BMP implementation. Assessment of water quality change from high density BMP implementation activity is of interest across the CBP partnership making the location an important potential monitoring site to add to the NTN if long-term funding can be identified. Susquehanna River sampling report, NTN audit plans and plans for a summer face-to-face NTN meeting rounded out meeting discussions. Tentative agenda

items for the summer face-to-face meeting include 1) an update on status and trends across the watershed – explaining linkages between the watershed and bay, 2) remote sensing advances in water quality assessments, 3) NGWOS – the Delaware basin and possibilities for the Chesapeake, and 4) opportunities for integration into citizen science/nontraditional partner data collection on macroinvertebrates at long-term water quality monitoring sites.

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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 March 4. We coordinated shared messaging around Women’s History Month and National Ag Day (March 24). We heard about the upcoming Hack-the-Bay event from Liz Chudoba, kicked off the planning for this year’s Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and looked ahead to our joint in-person meeting with the Local Leadership Workgroup, which will take place May 12.

Communications Office and Web Team:

The 2018-19 Bay Barometer will be released on March 25. Please let Rachel Felver know if you would like hard copies.

Interviews are underway for the vacant Web Content Specialist position. We hope to have the position filled soon. We will also be hiring two summer interns. These announcements close April 3.

Rachel Felver and Caitlyn Johnstone served as trainers for the [Chesapeake Bay Story-tellers](#). They presented on issues impacting the health of the Bay.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in February:

- [The life of Harriet Tubman, made vivid on the Eastern Shore](#): A visitor center, byway and refuge offer a portal to the abolitionist’s world
- [A ferocious predator in a small package](#): Fishers rebound thanks to reforestation
- [Where deer weigh heavily on the ecosystem, a hunter serves a role](#): Deer management helps maintain biodiversity amid human impacts
- [Public invited to comment on outcome changes](#): Updated language helps better refine Bay Program goals
- [A new shoreline uses oyster castles to shield a community](#): Volunteers in a Virginia neighborhood work together to restore their backyard
- [Eastern Neck is a quiet retreat for waterfowl lovers](#): Wildlife has long lured (not too many) people to the island refuge

- [Attracting a diverse workforce continues to be a priority for the Chesapeake Bay Program:](#) Results of second diversity survey show progress toward meeting Watershed Agreement outcome
- [New statues let history stand tall:](#) Sculptures of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass now live at the Maryland State House
- [Farmer Nell gives Baltimore a healthy dose of hope:](#) An urban farmer’s fight for food sovereignty and a better Baltimore

We also published the following video:

- [Chesapeake Climate: Brook Trout](#)

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Feb. 18	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
Feb. 20-21	Citizens Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (Berkeley Springs, Wv.)
Feb. 27	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 2	Wetland Workgroup meeting
March 4	Land Use Workgroup in person meeting
March 11	Finance and Investment Forum (College Park, Md.)
March 12	Management Board meeting