

Round Robin Updates

CBP Communications Office

At a press event on September 19 in Middle River, Maryland, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced that [\\$12.6 million in Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grants](#) were awarded to 44 projects across the watershed. State-specific press releases were sent to news outlets in each state, and a [general press release](#) was posted on the CBP website. On September 25, a second press event was held in Norfolk to highlight [Stewardship Fund grants](#) that would complete [oyster restoration](#) in the Lafayette River.

After putting out an RFP, the Communications Office has hired Changing Media, a Baltimore-based firm that worked on branding for Mr. Trash Wheel, to assist in developing a branding strategy for the Bay Program.

The office has also begun work on the 2016-2017 Bay Barometer. Rachel, Catherine, Joan and Caitlyn have reached out to outcome coordinators and staffers for major news items to include as blurbs along with or in place of indicator data, and Laura Free is working with outcome leads to get updated data. The design will be done in house by Dave Yayac.

Rachel and Catherine met with the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup to discuss communications needs they have and how the Communications Workgroup could lend support. They discussed misconceptions people have about SAV, potential audiences and how messages might differ in downstream and upstream communities.

Caitlyn is in the process of developing a webinar that could be shared with smaller organizations (such as homeowners associations) that have been reaching out to the Bay Program for speakers to learn more about Bay restoration and the work of the partnership. In conjunction with the webinar, she is looking to develop a network of speakers who could go to these organizations, show the webinar and answer questions afterwards.

Caitlyn is also scheduling meetings with the chairs, coordinators and staffers of the Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams and major workgroups. These meetings are meant to learn about their outreach needs and how they could inform the overall CBP outreach strategy she is developing.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

- Workshop at the Georgetown Public Library "Improving Water Quality in your community" Sat. Sept. 30th. Participants receive 45 gallon EarthMinded Rain Barrels, soil test kits, and backyard conservation packs with resources about native plants and the nearby waterways. Good opportunity to try out our diversity form.
- Chapel Branch Service Day Oct. 14th –Train maintenance, trash cleanup and native plantings, Creek Critters/macrobenthos, nature walk, possible water quality testing.



- Other events—Coast Day on October 1st and Blackbird Creek Fall Festival on October 21st
- CWP Webinar—Bringing Better Site Design into the 21st Century. Wed. October 18th.
- Painting for conservation Program to replace Rain Barrel Art Contest
- Silver Lake Cleanup October 9th-21st
- 2017 Nonpoint Source /National Estuary Program Training and Meeting—Planning and Partnering for Clean Water, Together! <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/district/Pages/NPS-NEP-Meeting.aspx> October 21st-26th

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

- Development of local government engagement efforts continues: Consultants Frank Dukes and Jennifer Handke will begin working with our [Phase 3](#) work groups in coming weeks. Nicki Kasi's group is finalizing templates for our work groups to use that marry best management practices to the outcomes local governments are concerned about, such as economic development and public safety.
- Audio and PDFs of the presentations at the Phase 3 steering committee's September 27 meeting are available [here on our web site](#).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Julie Devers wrote a super [guest blog post](#) on how mussels and eels are cleaning up the Susquehanna River Watershed through a partnership by federal agencies. Her story was a [big hit](#) on our social media.
- Our "Let's Be Stormwater Smart, PA" communications campaign launched in September with great success. Leaders from Lemoyne Borough, Harrisburg/Capital Region Water, and Lower Paxton and Susquehanna Townships spoke at a media [event](#), and we promoted the video to municipalities.
- To promote our [new stormwater public educational video](#), we held a social media thunderclap event: about 200 municipalities, organizations, companies, legislators, and individuals posted the video or shared our post on their Facebook and Twitter accounts. This was a first for DEP. Our municipal stormwater staff shared it with their email list of municipalities and engineering firms, and we're incorporating the event and public awareness videos and other communications into our municipal-stormwater-focused web pages. A big thank-you also to this Work Group, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Alliance for the super amplification assist.
- Our Chesapeake Bay Program and conservation districts are in the process of informing farmers in our part of the Bay Watershed of \$1.2 million in EPA funding to reimburse them for the cost of

creating their manure management plans and erosion and sediment control plans. We're planning a press release and, later in October or early November, a media event at a farm site.

- We began planning a DEP exhibit focused on clean local waters in the Bay Watershed for the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

No updates

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Upcoming Events

- A STAC-sponsored workshop titled "Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation" will be held on November 14-15 in Fairfax, Virginia. Workshop registration is closed, but more information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).
- STAC's December 2017 quarterly meeting will be held on December 5-6 in Annapolis, Maryland. More information will be available on the [December 2017 STAC quarterly meeting webpage](#).
- A STAC-sponsored workshop titled "Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Midpoint Assessment and Beyond" will be held on December 12-13 in Annapolis, Maryland. Workshop registration is closed, but more information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).

Upcoming Reports

- STAC hosted a FY2017 workshop titled "Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design" on September 7-8, 2017 in Annapolis, Maryland. Presentations and more information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#). A report from the workshop is being prepared.
- STAC is working to finalize four reports from the following FY2016 workshops held in spring 2017. Information regarding each workshop (including agendas and presentations) can be found on the [STAC workshop homepage](#).
 - Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
 - An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
 - Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters
- STAC is working to finalize three reports from the following FY2015 workshops. Information regarding each of these workshops can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).
 - Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
 - Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
 - Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

Workshops: STAC will be hosting three additional workshops in FY2017, listed here in order of anticipated dates (confirmed dates in bold). Planning is underway for all three activities.

- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling in 2025 and Beyond: A Proactive Visioning Workshop (to be held **January 17-19, 2018**)

- Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management (to be held January 29-30, 2018)
- Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions (to be held February – May, 2018)

Reviews: STAC has two review activities currently in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. These STAC-sponsored independent peer reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Midpoint Assessment. For more information regarding any of the reviews, visit the [STAC review homepage](#).

- Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
- CBP Partnership’s Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

Chesapeake Conservancy

Chesapeake Conservancy is adding to our library of virtual tours of the rivers of the Chesapeake, and we are filming the Patuxent this week. This brings us to 11 rivers completed so far:

- Elk
- James (Courtesy of the James River Association)
- Nanticoke
- Northeast
- Patapsco
- Patuxent
- Potomac
- Rappahannock
- Sassafras
- Susquehanna
- York

They are all available on our website at. We encourage members of the workgroup to use the tours to capture stills for social media, etc. with credit to the Chesapeake Conservancy.

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative is focused on field monitoring training at this time. There are few communication needs at the moment.

No updates offered

- Sustainable Fisheries GIT
- Habitat GIT
- Water Quality GIT
- Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT
- Stewardship GIT
- Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Local Government Advisory Committee
- Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting
- Diversity Workgroup

- District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- West Virginia Conservation Agency
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Maryland Sea Grant
- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Virginia Conservation Network