



Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG) Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting Materials:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/status_and_trends_workgroup_meeting_october_2021

This meeting was recorded for internal use to assure the accuracy of meeting notes.

Action Items

- ✓ Alex Gunnerson will send out an updated workplan to members to sign off and will post the workplan to the STWG website page and CBP Calendar page.
- ✓ Workgroup leadership will conduct outreach regarding indicator updates, such as:
 - Alex Gunnerson will reach out to Katlyn Fuentes and Megan Ossman regarding Brook Trout, Black Duck, and Wetlands indicator updates.
 - Katheryn Barnhart will follow up with Greg Allen and Scott Phillips regarding the Toxic Contaminants research.
- ✓ Workgroup leadership will work with Renee Thompson on how to communicate indicators after presenting to the GIT Team on Healthy Watersheds.
- ✓ Katheryn Barnhart, Renee Thompson, Peter Claggett will continue the conversation about potentially combining the Land use outcomes and evaluation indicator(s) with the land use methods and metrics.
- ✓ The workgroup will integrate and quantify current factors influencing and showcase them prominently on Chesapeake Progress and the STWG website page with a visual conceptual model by the next meeting. The workgroup will then work with ITAT on factors influencing and then with Rachel Felver on communication efforts.
- ✓ Workgroup leadership will discuss with Breck how ITAT and STWG will work together at the next meeting.
- ✓ Peter Tango suggested meeting with Rosemary Farelli and Scott Philips to discuss the status of their work in the context of factors influencing.
- ✓ Workgroup leadership will add language specifying that the STWG will play a liaison role for the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF) to the 4th action item.
- ✓ Alex Gunnerson will poll membership to determine a new meeting time going forward.

AGENDA

10:00 Opening and Roll Call - Katheryn Barnhart, Coordinator

10:05 Introducing our new workgroup chair – Katheryn Barnhart and Caroline Donovan

10:10 Workplan Revisit with Timeframes

The workgroup reviewed the action items that relate to the four workgroup priorities identified earlier this year and discussed assigning a relative timeframe of desired completion and lead for each.

There was general discussion about indicator timelines as Peter Tango asked if there is a type of urgency to get all indicators settled and codified to provide both status and trends by 2025. Doreen Vetter and others agreed that status at the least should be achieved by then as good indicators are critical and it is beneficial to get them done sooner, but it is not 100% necessary to have trends and indicators fully certified by 2025. There may be some variation that is outcome/indicator dependent, but indicators with non-quantitative language are priorities.

For Action Item 2:

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup is looking to get feedback on the utility and management suggestions for the water temperature indicator at the STAC workshops in January and March 2022. Rikke Jepsen said that Stream Health tentatively expects to be ready by Spring 2022 but they are waiting for some modeled results to continue. Katheryn Barnhart said that data for Tree Canopy is coming in and slated to be completed this month. To learn about the status of the Brook Trout, Black Duck, and Wetlands indicators, Alex Gunnerson is following up with Megan Ossman and Katlyn Fuentes. For water quality standards and attainment, Peter Tango said that the most basic indicator metrics can tentatively be expected a year from now. For Healthy Watersheds, Renee Thompson said their goal is to develop interim indicators by the end of the year related to protected lands, brook trout habitat, and a diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice metric. The preliminary version of these metrics was showcased in a StoryMap by Renee Thompson and John Wolf. Doreen Vetter commented that she likes the interim indicator that provides an opportunity to explore opportunities to change plans before the growth occurs in sensitive areas. Healthy Watersheds has a longer-term indicator goal to develop the watershed index by 2023 with web indicators, as influenced by the healthy watershed assessment. Katheryn Barnhart offered to speak with Renee Thompson further about the expectations for indicators. To learn about the status of the Toxic Contaminants Research, Katheryn Barnhart is following up with Greg Allen and Scott Philips. For both Land Use Options Evaluation & Land Use Methods and Metrics Renee Thompson would like to combine these two indicators and eventually their logic and action plan given the interconnected nature of the two outcomes. For Forage Fish, Peter Tango said that the indicator is moving along well and that Fish Habitat progress will be covered during the week's Friday meeting in the workplan evaluation. For other Climate Resiliency Workgroup indicators, Breck Sullivan said that annual tidal trends results could be the base of an ecological indicator. Breck Sullivan also said that there is lots of potential for understanding the linkages between ITAT's work and other indicators.

For Action Item 3:

Peter Tango and Katheryn Barnhart are working on a presentation for potentially the next STWG meeting in November to provide insights for particularly hard to measure outcomes with non-quantitative language. The goal would be to develop at least metrics to start with for each outcome.

For Action Item 4:

The workgroup discussed whether to do a STAC workshop that was desired but not implemented in 2018 about formulating a prioritized list of needed indicators for factors influencing the work. Caroline Donovan expressed that if there is a time to do this workshop, now would be a good time given the new personnel and capacity. Peter Tango suggested that a workshop takes place after the publication of Rosemary Farelli's work and that the topic build on their work to better inform factors influencing indicators. Peter Tango suggested meeting with Rosemary Farelli and Scott Philips to discuss the status of their work. Katheryn Barnhart then answered a question about the three different types of indicators

under the indicator framework and what is meant by factors influencing. Kristin Saunders asked if there might be lessons from the work of the Outcome Attainability team that could be applied here and if a factors influencing conference might be a way to move outcomes towards specific measurable goals. Doreen Vetter responded by saying that factors influencing is important to understand why outcomes are not meeting their goals and that can then inform decisions to change approaches going forward. Doreen Vetter also said it was important to understand which influencing factors are within our control and which are not, so that efforts can be the most effective. Caroline Donovan suggested developing a conceptual framework to be prominently displayed on the STWG website to communicate the role it plays. Breck Sullivan suggested starting with integrating the current factors influencing before moving on to new ones. Breck Sullivan also suggested adding language specifying STWG's role as a liaison for the SSRF in addition to Strategic Review System (SRS) to improve the monitoring of science needs and potential leads.

For Action Item 5:

Doreen Vetter explained that this item is sequential in relation to item 4. The workgroup agreed that this item should be directed towards currently identified outcomes and no action is needed until item 4 is addressed.

For Action Item 6:

Doreen Vetter and Katheryn Barnhart agreed that this relates back to item 3 and is included within ongoing work in the switch from qualitative to quantitative metrics.

For Action Item 7:

Katheryn Barnhart suggested developing an indicator update Standard Operating Procedure for indicator Point of Contacts. Katheryn Barnhart and Caroline Donovan supports this because it will create a template that helps with continuity for each indicator through turnover and Caroline Donovan has offered to organize this effort.

For Action Item 8:

Kristin Saunders has continued to be the main lead in this ongoing effort, but many others have been involved.

For Action Item 9:

The workgroup will help with the publication of the Bay Barometer once Rachel Felver and the Communications team has finished reforming it. Rachel Felver will reach out once they are ready to engage.

For Action Item 10:

Katheryn Barnhart and Kaitlyn May have been working on new icons for more consistent communication on the website to use for both short term trends and outcome attainability. They both met with Dave Yayac to discuss the process earlier this week and plan to have this on Chesapeake Progress by the end of the year.

11:25 Next steps and Actions – Alex Gunnerson, Staffer

- **Next Meeting: Early November**
 - o **A new time will be determined via a poll of members**

Adjourn

Participants: Caroline Donovan, Alexander Gunnerson, Katheryn Barnhart, Kristin Saunders, Rachel Felver, Rikke Jepsen, Megan Ossman, Breck Sullivan, Doreen Vetter, Peter Tango, Gary Walters, Dustin Shull, Kaitlyn May, Renee Thompson