Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
October 18, 2018

DRAFT Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Oct. 22	Water Quality GIT conference call
Oct. 23-24	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership annual meeting (Shepherdstown, Wv.)
Oct. 29	Climate Resiliency Workgroup in-person meeting
Oct. 30	Goal Team Chairs Meeting
Nov. 8-9	Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Maryland)
Nov. 8-9	Fall 2018 Habitat GIT meeting (Berkeley Springs, Wv.)
Nov. 12	Water Quality GIT conference call
Nov. 13-14	STAC Workshop: Establishment of multifunctional riparian buffers (Harrisburg, Pa.)
Nov. 15	"Local Action" Quarterly Progress meeting
Nov. 29-30	Citizens' Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (DC metro area)
Nov. 29-30	Local Government Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (DC metro area)

Updates

Principals' Staff Committee: Conowingo WIP
On October 12, the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) approved the Conowingo WIP steering committee structure, guiding principles, and development priorities; however, the PSC did not reach a decision on the Conowingo WIP timeline. Instead, the PSC agreed to schedule a two-hour conference call to discuss and approve the timeline. The call will be scheduled within the next few weeks.
Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

Goal Implementation Team Funding Scoring Session
On September 20, the CBP Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Chairs held a special meeting to review, score and recommend proposals for projects that will be funded through specially designated GIT funding. Final approval of all projects is provided by the CBPO acting director.
Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

CBP Issues Best Management Practice Guide
In early August, the Chesapeake Bay Program released the Quick Reference Guide for Best Management Practices. The guide distills information about the Bay Program's hundreds of approved best management practices (BMPs) into fact sheets for farmers, landowners, planners, resource managers and conservation districts. The guide gives basic information about each of the Chesapeake Bay Program-approved BMPs and also explains how the seven Bay jurisdictions can receive credit for them in the Bay Program's Watershed Model. Knowing how BMPs are credited in the model is useful for state and local officials putting together Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs).
For more information: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/BMP-Guide_Full.pdf

CBP Reports Watershed-wide Progress toward Environmental Education Goals

Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C. have made marked progress toward their environmental education goals. Since 2015, school districts within these jurisdictions have reported a slight rise in their preparedness to put environmental education programs in place, as well as an increase in the number of schools that are operating sustainably and a steady level of curriculum-embedded opportunities for students to learn outside. According to the results of a 2017 Chesapeake Bay Program survey, almost one-quarter of responding school districts in the watershed-portion of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C., consider themselves well-prepared to deliver high-quality environmental literacy programming to their students. More than one-third of responding school districts indicate their students are engaged in field experiences and outdoor learning through the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEEs). More than 600 public and charter schools in these jurisdictions are certified sustainable.

For more information:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake_bay_program_reports_progress_toward_environmental_education

Oyster restoration now underway at eight tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay

Oyster restoration efforts across the Chesapeake Bay continued to grow in 2017. According to the latest oyster restoration updates from Virginia and Maryland, eight tributaries have now been selected for oyster reef restoration. The update reports, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office and the Chesapeake Bay Program, outline progress made in the two states to restore oyster reefs in ten Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Each of these tributaries are in varying levels of progress in a process that involves developing a tributary restoration plan, constructing and seeding reefs, and monitoring and evaluating restored reefs.

Three tributaries in Maryland are currently undergoing restoration: Harris Creek, the Little Choptank River and the Tred Avon River. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that two additional sites had been recommended for oyster restoration: the Manokin River and upper St. Mary's River. Initial restoration at Harris Creek was completed in 2015, making it the largest sanctuary oyster restoration project in the United States. The activities in the Maryland tributaries are recognized internationally for their large-scale restoration success. In Virginia, five tributaries have been selected for oyster restoration: the Great Wicomico River, the Lafayette River, the Lower York River, the Lynnhaven River and the Piankatank River. Currently 445 acres of reef are considered complete.
More information: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/state/oysters

Summer Rainfall Impact on the Chesapeake Bay

This summer has been a wet one for much of the Chesapeake Bay region. Pennsylvania saw its wettest July and August on record, and both Virginia and Maryland received much more rain than normal, with Maryland chalking up its second-wettest July. All of this led to the Bay receiving unusually high amounts of fresh water. The Susquehanna River, which normally contributes about half of the Bay's fresh water, reached record high flows, peaking in July at 375,000 cubic feet per second, the highest flow the river has seen since Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. Because of the high amount of water flowing down the Susquehanna, the Conowingo Dam's floodgates were opened multiple times, releasing debris that had built up behind its walls, including everything from tree trunks and branches to plastic bags and water bottles. The volume of debris was the largest in 20 years, according to Exelon, the owner of the dam, which reporting removing 1,800 tons of trash from behind the dam. Large amounts of sediment and nutrients were also delivered to the Bay during these high flows.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration CBIBS buoy system recorded significantly higher freshwater flows from the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers and other major tributaries, resulting in changes in the locations of fresh waters. Those changes could have wide-ranging impacts on the Bay's plant and animal life including adverse effects on shellfish, particularly oysters, as well as finfish, and SAV. The full impact of the effects of these high freshwater flows won't be known for several more months.

