

## Round Robin Updates

### New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

1. Some of our Division of Water staff have switched assignments. Lauren Townley now will be DEC's main contact regarding the Chesapeake Bay Program. She can be reached at [lauren.townley@dec.ny.gov](mailto:lauren.townley@dec.ny.gov) or 518-402-8283. (Note that Leila Mitchell will continue to represent New York on the Communications Workgroup.)
2. The Upper Susquehanna Coalition is hosting their Susquehanna Watershed Forum on Thursday, September 21, at the Binghamton University. More information can be found on USC's website at <http://www.u-s-c.org/html/index.htm>

### Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The Communications Team (members from DEP, the Dept. of Agriculture, and the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources) for development of Phase 3 of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan continues to work hard and productively on project-internal and -external communications and engagement.

- As the six work groups that are leading plan development finalize their memberships, we're pursuing consulting organizations who are experts in local engagement to partner with them and the Communications Team this fall on determining what forms of local engagement will be most effective for the focus of each work group. The Comms Team met with the local government liaisons and community relations coordinators in DEP regional offices to enlist them as well in this engagement outreach in the coming weeks and months.
- Generating an ongoing communications flow to keep Phase 3 continually in public conversation, we're issuing media advisories for all monthly steering committee meetings (and getting some good coverage) and taking every opportunity to share news. Importantly, our messaging about a new bottom-up approach is showing up consistently in media coverage.
- Our recent announcement at Ag Progress Days and [press release](#) on the first-year results of expanded agricultural inspections will be followed by a media webinar on Sept. 6.
- We're developing communications about the great public input that kicked off the project in June, sharing a summary of comments by almost 300 Pennsylvanians and starting work on a video of diverse individuals (e.g., sportsmen/sportswomen, farmer, local gov leader, winery owner) to talk with Secretary McDonnell about why they're motivated to help clean local waters.
- DEP is running a stormwater awareness communications campaign in September, beginning with an event on the 15th in Lemoyne to highlight the hard work municipalities statewide are doing on stormwater management plans and, if required, Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plans. We're incorporating Bay/Phase 3 messaging into this campaign.
- We met with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to learn about their market research on Pennsylvanians' perceptions of clean local water and the Bay/Watershed and messaging they respond to. Combining this with the research findings from OpinionWorks and Choose Clean Water Coalition that we learned at the June Communicators Workgroup retreat in Richmond, we're looking at creating messaging and stories to specific audiences, such as sportsmen/sportswomen.
- We've made some renovations to our [Phase 3 website](#) to make it more public friendly and are continuing work on it. With our intern's great help, we've been compiling a library of success stories to deploy in local engagement, media relations, and communications to demonstrate the practical positive benefits of clean local water in PA.

### **CBP Communications Office**

The 2017 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grantees will be announced at a public event at the Miramar Landing community in Middle River, Maryland on September 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Maryland Representative Dutch Ruppersberger, Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles and Environmental Protection Agency Acting Regional Administrator Cecil Rodriguez are confirmed to speak. A second public event will take in Norfolk, Virginia on September 25 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Hermitage Museum and Gardens to celebrate the final phase of a project on the Lafayette River. Governor Terry McAuliffe, Virginia Representative Bobby Scott and Chesapeake Bay Program Director Nick DiPasquale are confirmed to speak.

We are sad to say that we are losing Stephanie Smith, our Web Content Manager and Workgroup Coordinator. Please share the [job posting](#) with your networks.

We recently put out a [video](#) on blue crabs and climate change. Also this month we passed 2500 Instagram followers, reaching over 1,500 different people in a seven-day period.

### **Sustainable Fisheries GIT**

Working under the Fisheries GIT, the partners working on oyster restoration in the Lafayette River have finalized the [Lafayette River Oyster Restoration Tributary Plan](#).

Fisheries GIT is planning a symposium to focus on the latest science on invasive catfish, November 6-7.

