



**Management Board  
Program Update  
October 14, 2021**

**CBPO Calendar**

Oct 15	Stream Health Workgroup October Meeting
Oct 18	Sustainable Fisheries Executive Committee Meeting
Oct 18-19	Joint Climate Resiliency and Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
Oct 19	Wetland Workgroup Meeting
Oct 20	Trading and Offsets Workgroup Conference Call
Oct 21	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting
Oct 25-26	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Oct 27	Budget and Finance Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
Oct 28	Joint C/S/STAR Meeting
<b>Nov. 4-5</b>	<b>Chesapeake Bay Commission</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Management Board meeting</b>
<b>Nov. TBD</b>	<b>Principals' Staff Committee meeting</b>
Dec. 1	Goal Implementation Team Chairs
Dec. 1-2	Citizens Advisory Committee
Dec. 2-3	Local Government Advisory Committee
Dec. 7-8	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
Dec. 9	Management Board meeting
Dec. 13	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
<b>Dec. 15</b>	<b>Executive Council Meeting</b>

**Program Updates**

**EPA, NFWF Announce Grants for Watershed Restoration**

On Tuesday, October 12, Acting CBPO Director Michelle Price-Fay joined six members of Congress and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for a virtual announcement of more than \$10 million for 49 on-the-ground community-based projects across the watershed to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. EPA provided \$8.2 million of the total award amount. The grants were provided through the Small Watershed Grants program, part of [NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund](#). **Tom Damm, 215-814-5560**

**Plans to Hold Showcase with Region's Tribes Moves Forward**

The EPA Region 3 federally-recognized tribes in Virginia have expressed interest in learning more about opportunities to directly engage in the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership. To help facilitate this engagement, the Region proposed holding a "showcase" meeting between the CBP partners and the federally-recognized tribes to highlight the mission, structure, goals and activities of the

partnership. The purpose is to increase awareness and knowledge of what the partnership does and the engagement opportunities currently available to federally-recognized tribes. An important goal in this showcase will be to gain a better understanding of the tribes' interests and desired level of participation in the CBP partnership, environmental issues and activities of interest, and the services the partnership can provide to assist the tribes with advancing restoration priorities. Lucinda Power presented the concept of holding a "showcase" with the Region 3 federally-recognized tribes during the October 12 Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting. The tribes were very receptive to holding such a showcase and it is likely the event will be held in February. **Contacts:** Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732; Lucinda Power, 443-863-0657

### **Directive Commits Bay Program to Action on Climate Change**

The Chesapeake Executive Council approved a *Collective Action for Climate Change Directive* at its meeting on Friday, October 1, in Virginia Beach, VA, committing the Chesapeake Bay Program to addressing the increasing threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work. In particular, Bay Program partners will utilize their world-class scientific, modeling, monitoring and planning capabilities to prioritize the communities, working lands and habitats that are most vulnerable to the risks that a changing climate is bringing to the region. EPA Administrator Michael Regan was among the signers of the directive. The Administrator was represented at the meeting by Acting Regional Administrator Diana Esher. Prior to the public meeting where the directive was signed, members of the Executive Council, designees and guests joined Pamela Northam, First Lady of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and educators on-board a VIMS vessel for their own Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience—a term that is unique to the Chesapeake Bay Program in describing student environmental education about and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. **Tom Damm, 215-814-5560; Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732**

### **2020 Progress Analysis Completed for Reducing Pollution Indicator (RPI)**

The 2020 progress analysis has been completed. This information is used to update the RPI each year. It took longer than anticipated to complete the annual progress analysis this year due to additional review and investigation of reporting practices. This, in turn caused a delay in releasing the RPI. Specifically, we had questions about the data collection, analysis, and QA/QC processes for Pennsylvania and Virginia. After many meetings and information exchanges, we were able to finalize our analysis and both states will receive credit for all of the progress data they submitted. Programmatically, we have identified specific activities that we will undertake to ensure that we have a smoother process and will be able to complete the progress analysis in a timelier manner in future years. The planned process improvements will occur in a stepwise fashion and should be fully implemented for the 2022 progress data submission and analysis. These changes will affect all submissions from all jurisdictions. **Lee McDonnell, 410-267-5731**

