



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
September 2019**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Sept 23	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee in-person meeting
Sept 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team meeting
Oct 3	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT meeting (Annapolis)
Oct 8	Enhance Partnership, Leadership and Management GIT meeting (Annapolis)
Oct 8-9	Modeling Workgroup in-person meeting
Oct 15	Water Quality GIT conference call
Oct 17	Management Board meeting
Oct 17	Agriculture Workgroup in-person meeting
Oct 29	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting

**Updates**

**EPA Announcing Conowingo WIP Grant Awards** – This week, EPA will announce the award of nearly \$600,000 for three projects to further the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The grants are for implementation, financing, and tracking progress. The last of the three grantees was notified on September 16.

Contact: 410-267-5705, [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov)

**EPA Announces Reallocation of Unspent Pennsylvania Restoration Funds**

On September 11, EPA issued a press release announcing the reallocation of portions of its Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay funding from two fiscal years to apply the funds more efficiently to the commonwealth's efforts to restore the Bay and local waters. Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio's sent a letter to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell detailing the reallocation of funds. As part of the action, EPA directed \$2.4 million to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Grants program to assist Pennsylvania local governments in implementing priority restoration projects. NFWF issued a Request for Proposals for the funding on September 12.

Contact: Dana Aunkst, 410-267-5710, [aunkst.dana@epa.gov](mailto:aunkst.dana@epa.gov)

**Chesapeake Executive Council Looks to the Future**

On September 5, the historical Oxon Hill Manor played host to the annual the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) meeting. The members of the EC discussed the current state of watershed restoration and the challenges that remain in reducing pollution flowing into the Bay. The theme of this year's meeting, "Rising to the Challenge: Ensuring a Sustainable Future for our Watershed," is a nod to the recently submitted Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans. Established over 35 years ago, the Executive Council is responsible for guiding the policy agenda and setting conservation and restoration goals for the regional, watershed-wide Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

While members spoke of how they plan to meet their pollutant reduction goals, Skip Stiles, executive director of Wetlands Watch, used his remarks to remind attendees that certain conservation practices, like forest buffers and wetlands, not only help improve water quality, but are also beneficial to addressing climate change, as well as achieving the goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Increasing forest buffers and wetlands are two areas in which the multi-state partnership continues to struggle.

Contact: Rachel Felver, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

### **Chesapeake Bay Jurisdictions Submitted Final Watershed Implementation Plans**

All seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions submitted their final Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) on Friday, August 23. The WIPs are posted on the respective jurisdiction websites and linked on the Bay TMDL website. EPA started its review of the final WIPs, but currently there is no timetable for completion of the review.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 410-267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

### **Manokin River Becomes Final Tributary Selected for Oyster Restoration under 2014 Agreement**

The Manokin River, located in Tangier Sound, is the final tributary to be selected for large-scale oyster restoration by the Chesapeake Bay Program. The *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* calls for the restoration of the native oyster population in 10 tributaries by 2025.

Both Maryland and Virginia have identified five sites each for large-scale oyster restoration. In Maryland, in addition to the Manokin River, are Harris Creek and the Little Choptank, Ted Avon and the Upper St. Mary's rivers. In Virginia, the sites selected for oyster restoration are the Great Wicomico, Lafayette, Lower York, Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers. The most recent Maryland Oyster Restoration Update notes that 773.58 acres of oyster reefs have been restored in Harris Creek, and the Little Choptank and Tred Avon rivers. The 2018 Virginia Oyster Restoration Update states that 510 acres of oyster reefs have been restored by either constructing reefs, seeding or are otherwise already considered healthy. Two hundred and twenty-one acres of reefs remain to be restored in the Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers.

For more information:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/ten\\_places\\_where\\_were\\_restoring\\_oyster\\_populations](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/ten_places_where_were_restoring_oyster_populations)

### **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.*

- New members: LGAC welcomes York, PA Mayor Michael Helfrich and North East, MD Planning Commission Chair, Mark Dobbins to the Local Government Advisory Committee. LGAC still seeks a New York representative.
- Chesapeake Executive Council: LGAC Chair, Ann Simonetti, presented LGAC recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council during the private luncheon prior to the annual public EC meeting on September 5th. Four recommendations were offered including a request to support a one day summit of flood, climate and disaster experts to consider options for infrastructure investments for new buildings and roads, and retrofit of existing structures which would increase the ability of the

Watershed to prioritize, plan for and respond to the increasing cost, damage and impacts associated with climate impacts while considering the impacts to Chesapeake Bay restoration measures.

