Status and Trends Workgroup: 2018 Workplan

Under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

The Indicators Framework Action Team conducted work in 2015 culminating in a revised Indicators Framework, Indicator Management Process, and a recommendation to re-convene the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR to evaluate our indicator and information needs to support adaptively managing and communicating our progress toward the Bay Watershed Agreement. These findings were approved by the Management Board in November 2015. The following outlines the mission, scope of work, partners, and key actions of this workgroup.

Mission

A. Ensure the integrity of the Indicators Framework by focusing the development and use of information in the CBP with the principles described in the Framework.
B. Foster cross-outcome collaboration among the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) on identified information needed to track progress toward and adaptively manage achievement of goals and outcomes.
C. Staff the indicators management process.

Scope of Work

- Ensure Chesapeake Bay Program suite of indicators link directly to Agreement outcomes using the Indicators Framework. Work with GITs to change or redefine previously approved indicators to adhere to the Framework.
- Use the Indicators Framework to guide development of indicators. Develop clearly defined criteria to assist the GITs in developing and refining indicators and understanding the relationship between the information types in the Framework.
- Use Indicators Framework to
  - highlight commonalities among proposed indicators or identified needs across outcomes
  - illustrate the different roles the same indicator can play in multiple outcomes or GITs
- Offer guidance to GIT coordinators and staffers seeking to develop new indicators, as available and appropriate.
- Ensure appropriate management of indicators not connected to Agreement outcomes.
- Manage the process of sunsetting old indicators.

Workgroup Membership

The workgroup includes core members and interested parties. Both groups receive updates and upcoming meeting information, and both groups are invited to attend workgroup meetings. The core membership will set the priorities of the work group, develop the annual work plan, and attend the workgroup meetings regularly, while interested parties will provide input relevant to their area of expertise, and should review

agendas for upcoming meetings to decide their participation based on the issues or indicators to be discussed. Core members will fulfill the roles below:

- ChesapeakeStat representative(s): advise on data visualization and communication via ChesapeakeProgress. Make sure workgroup actions and products align with the development of yet undefined Program-wide decision-making products.
- Communications Director: use stories to connect different indicators. Make sure workgroup is aware of what different audiences are looking to understand from Partnership indicators and progress. Advise workgroup on ways to best communicate indicator updates.
- Cross-GIT Coordinator: make better connections and facilitate better storytelling across the Program. Advise workgroup on participation in biennial review process.
- GIS Lead: Coordinate mapping of indicators – the updating of existing maps and the development of new maps. Work with workgroup members, partners and GITs to meet their indicator-based geospatial needs.
- Indicators Coordinator: In addition to facilitating the Status & Trends workgroup, the Indicators Coordinator brings up-to-date knowledge about indicators being updated or developed from existing responsibilities of managing regular indicator updates and facilitating the indicators management process.
- Monitoring representative: advise workgroup on considering monitoring needs and opportunities in the development of new indicators.
- STAR Analyst: support the workgroup and GIT leads in developing new indicators. Contribute expertise in statistics, monitoring, and analysis.
- STAR Coordinator: connect workgroup and GIT leads developing new indicators with science providers through STAR. Find experts and provide in house support for indicator development. Build the capacity of the Program to develop, analyze and understand indicators and trends.
- Web Team representative: ensure that the workgroup activities and products align with Partnership current web products.

GIT coordinators and staffers may not attend every meeting but are important members of the workgroup. They bring experience in developing and managing indicators within their goal team to share with other GITs through this workgroup. They will also supply the content for stories that link indicators across goals and outcomes. GIT coordinators and staffers will participate in workgroup meetings according to the agenda topics for each meeting.

Other interested parties include Communications Workgroup leadership, indicator data providers, STAR leadership, state monitoring program representatives, representatives from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), and Bay Program managers.

Partners of the Workgroup

Communications Workgroup: discusses the merits of different messages that can be pulled out of data or information and works with the Communications Team to coordinate the updates of or storytelling around single or groups of indicators (whether it is for internal communications—e.g., biennial review process—or external communications).

STAC: uses its reach of scientific and technical experts to advise on and address Partnership information needs; advise on adaptive management; and provide guidance or advice to bring the best possible science to bear on identified issues.

STAR: discuss and prioritize GIT needs and provide input on workplan of the Status & Trends workgroup. Identify science providers and facilitate science expertise and a connection to other related STAR workgroups. Provide a forum for the Status & Trends workgroup to seek input from GIT Coordinators and Staffers.