### **CBPO Grants Team EJ Effort Cited as Model**

The CBPO's grants team has worked to include DEIJ language in our several Requests for Application (RFA) for competitive grants over the past few months, as one step toward meeting the Justice40 Initiative from Executive Order 14008 (Sec. 223), titled "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad." The CBPO's RFA for Agriculture and Non-Point Sources Support (EPA-R3-CBP-21-07), advertised last summer (2021) was reworked to add environmental justice and equity language and was highlighted by EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment as a good model for other federal agencies. Other

EPA regions have been connecting with CBPO to gain access and ask questions about our initiative. We are pleased to have made a grantee selection last week that includes effort on climate change and supporting the Justice40 Initiative, and to partner with other regions and offices to help incorporate environmental justice into our everyday work.

**Contacts:** James Hargett, 410-267-5743; Autumn Rose, 410-267-5765

### **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 virtually on September 29. Topics for discussion included development of annual recommendations to the EC, draft recommendations review from the June Local Government Forum on regional partnerships, environmental impacts bond case studies, EPA Region 3 environmental justice activities to support local governments and a demonstration of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard. If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

#### **Citizens' Advisory Committee**

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

CAC held an in-person/hybrid meeting on September 16-17 in Warrenton, VA. Local watershed context was offered by the Piedmont Environmental Council and Clifton Institute. Members welcomed their first meeting with Martha Shimkin. Newly reconstituted CAC Subcommittees elected their 2022 chairs: Matt Ehrhart of the Stroud Water Research Center chairs the CAC Water Quality Subcommittee; Anna Killius of the James River Association chairs the CAC Subcommittee on Emerging Issues; and Chuck Herrick, a professor at NYU, chairs the CAC Stewardship and Engagement Subcommittee.

CAC reviewed the previous year's meeting topics, was briefed on progress on Watershed Agreement 2025 outcomes and the EPA/CBP budget. CAC will be finalizing their consensus of recommendations for the December 15, 2021 Executive Council. The next CAC meeting will be on Dec 1-2 in PA.

Maryland Governor Hogan recently appointed Kate Patton, Executive Director of the Lower Shore Land Trust. The CAC members welcomed Kate to her first meeting last month.

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

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), 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 Jess Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

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

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

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

### ***STAC Seeking At-large Membership Nominations until November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

In line with efforts to increase diversity of its membership, STAC has released a call for open nominations for at-large members. At-large members provide guidance and input based on their network connections, expertise and research.

Opportunities and expectations for At-large Members include...

- Provide input on various STAC and CBP partnership activities that are related to members expertise and interests. STAC activities include (but may not be limited to) technical workshops and reviews, synthesis projects, and ad-hoc groups examining topic of interest.
- Participate in at least two of four quarterly STAC meetings. Meetings last typically 1.5 days/each.
- Serve a term of four years, with potential to be reappointed for one additional four-year term - Engage with the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership through participation in meetings, activities, and discussions that are of relevance and interest to you and to STAC

For more information and a link to the online self-nomination form, [follow this link](#). Please share this announcement with your networks and specifically to those who you may think be interested!

### ***STAC September Quarterly Meeting: September 13-14, 2021***

STAC hosted its third meeting of 2021 virtually on September 13-14. Presentations, the agenda, and materials can be found on the [STAC September Meeting Page](#).

STAC host presenters and engaged in discussion on the Conowingo Dam. Specifically, STAC received a summary of previous findings on long-term trends affecting Conowingo Reservoir mass balance, brief review of findings from the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment, STAC review on that Assessment, and the STAC workshop on Conowingo Reservoir Infill (2016). Representatives from Exelon were available for questions and led to an interesting discussion on the communication of Conowingo issues.

STAC also heard from the STAR team on monitoring needs and how to make connections with the outcomes from CESR. There were multiple changes in membership, most notably the rotation of Chairs. Andy Miller (UMBC) rotated off as STAC Chair and Kathy Boomer (FFAR) rotated on for a two-year term. Larry Sanford (UMCES) rotated on as STAC Vice Chair.