- New York representative: LGAC still seeks a New York representative. LGAC has sent a letter to Governor Cuomo with a recommendation but has not received a reply.
- Quarterly meeting: LGAC's held its quarterly meeting September 11-12 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. During the two-day meeting, LGAC hosted a one-day NFWF-funded Local Government Forum on Workforce Development to develop recommendations to support local government needs to help a community develop the best process to efficiently and effectively maintain municipal BMPs and develop a robust green collar workforce. Several excellent workforce development models exist throughout the region and could be adapted and replicated to other parts of the region in order to facilitate growth in the local green economy. A key focus was exploring efforts to create a pipeline to viable jobs.

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.*

- Next meeting: The next CAC meeting will be on September 18-19, 2019.
- 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))

#### ***Upcoming Meetings:***

STAC held its second quarterly meeting of FY19 on September 10-11, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, MD. More information is available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

#### ***Workshops:***

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2019, listed here in order of anticipated date. Planning is underway for several of these activities. Information regarding recent workshops- including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Targeting Non-Point Source BMP Implementation
- 2) Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program
- 3) Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Management to Soil and Watershed Health
- 4) Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

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

STAC has recently released the following report. STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#).

- 1) [Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters](#)

STAC is working to finalize the following 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) Revisiting Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The Triblet Connection (FY2017)
- 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)
- 7) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers (FY2018)
- 8) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management (FY2018)
- 9) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals (FY2018)
- 10) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings (FY2018)

*\*Please note that the STAC Website is undergoing a major update and some links may not be accessible during this time. If you are unable to access a page, please contact STAC Staff.*

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

#### **Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup**

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Status/Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Oysters	Ten Chesapeake Bay tributaries have been selected for oyster reef restoration: Harris Creek, the Little Choptank River, Tred Avon, upper St. Mary's and Manokin rivers in Maryland, and the Great Wicomico,	<a href="https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/oysters">https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/oysters</a>

	Lafayette, Lower York, Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers in Virginia. The Sustainable Fisheries GIT approved the Upper St. Mary's River as the ninth tributary in December 2018 and the Manokin River as the tenth tributary in June 2019.	
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Contact: Doreen Vetter, 410-267-5780, [vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@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.*

- Invasive Catfish: The Invasive Catfish Workgroup held a first conference call with expanded membership to introduce new members and begin to develop objectives. Members represent a broad array of sectors, including academic science, management, recreational and commercial fishery, and seafood processing. A smaller steering committee will help to develop an effective agenda for a workshop exploring options for a common Bay-wide management strategy.
- SRS: Outcomes for Aquatic Life Cohort - forage, blue crab, and oysters - are meeting with workgroups and team leads to develop materials for SRS review.
- GIT-Funding: Table 2's are in development for several Fisheries GIT projects: "Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Nursery Habitat Assessment" and "Developing communications and guidance on shoreline protection options for coastal landowners."

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.*

- USGS: The Habitat GIT has been working with Scott Phillips and USGS to better support the work plans of the stream health, fish passage, and brook trout workgroups. The GIT is invested in finding new ways to collaborate with USGS as the agency rolls out its new science plan.
- Wetlands: On September 10th, the Wetland Workgroup is having its first full meeting since the new chair, Pam Mason, has stepped up, following a revitalization meeting in March 2019 and a smaller group meeting in June 2019. The meeting will be led by a contracted facilitator, who will lead the discussion about factors influencing progress and new ways to achieve the outcome, ultimately informing work plan and management strategy updates. In addition, Jeremy Hanson will recap the panel recommendation in the Wetlands BMP expert panel report and request WWG approval of the revised report as presented.

Habitat GIT Contact: Jennifer Greiner, [jennifer\\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto: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 a conference call on August 19. A subset of topics is included below:**

- WQGIT discussion about considering emerging technologies.
  - **Action:** WQGIT leadership and interested members will set up a meeting to create a consistent process that encourages the adoption of innovative practices in an equitable fashion for emerging technologies.
- A presentation on Maryland's approach to BMP verification and incorporating CBP partnership-approved Resource Improvements (RIs) into their progress reporting.
- A discussion on what products (e.g. revised milestone guide, schedule, CAST enhancements) are needed to support 2-year milestone development and implementation. This builds on a request from the Management Board to identify such products.
  - **Action:** The WQGIT is requesting that the Milestones Workgroup (MSWG) provide recommendations on the development of numeric milestones, potential products to support milestones development and implementation, and parties responsible for developing such products.
- An overview of geospatial award objectives with more detail on the objective focused on BMP Mapping and Tracking.
- A presentation on pending changes to model base conditions for 2020-2021 and revised forecast of 2025.

