

Status and Trends Workgroup MINUTES

Nov. 14, 2017 from 1:00-2:30 PM

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/status_and_trends_workgroup_meeting_november_2017

1:00-1:05 pm Opening (Laura Free, 5 minutes)

- Welcome and introductions
- Action Items from September meeting:

Completed: The draft of the citizen science Memorandum of Understanding will be sent to the Status and Trends workgroup for comment within the next week (Sept18-22). – Peter Tango, Liz Chudoba

Ongoing: A future action item will be to brainstorm mapping options for attainment on Chesapeake Progress. – Peter Tango, Qian Zhang, Catherine Krikstan and Comms team

1:05-2:05 pm Review of the 2018 Workplan (Laura Free, 60 minutes)

Description: The Coordinator will review a draft workplan, and workgroup members will discuss changes or additions. Staffer will make changes to workplan in meeting based on feedback.

Objective: to comment on and edit draft workplan, so that the Coordinator can present a draft workplan at an upcoming STAR meeting for 2018. To articulate, within the workplan, the role of this workgroup and its members in supporting the Indicator Framework.

The **Strategy Review System** has affected the group's direction and provided a new venue to accomplish some of the actions identified in the 2016-2017 work plan

Laura reviewed the completed actions of last year's workplan:

- **Defining universe** of pieces of outcomes that are measurable to get a sense of "indicators needed"
- Development of **new indicators**:
 - Sustainable Schools
 - Diversity
 - Environmental Literacy Planning
 - Oysters
 - Student MWEEs
 - Citizen Stewardship
- **Align** Current Indicators to Indicators Framework
 - ID indicators not linked to agreement
 - Work with GITs to fit to Indicators Framework
 - Sunset indicators or transition to appropriate CBP products, like [State of the Chesapeake](#)

DISCUSSION

Laura asked if this workgroup's role includes helping workgroups establish trajectories for their workgroups.

Kristin Saunders discussed the role of this group as it relates to STAR and STAC. How do these three groups work together?

Peter added that all of the goal teams, members of STAC and STAR should be in the room to help determine the tracking progress of this information.

Doreen added that a struggle has been documentation explaining decisions. This brings up the question of supporting the program in development of indicators and understanding how the different information sources fit together in the indicators framework- how does it all fit in the SRS framework as well?

Peter asked about how CarlHershner's examples could be used to work with other workgroups and their indicators. **Action:** Laura will reach out to Carl about the examples of establishing performance expectations and goals for workgroups.

Laura will add into the workplan about working with STAR regarding the creation of the workplan and establishing or documenting performance expectations (i.e., trajectories).

Laura continued about shifts in the work after the formation of the SRS. Two components she recommended to the group for discussion:

- **Guiding questions** to help develop indicators

Discussion: would this still be helpful for the group to "publish"?

- **Prioritized list** of needed indicators

Discussion: How might we create and prioritize a list of needed indicators of factors influencing our work?

Laura asked if the Status and Trends workgroup can facilitate a conversation about common factor indicators and encourage workgroups about what information related to factors they would actually use?

DISCUSSION

Peter asked if this meant inviting teams of groups to have this discussion? It's important because of the management implications.

Laura responded that she didn't know if the workgroups have prioritized factors within their own management strategy, so a good place to start might be their existing management strategies. Maybe this will require waiting until the quarterly review has occurred, in case the management strategies are updated.

Peter discussed other work that includes these factors taken into account for a particular goal, such as the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Synthesis effort.

John Wolf mentioned the previous work about the most common factors that affect the most outcomes. Laura said that specifically they're wanting information that workgroups need or will use to take action or explain progress.

Kristin asked who currently needs performance indicators? Laura responded that she maintains such a list and added that this is why it's hard to focus on factors, when there are still groups that are focused on performance.

Doreen added that work has been done to answer the question of how influencing factors impact different outcomes, generated based on STAC's review of all the workplans and strategies and resulting list of generic factors. There would be value in the cross-outcome work and mapping of different factors that are important to a variety of outcomes.

Laura recapped that there's interest in creating a prioritized list of needed indicators, highlighting the cross outcome benefits.

Regarding guiding questions to help develop indicators:

Kara added that some indicators, like for fish habitat, might be hard to fit into this item, since it's hard to determine quantitative components.

Peter asked if this guiding questions component of the workplan to help advance indicators would still be helpful in this case? Laura added that questions can be created to help groups focus on certain factors and to think about why they want an indicator. There is currently no place where these issues are specifically mentioned for groups to consider. Peter agreed that this would indeed be good to add to the workplan.

The next steps include a draft of this workplan. If released on Nov 17, and due Dec 1- is this enough time to provide comment? The workgroup agreed it would be.

2:05-2:20 Timeline Review- (Laura Free, 15 minutes)

Description: This standing agenda item will confirm data updates completed in the last month and list data updates occurring within the next month.

The release of the Citizen Stewardship Indicator was covered in Baltimore Sun and twice in the Capital Gazette.

The new student MWEE indicator should be published soon in November 2017. There was a 25% response rate from the school districts in the watershed, which covers about 75% of the students in the watershed.

The striped bass indicator has been updated on State of the Chesapeake.

The Toxic Contaminants number shall be updated from 2014.

Updated in DECEMBER

Forest Buffers indicator

Sustainable schools indicator will be updated for the second time.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads and water quality standards attainment preliminary information soon (Nov 2017). There is discussion of whether a press release is needed first.

Two wetlands indicators- wetlands restored on agricultural lands and the NOAA tidal wetland abundance indicator will be updated.

January will include new data for environmental literacy planning and MWEs, and March includes public access, fish passage, protected lands.

Peter added that Claire Buchanan with the BIBI (part of stream health) will be hosting a workshop regarding this the indicator.

On the timeline document, any outcome that has a color is on Chesapeake Progress. Those without a color are not tied to an outcome, and therefore not housed in Chesapeake Progress.

2:20-2:30 pm Report Out of Action Items (Melissa Merritt, 15 minutes)

Adjourn

Rescheduling the Status and Trends Meeting: Melissa will send out a poll.

Action: Laura will reach out to Carl about the examples of establishing performance expectations and goals for workgroups.

ACTION	LEAD
Send a poll to reschedule the December Status and Trends Meeting.	Melissa Merritt
Reach out to Carl about the examples of establishing performance expectations and goals for workgroups.	Laura Free

Participants

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