### ***Upcoming STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates***

December 7-8, 2021

### ***Approved STAC 2022 Quarterly Meeting Dates***

March 8-7, 2022

June 14-15, 2022

September 13-14, 2022

December 6-7, 2022

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

#### ***Recent STAC Workshops***

**Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens** (Virtual; July 13, 14, and 20, 2021)

This workshop brought together a broad swath of expertise from the social science, policy, and practical (“boots-on-the-ground”) realms to provide actionable recommendations to the CBP partnership that address the underlying socio-economic characteristics and engagement approaches that will result in farm management modifications necessary to achieve nutrient and sediment load reduction goals, while also fostering viability within the agriculture sector. Agenda and materials from this workshop can be found on the [STAC Workshop Webpage](#) and a workshop report is currently being drafted.

**Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits of Green Riprap** (Virtual; September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021)

Green Riprap is a low cost, simple restoration technique used to improve the water quality, habitat, and aesthetics of shorelines hardened with rock revetments. Green Riprap involves planting marsh vegetation in the voids between riprap rocks. Green Riprap is not a substitute for living shorelines. This technique also can be used in sills and other rock features associated with living shoreline projects. Green Riprap provides another tool for waterfront homeowners and river groups to improve water quality in the Bay/river while creating a more natural look along their shoreline. This workshop gathered experts in living shorelines, Green Riprap, and shoreline/marsh ecology to synthesize the state-of-the-science on green techniques for riprap revetments and identify research needs. Workshop outcomes include lessons learned from recent case studies and recommendations for next steps to evaluate the potential for these projects as a new, creditable Best Management Practice (BMP) for nutrient/sediment load reduction and/or encouraged community practices to mitigate shoreline hardening. Agenda and materials can be found on the [STAC Workshop Webpage](#).

#### ***FY2021 STAC Workshops***

1. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (State of the Science Workshop)
2. Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting (Programmatic Workshop)

3. Improving modeling and mitigation strategies for poultry ammonia emissions across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop)
4. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (Programmatic Workshop)
5. Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (Programmatic)

### **STAC Reports**

#### **Recently Released (links to reports)**

1. [Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 \(FY2018\)](#)
2. [Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health \(FY2019\)](#)
3. [Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership \(FY2019\)](#)

#### **Upcoming Reports:**

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](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership. **Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.**

1. 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)

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

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

#### **Sustainable 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.*

- SRS Review: The oyster, forage, and blue crab abundance outcomes are currently preparing for the upcoming SRS process. All three outcomes have recently completed draft Narrative Analyses and are reporting "on schedule" action results. The outcome leads look forward to presenting at the Management Board meeting next month.
- Rising Bay Temperature STAC Workshop: The Fisheries Goal Team has synthesized existing literature/information about temperature impacts on key tidal living resources. The GIT looks forward to continued collaboration with the STAC team as a workshop is being

planned for early 2022 to discuss temperature implications and potential management responses.

- Nearshore fish monitoring at Poplar Island: For the past 20 years this work has been conducted by NOAA staff from the Beaufort Lab and students from UNC. Going forward NCBO staff will be conducting field work, analysis, and write ups based on multiple trips conducted throughout the year. This data/monitoring will be presented to the Fish GIT and applicable workgroups (like the Fish Habitat Action Team).

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.*

Below are the September program updates for Habitat GIT!

- The Habitat GIT Fall Meeting will be held on November 9th and 10th.
- The Stream Health, Fish Passage, and Brook Trout workgroups are part of the Healthy Watersheds cohort and are well underway in the SRS review process.
- The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Stream Health, and Wetland Workgroups have all submitted Table 1 proposals for GIT Funding.
- Fish Passage is still looking for a co-chair for the workgroup. A formal job description for this position is currently being drafted and will be completed in the near future.
- The Stream Health Workgroup is having a meeting on Friday, October 15th from 10:00-12:00. Meeting materials and the agenda are forthcoming. The agenda will focus on the updated workplan and will include a presentation on stream health indicators by Matthew Cashman (USGS).
- The Brook Trout Workgroup is having a meeting on Tuesday, October 19th from 11:00-1:00. Meeting materials are forthcoming. The agenda will focus on updates to the work plan, science needs, and general workgroup updates.
- The Wetland Workgroup is having a meeting on Tuesday, October 19th from 2:00-4:00. Meeting materials and the agenda are forthcoming. The agenda will focus on projects and research related to marsh migration, and workgroup members will make a decision on extending the BMP credit duration of wetland restoration.
- The SAV Workgroup is part of the Aquatic Life cohort and is preparing for the STAR dry run presentation on October 28th.
- The Wetland Workgroup, Climate Resiliency Workgroup, SAV Workgroup, and EPA ORD staff have been meeting to share research interests and needs and discuss collaboration opportunities regarding Blue Carbon.