**The WQGIT held a conference call on September 9. A subset of topics is included below:**

- A presentation of the new USGS science directions for the Chesapeake Bay and what this will mean for the WQGIT.
- WQGIT discussion on the Outfall and Gully Stabilization memo, which is a modification of the existing stream restoration BMP.
- A review of the data updates and corrections to 2019 CAST.
- A briefing on the proposed process and schedule to transition to 2019 CAST.

**The WQGIT will hold a conference call on September 30. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:**

- Updates to Ag Census
- Data updates to 2019 CAST
- Outfall and Gully Stabilization Memo

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.*

- SRS: HWGIT Chair Angel Valdez presented to the Management board for the Quarterly Progress Meeting on our accomplishments as well as the individual contributions from jurisdictions as a part of the SRS process. We have reached out to the jurisdictional representatives in the HWGIT to renew their engagement with the team and let them know of our upcoming meeting (October 3rd). HWGIT staff met with the Local Leadership and Diversity Coordinators to discuss opportunities and strategies for communicating with and engaging local governments.
- Quarterly Meeting: During the HWGIT on Thursday, October 3 we will discuss updates to the logic and action table as well as discuss amendments to our management strategy as part of the adaptive management process. We are working on a presentation for the HWGIT members to review the State Identified Healthy Watershed definitions and underlying data and comparing them with the indicators and key data inputs from the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (as per the August SRS MB discussion).
- GIT Funding: HWGIT leaders have developed 2 proposals for GIT funding projects, one aimed at Improved technical service delivery to landowners through technical workshops. This project was developed in partnership with the Habitat GIT. The other project developed is to carry the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment project forward in MD to better understand how to update data for a specific jurisdiction or update regional data as needed and to meet Tier II outreach and communications needs for MDE and healthy watersheds in Maryland. Both projects were approved. The teams are working to add detail and refine the projects for the RFP.
- Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment Report: Tetra Tech is working to finalize the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment Report and meeting with staff to review data and deliverables next week. The report will be released this Fall with a plan to roll out data visualization and display in the coming months. Due to the cross-GIT nature of the CHWA, the GIT chairs will be spending a portion of their next meeting at the end of October focusing on how this assessment may help to inform other science, information and data needs across various GITs and workgroups.

Contact: Renee Thompson; [rtompson@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rtompson@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.*

- Conserved Lands – Chesapeake Conservation Partnership: On September 4<sup>th</sup>, the Conservation Partnership released *Marking Milestones* which showcases the tremendous value of our Chesapeake watershed, and the remarkable success stories of people working to protect the land that supports our quality of life. It also points out the significant financial investments necessary for conserving the lands upon which we all depend — and the return on investment we derive from them. The report documents where we stand in achieving the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goal to protect an additional 2 million acres by 2025. As of the end of 2018, the Partnership members have conserved over 1.3 million acres toward achieving our 2025 goal. So, we have around 640,000 acres to conserve over the next 5 plus years. For more information:



<https://www.chesapeakeconservation.org/index.php/2019/09/04/marking-milestones-a-major-new-report/>

### **Diversity Workgroup**

- Conference call: The Diversity Workgroup held a conference call on Tuesday, September 17. The workgroup convened on the call to:
  1. Share feedback from workgroup members and discuss ideas and next steps, including upcoming deadlines for the biennial Strategy Review System, workgroup membership, and the role of the workgroup.
  2. Get an update on the FY2019 GIT Funding Projects that relate to the Diversity Workgroup.
  3. Hear from Sarah Anderson of American Forests about her work with urban tree canopies and environmental justice.
  4. Learn about the recently published Chesapeake Bay DEI Action Guide and get advice about how to use it effectively from Mariah Davis of the Choose Clean Water Coalition
- DEI strategy: The workgroup is finishing up work on their previous GIT Funding Project. The contractor, Skeo, will be issuing a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Strategy tailored to the Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as tools and resources over the next month.
- GIT Funding: A FY2019 GIT funding project, Increasing Diversity In The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Through Cultural Competency Training, will expand upon this work and will commence in early 2020.
- Next meeting: The next in-person meeting will be held on November 21st, at which we will begin the SRS process.