Key Actions

*Note: Items with an asterisk indicate that taking the action is contingent upon group discussion and consensus that determines the action would be helpful or necessary.

To the extent possible, meeting agendas will be organized around specific issues or stories and designed to foster cross-outcome collaboration.

Action Number	Action	Mission Area	Lead	Status
1	Develop guiding questions to assist GITs in developing indicators in each of the categories of the Indicators Framework	A	Laura Drescher and Peter Tango	*Peter and Laura have an initial list ready to share with the workgroup.*
2	Share and collaborate on ~~Confirm and document~~ plans related to development of any revised/new indicators ~~to provide increased accountability and predictability~~, including …	C	Laura Drescher GIT coordinators and staffers	
	• Climate Resiliency		Climate Resiliency workgroup coordinator~~Zoe Johnson~~	
	• Local Leadership		Mary Gattis	

	• Stream Health		Jennifer Greiner and Margot Cumming	
	• Tree Canopy		Julie Mawhorter	
	• Brook Trout		Jennifer Greiner and Paige Hobaugh	
	• Black Duck (Habitat-based indicator)		Jennifer Greiner and Paige Hobaugh	
	• Water Quality Standards Attainment (addition to current indicator)		Peter Tango and Qian Zhang	Update was presented to S&T workgroup in June 2017
	• Healthy Watersheds		Renee Thompson and Katherine Wares	
	• Forage Fish		Bruce Vogt	
	• Periodic evaluation of GIS needs related to indicators or envisioning status or trends of indicators		Howard Weinberg	
	• (other indicators to be added as needs are identified).		-----------------	
3	Formulate Prioritized List of Needed Indicators of Factors Influencing Our Work	B	Laura Drescher and Peter Tango	*STAC workshop proposal submitted*
	• Synthesize previous work by Catherine Krikstan, John Wolf, and others to analyze for commonalities among needs for factors influencing indicators based on factors identified in current (version 1.0) Management Strategies			
	• Engage STAC on prioritization of factors influencing indicator acquisition in light of adaptive management needs and based on guiding questions developed under action 1 of this work plan.			
	• Develop prioritization plan or criteria to be applied to a to-be-created list of factors influencing indicator needs. o Use guiding questions developed under action 1 of this work plan.			

	○ Criteria to consider include (a) whether data gathering is possible and (b) whether it would support adaptive management		
	• Obtain feedback from workgroups and GITs who revise work plans and management strategies in March 2018 regarding how to identify the most critical factors for each management strategy. ○ By March, 14 outcomes in almost all of the goal teams will have gone through SRS. ○ Options to engage other 16 outcomes include: ▪ Waiting until first cycle of SRS is complete (2019) – not recommended ▪ Engaging other teams on their critical factors outside of the SRS		
	• Compare "critical" factors among themselves and to "common" factors – what are the overlaps?		
	• Based on these overlaps, work with ○ GITs to identify needed factors influencing indicators ○ GIS team to identify available data for threat or stressor factors		
	• Update and refine prioritized list of current and needed factors influencing indicators		
4	Use prioritized list to highlight needed information to groups within CBP, e.g. STAR and STAC	B	Laura Drescher and Peter Tango
5	Work with GITs, ChesapeakeStat Team and Communications Team to ensure progress is being tracked toward non-measurable parts of outcomes through the biennial Strategy Review System process.	C	Catherine Krikstan
6	Encourage use of indicators in adaptive management through biennial review process		Kristin Saunders

Formatted

	• Work with GITs to identify common factors and relationships among outcomes to showcase or examine in biennial reviews	B	Catherine Krikstan	Working with Laura Drescher
	• Explore whether Status & Trends has the expertise to help workgroups and GITs determine appropriate trajectories, confidence intervals and decision thresholds, based on their existing indicators and targets	B		
	• Work with STAR to determine how the partnership can address this adaptive management need		Peter Tango	
	• Encourage use of the Indicators Framework to identify other information needs	B	Laura Drescher	
	• Work with information needs identified in biennial review process to determine if indicator is needed and, if so, guide GIT through indicator development process	All	Laura Drescher	
	• Frame biennial review process as an opportunity to gauge Outputs (workplan activities) and their relationship to achievement of the overall Outcome.	A	Kristin Saunders	
7	Assist the Partnership's Communication office in preparing to publish the Bay Barometer	C	Rachel Felver	