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann ([ossman.megan@epa.gov](mailto:ossman.megan@epa.gov)) and Katlyn Fuentes ([fuentesk@chesapeake.org](mailto:fuentesk@chesapeake.org))

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

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

WQGIT Program Updates for the Management Board and PSC: September 2021 – October 2021

**The WQGIT held a meeting on September 27, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.**

- Lucinda Power walked through the agenda for the upcoming meeting on Phase 7 development and application on October 25-26.
- Scott Phillips and the CBP monitoring team provided an overview of the upcoming Monitoring meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- WQGIT endorsed GIT Funding project proposals for FY22.
- Jeni Keisman and Olivia Devereux presented the completed Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tributary Summaries.
- Gary Shenk gave an overview of the STAC Climate Change 2.0 Workshop report.

**The WQGIT will hold a Monitoring meeting on October 12, 2021. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed includes:**

- Overview of current CBP accountability framework for how models are used to inform implementation of nutrient and sediment practices, and opportunities for better applying monitoring results to water-quality decision making.
- Synthesis of watershed trends and results
- Progress toward attainment of water-quality standards and tidal trends
- Ideas on monitoring data will be used to improve CBP models (to be discuss in more detail at the Oct. 25-26 WQ GIT meeting)

**The WQGIT will hold a 2-day all-virtual meeting on October 25 and 26, 2021. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed includes:**

Day 1:

- Why do we use modeling tools?
- What do we mean by updating models?
- Various decisions that drove development of versions of the modeling tools over the years
- The role of monitoring data in model development
- Plans for the estuarine model to evaluate climate change and shallow water
- CAST functionality
- Land change modeling work plan
- Current Watershed Model work plan based on feedback from other partnership groups

Day 2:

- Achieving water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay: STAC's Assessment of System Response and science needs
- Overview of charge to the Modeling WG by the PSC to assess 2035 climate change conditions by 2025
- Discussion of the role of the WQGIT related to the PSC charge to the Modeling WG
- Presentation of management actions and associated deliverables that are responsive to climate change
- Overview of the development timeline



- Overview of the review process
- Discussion of Initial Prioritized list of Phase 7 model updates

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 October 12 to discuss the recommendation of a new GIT chair, the development of Story Maps to publicize the work of the goal team and to review the status of the Healthy Watersheds outcome as well as two projects submitted for GIT funding.

The GIT reached consensus to recommend to the Management Board Jeff Lerner (Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program) for the position of HWGIT Chair.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)

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

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

#### Chesapeake Conservation Partnership / Protected Lands Workgroup

- The Protected Lands Workgroup is developing it's new Logic and Action Plan after the Quarterly Progress Meeting. The revised Logic and Action Plan is due October 28th, 2021.
- The CCP is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled "Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of 'Green Spaces' in Diverse and Low-Income Urban Communities."
- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform [success.chesapeakeconservation.org](http://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.

#### Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship Workgroup anticipates the release of the Chesapeake Behavior Change web-tool which will house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set in late September. 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.
- The Stewardship Workgroup met Wednesday, October 6th 10:00-12:00. The Workgroup reviewed the accomplishments since the last meeting, discussed the Chesapeake Behavior Change site, began planning for the 2-yr action plan and discussed the change in workgroup leadership.

- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently seeking a chair to lead the workgroup alongside current chair Suzanne Etgen, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. Details for the voluntary position can be found on the [Stewardship Workgroup webpage](#). Please distribute this opportunity to appropriate candidates. The deadline is extended until the position is filled.
- The workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development” which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.

#### Education Workgroup

- The Education Workgroup continues 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 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.
- The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Education Workgroup are supporting the inaugural Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative hosted by the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office. The Student Ambassadors will be meeting with the Management Board members to share their perspective on the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program at the Oct Management Board meeting.
- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September, 2019 to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks included (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 OLNI team is currently selecting two new geographic areas to implement the OLNI model. They will be announced in fall of 2021.

#### Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites. A small subset of the workgroup has agreed to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward.
- The Public Access workgroup is coordinating with the Protected Lands Workgroup to determine appropriate connections between their GIT Funded Projects (FY20 Scope #1 and Scope #10), to find efficiencies and avoid duplication. Both projects address equity at community levels and involve identifying under-resourced communities, to help with decision-making on future project priorities for practitioners.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; [wisnero@chesapeake.org](mailto:wisnero@chesapeake.org)

#### **Diversity Workgroup**

The Diversity Workgroup's current GIT Funding Project, "Cultivating and Strengthening Partnerships" has completed the external focus groups with community organizations. These focus groups provided a lot of insight into what underrepresented organizations face when engaging with the Bay Program. Since the public comment period on the implementation plan has ended, the Diversity Workgroup has been working with the DEIJ Action Team to compile comments and make suggestions to revise the implementation plan. Finally, the workgroup is working on edits to the ongoing round of GIT Funding proposals as well as preparing for the SRS Process.

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy (Staffer)

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

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

**2021 GIT Funding Program** – Following an extensive review of the GIT Funding Program by a volunteer team of stakeholders, GIT 6 has finalized the 2021 GIT Funding Program Manual. Changes for the coming round of funding include allowance for one project request per Outcome in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and an expanded set of project evaluation criteria. Project ideas were submitted in the Trust portal on September 27, 2021, and are currently under review. The Scoring and Funding Decisions meeting will be held November 4, 2021, and project awards will be during the first quarter of 2022.

**Governance Document Action Team (GDAT)** – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. A draft of the revised document will be presented to the Management Board for concurrence at the October 2021 meeting. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making.

**Organizational Analysis** – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in Fall 2021.

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

### **Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting took place on July 28, 2021 as a conference call. During the meeting, Maggie Cunningham from Region 03 presented on a new EPA Grant program and provided an update from the STAC/Local government mini workshop that took place in May. The workgroup adopted the BFWG charge. Agenda topics included: a discussion on the workplan draft, an update on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) 2020 EC Recommendation, a discussion on the USDA-NRCS-EPA Collaborative Grant Conditions Memo, and an update on the Conowingo Finance Strategy Update. The BFWG will hold its next meeting on October 27, 2021.

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

### **Local Leadership Workgroup**

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its quarterly meeting on August 24, 2021 themed around Climate Resilience. The meeting identified tools that local governments can use to increase resilience to climate-related flooding and received LLWG workgroup feedback on ongoing efforts, including preliminary results of stakeholder interviews with local government planners. The LLWG will hold its next meeting on November 9, 2021 themed around Land Use. Efforts to roll out A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay continue in partnership with state agencies and local government associations.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Shannon Moore (Chair), [SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov); or Heidi Bonnaffon (Vice Chair), [hbonnaffon@mwcog.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwcog.org)

**GIT 6 Contact:** Caroline Johnson (Staffer) [johnsonc@chesapeake.org](mailto:johnsonc@chesapeake.org)

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

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

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

The theme for the September STAR meeting was the Healthy Watersheds Cohort science needs in compliance with the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF). The five outcomes in this cohort (Brook Trout Outcome, Fish Habitat Outcome, Healthy Watersheds Outcome, Protected Lands Outcome, and Stream Health Outcome) presented on any changes to their science needs, new needs, and any potential resources to support the need. Scott Philips also announced Breck Sullivan as the new Coordinator, two new STAR staffers, and Peter Tango returning to his role as CBP Monitoring Coordinator. The next STAR meeting is on October 28th, 2021 and will focus on the dry runs of the Aquatic Life Cohort.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup completed its October Quarterly Review of CBP Modeling and Analysis. The 12 presentations ranged from optimization efforts to the initial set up of the Main Tributary Model, to an overview of the Phase 7 Watershed Model options. Throughout the two-day meeting, discussion of the resolution and scale of the Main Bay Model, Main Tributary Model, Watershed Model, and Airshed Model were considered. Discussion on the upcoming Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting was included. The next modeling quarterly meeting is in January 2022.