Diversity workgroup contact: Francesca King; [king.francesca@epa.gov](mailto:king.francesca@epa.gov)

Contact: Amy Handen; [amy\\_handen@nps.gov](mailto:amy_handen@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 [Management Decisions](#) page, within ChesapeakeDecisions, has been updated with the requests and decisions from the August 15 Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Healthy Watersheds cohort. Further



details on follow-up actions will be provided at the September 19 Management Board meeting. Contact: Doreen Vetter, [vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@epa.gov)

The Aquatic Life cohort will be the second cohort to participate in the second cycle of the SRS. The cohort consists of the following five outcomes: Blue Crab Abundance, Blue Crab Management, Forage Fish, Oyster and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV). The cohort will present at the November 14 Quarterly Progress Meeting and provide further details on any follow-up actions at the December 12 Management Board meeting. Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

#### **Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Fall 2019**

The GIT 6 Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 8 at the UMCES-IAN Office in Annapolis, MD. Agenda topics will include: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System process and facilitation updates and workgroup updates. The GIT 6 Winter 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on December 3 at the CBPO's Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room [also known as the "Fish Shack"] in Annapolis, MD. Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

#### **FY 2019 GIT Funding**

Goal Implementation Teams and their respective workgroups submitted draft Table 2 content to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) on September 6. The Trust attended the Coordinators/Staffers meeting on September 12 to provide feedback and answer questions relating to the drafts and GIT funding process. GITs will revise Table 2 content and submit final drafts by September 24. 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) Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on October 30 at the CBPO's Conference Room 305A. Agenda topics will include the SAV Finance Report and Finance in the Strategy Review System, GIT Funding and Finance/Investment Forum planning updates. The Environmental Finance Advisory Board (EFAB) produced a report and accompanying model describing the perspective of the private equity investor when investing in Chesapeake Bay restoration. Understanding how private investors structure investments, consider risk, and expect in rates of return can help state and local governments identify opportunities for engaging with private equity in meeting water quality goals. The BFWG will co-lead a webinar on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the UMCES-IAN Office Conference Room in Annapolis, MD that will describe the roles and limitations of using private equity to meet Bay goals, demonstrate how the finance model can be used and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of experts. Lastly, the Workgroup formed a technical team to plan the Finance/Investment Forum, which will take place in late February or early March 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) Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on November 6 at the Harrisburg Area Community College in Gettysburg, PA. Agenda topics will include feedback on tree canopy resources, consolidating CBP outcomes requiring local engagement, and workgroup membership. In 2020, 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

vett ed 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.*

#### **CAP Workgroup**

The most recent CAP WG meeting was held on 3/8/2019. Topics were:

- **James River chlorophyll *a* criteria updates.** The proposed updates to the James River chlorophyll-*a* criteria summarizing work from a seven year study have been published to the Virginia register of regulations <http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss11/v35i11.pdf> . Tish Robertson (VADEQ) reviewed the proposal highlighting the remaining time for input as the public review and comment period was closing on 3/22/19.
- **Status of restoration variances – dissolved oxygen.** Gary Shenk (USGS) provides a summary of the process underway documenting the most recent variances that will be needed for 303d listing assessments and therefore also updating in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards Indicator score assessments.
- **K<sub>d</sub> Regression Updates** – In 2018, the CAP WG highlighted a desire to revisit the K<sub>d</sub> regressions used for water clarity acres assessments. The workgroup action item is documenting the updated technique on local calibration over regional calibration.
- for producing water quality acres assessments. **Assessing possible advances in SAV acreage assessment: a STAC workshop proposal** – Brooke Landry (MD DNR, Chair of SAV Workgroup) highlighted directions for advancing new protocols and procedures through workshop support. We anticipate some members on the workgroup will be participating in those workshop meetings if the proposal is funded.