### **Habitat GIT**

- The Wetland Workgroup, in collaboration with the CBP Web and Communications Teams, has refined the project scope of a GIT Funded project “Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs –information access and program cross-training.” Contracts are expected to be awarded by early summer.
- The SAV Workgroup hosted a workshop on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD to focus on the SAV Survey and potential changes in design to help ensure continued monitoring under uncertain funding. Data users have been surveyed and an outcome of the workshop will be consensus on a path forward to continue SAV data collection in the Chesapeake. A workshop report has been distributed to the Habitat GIT, Water Quality GIT, Management Board, Federal Office Directors, and STAR. [The report is also available online](#).
- The NALCC project formerly titled Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas is now named Nature’s Network. Nature’s Network is a collaborative effort between several U.S. States, federal, academic, and NGO partners to identify the best opportunities for conserving and connecting intact, resilient ecosystems capable of supporting rare and imperiled species in the northeastern U.S. Habitat GIT staff participated in a training workshop in Hadley, Massachusetts in late June to become familiar with products available through Nature’s Network. Trainings are being planned for CBP partners throughout the watershed.
- The Maryland chapter of Trout Unlimited will be receiving the organization’s highest honor – the Golden Trout Chapter Award – on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Roanoke at TU’s annual meeting. The award recognized the chapter’s important progress towards conserving, protecting and restoring North America’s Coldwater fisheries. The projects that have contributed to the MD chapter being recognized include restoration of the Jones Falls, long-term multi-partner conservation efforts in the Upper Gunpowder Falls watershed and various volunteer and education programs.

- The Habitat GIT recently welcomed its newest staffer, Margot Cumming. Originally from Northern VA, Margot just returned to the area from Washington State where she was working with hatchery salmon. She studied Conservation Biology and Life Sciences Communications at University of Wisconsin – Madison, and is looking forward to putting her communication skills to use. She will be covering all things communications the Habitat GIT, so you'll be hearing from her in the future.

## Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

### Upcoming Events

- A STAC-sponsored workshop titled “Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design” will be held on September 7-8. Workshop registration is closed, but more information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).
- STAC's September 2017 quarterly meeting will be held on September 12-13 at the Westin Annapolis Hotel (100 Westgate Cir, Annapolis, MD 21401). The meeting theme is “integrating ecological and social sciences.” More information can be found on the [September 2017 STAC quarterly meeting webpage](#).

Recent Reports: STAC distributed two review reports in the past month.

- 1) Follow-up Review: Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Peer Review of *Revised Proposal* for James River Chlorophyll-*a* Criteria (report distributed on August 4, 2017 and available at [http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/377\\_Harris2017.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/377_Harris2017.pdf))
- 2) Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Phase 6 Review (report distributed on September 1, 2017 and available at [http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/379\\_Easton2017.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/379_Easton2017.pdf))

Upcoming Reports: 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](#).

- 1) Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- 2) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- 3) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- 4) 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](#).

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

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](#).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

- 2) CBP Partnership's Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

Workshops: STAC will be hosting the following six workshops in FY2017. Planning is underway for all of these upcoming activities.

- 1) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design (to be held September 7-8, 2017)
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Midpoint Assessment and Beyond (to be held November - December, 2017)
- 3) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation (to be held November - December, 2017)
- 4) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling in 2025 and Beyond: A Proactive Visioning Workshop (to be held January 17-19, 2018)
- 5) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management (to be held January - February, 2018)
- 6) 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)

### **Choose Clean Water Coalition**

We launched a new website this week ([www.choosecleanwater.org](http://www.choosecleanwater.org)) and our 2018 conference has been set for May 22-23 in Lancaster, PA!

### **Virginia Conservation Network**

Our big update is the launch of registration for the [2017 Virginia Environmental Assembly](#) (September 22 – 23 in Fredericksburg, VA). This is a great opportunity for networking, learning, and strategizing as a community around the issues impacting Virginia. I hope members of the workgroup can attend! We are also in the search for sponsors for the Assembly.

### **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

- Over at the Alliance we are gearing up once again for our annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum in Shepherdstown, WV! Registration details will be coming very soon, so keep your eyes peeled! Also, this year the Forum will be taking place **November 3 -5**, rather than its traditional September dates so make sure to mark your calendars now! We also have sponsorship opportunities available for \$250. You can get your logo in the program, 1/4 page advertisement space in the program, and ability to put items in swag bag giveaway for attendees.
- We recently celebrated the official groundbreaking at St. Luke's Restoration of Nature Project in Eastport with our partners, funders, and community members. This 1.1 million dollar project is an unprecedented community-driven stormwater maintenance initiative. If you are interested in learning more visit our website: [allianceforthebay.org](http://allianceforthebay.org).

### **Virginia Department of Environmental Quality**

No updates

### **No updates offered**

- 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
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- 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
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Conservancy