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

The September Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT) meeting began by introducing the new Co-Coordiators, Vanessa Van Note and Breck Sullivan, thanking Jeni Keisman for her work, and discussing

potential major priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The members agreed work should focus on expanding capacity to synthesize data and explaining trends present in the analysis. This was followed by a presentation from Jon Harcum and Elgin Perry on the cluster analysis of GAM2 results for western tributaries in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The meeting concluded with an overview of the CAST Estuary Trends Webpage and annual update process for Tributary Summaries by Olivia Devereux, followed by a discussion on how to best communicate capacity and capabilities of the website to partners. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

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

The leadership of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup presented on resource needs to accomplish actions in the Climate Adaptation, Monitoring and Assessment Logic and Action Plan during the September Management Board meeting. The September Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting focused on presentations from organizations on how they are utilizing coastal wetland/marsh mapping, marsh migration models, and sea level rise scenarios to inform adaptation decision-making. Rachel Marks shared information on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' GreenPrint/Parcel Evaluation Tool and how it evaluates the conservation benefits and ecosystem value of parcels of land across Maryland. Joe Weber shared information on ConserveVirginia, which is a key tool for determining conservation investments and provides a map of Virginia's highest conservation value lands based on nine parameters, including floodplains and flooding resilience and protected landscapes resilience. Anna Hamilton shared information on the Relative Wetlands Vulnerability Framework (RWVF) Coastal Pilot Study, a collaborative effort with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, which assessed relative marsh vulnerabilities to SLR and storm surge while considering marsh condition. Jordan West summarized the draft structure for a coastal resilience workshop being planned for spring 2022, which will explore lessons learned across various adaptation research and application projects in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the upcoming resilience workshop and the decision to further solicit member input. The next meeting is a joint meeting with the Urban Stormwater Workgroup and will be held on October 18th and 19th.

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly virtual meeting on September 30, 2021. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found here. The meeting was presided by Cindy Johnson from VADEQ. All jurisdictions provided an update on monitoring efforts during the pandemic and plans moving forward. Peter Tango provided an overview of the presentation given to PSC on funding for the water quality monitoring program. The response to PSC comments, coordinated by STAR will address questions about the core monitoring networks for tidal water quality, nontidal nutrient and sediment, submerged aquatic vegetation, tidal benthic organisms, and citizen monitoring efforts. The final product delivered to PSC is expected to include a summary of the extended network portfolios and long-term budget needs. Caroline Donovan provided updates for the citizen science groups working with CMC as well as current progress on QAPPs, data uploads, and audits. Potential uses for Chlorophyll A data collected by groups were also discussed. Caroline requested workgroup members to provide input on prioritization areas that CMC could address over the term of their second EPA-funded award. Durga Ghosh provided an update on the status of audits and other QA considerations for the water quality monitoring program. Mike Mallonee presented the coordinated split sample results for the Chesapeake

Bay mainstem and tributaries. CBL performance testing blind audit program schedules were provided by Jerry Frank. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2022.

### **Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) Update**

There was no October meeting while case studies are underway by the analysts. Exploratory tests of methods will be conducted to inform a decision in autumn on the development path forward. Development of a requirements document will be underway over the next few months.

### **Nontidal Network Workgroup**

The September meeting included a discussion on storm sampling from Hurricane Ida and updates from the PSC Monitoring Review. The workgroup then considered what investment and actions are needed to support the Climate Resiliency Workgroup's desire to develop a Bay Water Temperature indicator connected to ecological impacts to fisheries. There was also a discussion on the monitoring budget and optimization. Due to frequent level funding of NTN operations, an optimization exercise has been initiated to consider prioritizing decisions for adjusting the network size on a 5-year time horizon. Workgroup members will convene to suggest parameters represented in the analysis such as watershed size or land use diversity. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20th, 2021.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup**

Planning for the STAC workshop Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment Water Clarity/SAV is moving forward. This is a STAC workshop with invited technical and management personnel convened to review and determine the gaps and cost challenges limiting habitat assessments as outlined by the water quality standards under the TMDL for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll a. The objective is to develop actionable recommendations on adaptive monitoring and assessment for the next generation Chesapeake Bay Program tidal monitoring program. This workshop will include three separate sessions on dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll a, and a final two-day synthesis effort (four sessions total). The first session on Water Quality/SAV will be a one-day virtual meeting on December 9th. It will focus on continuing the exploration of satellite image integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program and quantification of blue carbon burial in seagrass ecosystems from high resolution commercial imagery. If interested in participating in the workshop, please reach out to Peter Tango (ptango@chesapeakebay.net) or Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org.)