#### **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**

During August CRWG meeting, the WG members learned the latest research on sunny day flooding. CBP summer interns completed three posters related to climate change to vulnerable population focusing on communicating [urban heat island](#), hurricane preparedness ([English](#) and [Spanish](#) version), and [rain garden](#). The next CRWG meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **STAR**

STAR Aug meeting was held on Aug 22. STAR had a discussion on how CBP and the GITS can utilize citizen science data being made available from the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative's database based on C stream intern's presentation on her summer project of analyzing data from Data Explorer tool. STAR member also had a discussion on how to incorporate SSRF framework to SRS process, received a presentation on the SAV thesis and summarized the key elements for successful thesis. Next STAR meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The CBP Modeling Team is actively working to complete, by the close of 2019, a fully operational model assessment system of the influence climate change has on Chesapeake water quality. During the July Quarterly Review meeting, held on [July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>](#), major elements of the draft climate change simulation of the watershed and estuary were finalized by the Modeling Workgroup. In addition, a Technology Transfer Workshop on the CBP's water quality model code was held on July 21-24. The Technology Transfer Workshop provided the Bay Program's scientific and technical community operational hands-on training of how to use Bay Water Quality Model in a cloud environment. The [next Modeling WG conference call](#) will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **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](mailto:jkeisman@usgs.gov)) for more information.

### **Integrated Monitoring Network**

The Integrated Monitoring Network kicked off this month with their first Non-Tidal Network Team meeting of 2019. The team discussed topics they would like to discuss over the year including data management, extreme event sampling and coordination, and special studies such as pesticides, hormones, microplastics, and more. The team also reviewed the resources in place for the standardization of protocols and training among the networks because defensible analyses rely on the consistency and integrity of data collections.

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:**

Monthly meeting: The Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting on September 4. We coordinated shared messaging around National Estuaries Week (September 14-21) and National Public Lands Day (September 28). We also had John Griffin from the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership join us to provide an overview of the latest state of conservation report, Marking Milestones, which was released the day of the meeting. Our October meeting will be held Wednesday, October 2.

Community and economic benefits toolkit: Deb Klenotic (PA-DEP), chair of the Communications Workgroup, and Rachel Felver (Alliance), coordinator, presented a toolkit that highlights the community and economic benefits from conservation practices at the September 2019 Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) meeting. This toolkit was developed by members of the WIP Engagement Action Team for use by a variety of local partners. LGAC provided invaluable feedback and the toolkit will continue to be refined and presented at other meetings for feedback.

#### **Communications Office and Web Team:**

Executive Council meeting: The annual meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council was held September 5 at the Oxon Hill Manor. Representatives from the six Chesapeake Bay watershed states, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gathered to recommit to the goals set under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement to ensure the entire watershed keeps moving toward a sustainable future.

The Communications Office issued press releases in July on the selection of the [Manokin River](#) as the last of the 10 tributaries for oyster restoration and the [Executive Council meeting](#).

The Communications Office continues to work on how to address branding within the Bay Program. A series of meetings have been held with a small group of interested parties to define who we are, what we do and our value. More information on moving forward with this initiative will be presented at the October Management Board meeting.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in August:

- [A turtle tied to the tides](#): How climate change holds the fate of the most endangered turtles in the world
- [Five facts about Vibrio](#): Vibrio bacteria is a growing public health concern, but infection can be avoided
- [Get on, by or near the water in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia](#): Chesapeake Bay Program partners commit to increasing water access
- [Visit Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, an ecological wonderland](#): The sanctuary is full of adventures that promise to be both fun and informative
- [All ten tributaries chosen for oyster restoration efforts](#): Manokin River becomes final selection under Watershed Agreement outcome
- [Ten places where we're restoring oyster populations](#): Maryland and Virginia will each be home to five oyster reefs
- [Invasive insect poses unprecedented threat to urban forests](#): While the emerald ash borer is decimating the nation's ash trees, here are some things you can do to slow them down
- [Rain-harvesting sculpture takes a historic school by storm](#): A new green project is transforming a century-old school
- [Volunteer as a Chesapeake Bay SAV Watcher](#): A new monitoring program needs volunteers to help scientists collect valuable data on underwater grasses

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; [rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Recent Meetings and Events**

Aug 15	<i>Management Board</i> : Healthy Watersheds SRS Quarterly Progress Meeting
Aug 19	Water Quality GIT conference call
Aug 19	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
Aug 21	Forage Action Team meeting
Aug 22	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team meeting
Aug 23	Final Phase III WIPs due to EPA; posted on Jurisdiction websites
Sept 4	Land Use workgroup in-person meeting
Sept 5	Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting (Oxon Hill, Md.)
Sept 10-11	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) quarterly meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
Sept 11-12	Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) quarterly meeting (Shepherdstown, Wv.)
Sept 12-13	Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Pennsylvania)
Sept 18-19	Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) quarterly meeting (Baltimore, Md.)