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

The Status and Trends Workgroup has a new chair as approved by STAR, Caroline Donovan (UMCES). The workgroup had a meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> that revisited our workplan with a focus on establishing timeframes for action items, specifically those that are related to the four priority items approved by STAR in February 2021. The workgroup plans to meet again in early November. Once finalized, the workplan will be posted to the workgroup page on [chesapeakebay.net](http://chesapeakebay.net), along with other existing documents that are of use to members such as the [indicators framework](#), [indicator update process](#), and [guiding questions for GITS when developing new indicators](#).

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) and Alex Gunnerson; [gunnersona@chesapeake.org](mailto:gunnersona@chesapeake.org)

### **October 2021 Management Board Indicators Update**

Since the September Management Board meeting, we have not updated any indicators on ChesapeakeProgress. However, we anticipate finalizing the following indicator updates in advance of the November Management Board meeting:

- Water Quality Standards Attainment – update with 2019 data
- Water Quality Loads and Flow – update with 2019 data
- Reducing Pollution Indicator – update with 2020 data

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

### **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**

On October 6, the Communications Workgroup hosted their bi-annual retreat. The retreat focused on visual communications and photo editing. Aileen Devlin, visual storyteller with Virginia Sea Grant provided welcoming remarks and an overview of the ArcGIS layout Virginia Sea Grant used for a recent story. Will Parson, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) provided an overview of visual communications and photography. Six breakout rooms covered best practices for photography editing, creating layouts in InDesign, an introduction to Photoshop, an introduction to Canva and creating graphics for social media. Breakout room speakers included Will Parson (ACB), Jake Solyst (ACB), Adam Miller (ACB), Marisa Baldine (Chesapeake Research Consortium).

Meeting materials can be found here:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications\\_workgroup\\_october\\_meeting](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications_workgroup_october_meeting)

### **Communications Office:**

On October 1, the Communications Office published the press release for the Executive Council meeting.

- Access the press release here:  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake\\_executive\\_council\\_acts\\_on\\_climate\\_change](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake_executive_council_acts_on_climate_change)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chose the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to continue supporting the Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office through 2027 through a recent competitive grant process. We look forward in continuing to work with you all over the next six years!

**Published blogs:**

The following blogs were published in September:

- A new report gives Virginia a realistic view of the future if climate change is not addressed  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a\\_new\\_report\\_gives\\_virginia\\_a\\_realistic\\_view\\_of\\_the\\_future](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_new_report_gives_virginia_a_realistic_view_of_the_future)
- How Chesapeake Bay wetlands can contribute to U.S. carbon reduction goals  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how\\_chesapeake\\_bay\\_wetlands\\_can\\_contribute\\_to\\_u.s.\\_carbon\\_reduction\\_goals](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how_chesapeake_bay_wetlands_can_contribute_to_u.s._carbon_reduction_goals)
- Satellites, solar-powered buoys and volunteers like you help monitor the Bay  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/satellites\\_solar\\_powered\\_buoys\\_and\\_volunteers\\_like\\_you\\_help\\_monitor\\_the\\_bay](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/satellites_solar_powered_buoys_and_volunteers_like_you_help_monitor_the_bay)
- Is fall the end of gardening season, or just the beginning?  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/is\\_fall\\_the\\_end\\_of\\_gardening\\_season\\_or\\_just\\_the\\_beginning](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/is_fall_the_end_of_gardening_season_or_just_the_beginning)
- The story of Indigenous tribes comes to life at Machicomoco State Park  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the\\_story\\_of\\_indigenous\\_tribes\\_comes\\_to\\_life\\_at\\_machicomoco\\_state\\_park](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_story_of_indigenous_tribes_comes_to_life_at_machicomoco_state_park)
- De-buzzing the latest environmental buzzword  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/de\\_buzzing\\_the\\_latest\\_environmental\\_buzzword](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/de_buzzing_the_latest_environmental_buzzword)
- The local persimmon is the fall foragers fruit of choice  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the\\_local\\_persimmon\\_is\\_the\\_fall\\_foragers\\_fruit\\_of\\_choice](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_local_persimmon_is_the_fall_foragers_fruit_of_choice)