Bloede Dam Breached

On September 11, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources breached Bloede dam on the Patapsco River near Catonsville, Maryland. Bloede Dam was originally constructed in 1906 as a hydro-electric dam supplying power to nearby towns. However, the generators went offline in the early 1920s, despite the dam's innovative design. The structure sat out of commission for most of the last century, deteriorating and suffering damage beyond reasonable repair capabilities. Most of the interior equipment has been removed, leaving only the 26-and-a-half-foot dam wall to block the river. The unmoderated flow over this has created dangerous water conditions, causing at least nine swimming- and fall-related deaths since the 1980s. The height of the dam wall was an obstacle for migratory fish throughout the region. Multiple species of importance, including shad, herring and American eels have lifecycles that are split between freshwater in rivers of the watershed and saltier water of the Chesapeake Bay and the ocean. These migratory fish saw sharp declines in their populations when many dams were constructed around the turn of the century for use in industry. The dams block the movement of the fish from salt to freshwater and often disrupted access to spawning areas. Remnants of these dams throughout the region, most out of commission, continue to impact the populations of these species.

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

- Technical assistance delivery: On September 26, 2018 LGAC hosted an invitation-only Local Government Forum on "Filling Gaps to Advance WIP Implementation" in conjunction with their Fall quarterly LGAC meeting. Participants resoundingly supported LGAC's preliminary recommendations for improving technical assistance delivery to low capacity communities throughout the watershed. Recommendations will be finalized at the November LGAC meeting in Washington, DC and then presented to the Principals' Staff Committee. These recommendations are intended to inform jurisdiction's Phase III WIPs. For more information, please contact Mary Gattis or Monica Billig at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

- Roundtables: Members of LGAC will continue hosting roundtables with their peers in Pennsylvania and Virginia over the next couple months. These roundtables are being coordinated with PA DEP and VA DEQ respectively and are intended to better engage local decision makers in watershed protection and restoration.

- Next meeting and vacant seats: The next LGAC meeting will be held November 29-30, 2018 in Washington DC. LGAC seats remain open in Maryland (2) and New York (1).

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.

- September meeting: The Citizens Advisory Committee met in Richmond, VA on Sept 5-6. The theme of the meeting was innovative approaches to urban stormwater, combined sewage overflow systems and watershed restoration partnerships. The members heard presentations from the James River Association, the Mayor of Richmond, and the Richmond Department of Public Utilities' RVA H20 initiative. They toured the Waste Water Treatment and Collection Plant, a restored riverfront park, and a city middle school with a Green School Initiative. The members also discussed environmental priorities for Virginia, heard updates on the development of VA's local area planning goals in the WIPs, and learned about a local example of mitigation banking.

- CMC MOU: CAC sent a letter to the PSC in support of the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative MOU.

- Next meeting: The next CAC meeting will be on November 29-30 in Washington, DC.

- Leadership: CAC officers are Paula Jasinski (VA), CAC Chair and Matt Ehrhart (PA), Vice Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon dixonr@chesapeake.org or STAC Staff Annabelle Harvey harveya@chesapeake.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its third quarterly meeting of FY2018 on December 7, 2018 at a location TBD in Annapolis, MD. ***Note that this meeting date has changed from December 4-5, and has been reduced to a one-day meeting.** More information will be made available on the December meeting webpage.

Workshops:

On September 24-25, STAC hosted a workshop titled "Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0". This meeting facilitated a focused examination of the current results of the CBP's climate change modeling efforts, assess lessons-learned, and recommend next step – both for new and/or refined methods to be implemented by 2019, and future analyses. More information can be found here.

STAC is planning for four additional workshops in FY2018, listed here in order of anticipated date. Information regarding recent workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the workshop homepage.

1) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Barriers: How do we accelerate the path to 95,000+ acres with the greatest economic, social, and environmental impact? – **November 13-14, 2018 (Harrisburg, PA)**
2) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management – **January 16-17, 2019 (Annapolis, MD)*****NOTE: This date has changed (previously January 15-16)**
3) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals – **February 4-5, 2019**
4) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings

New Report:
STAC will be releasing a report on October 10, 2018 titled "Factors Influencing the Headwaters, Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions" that summarizes an April 2018 workshop. STAC activity reports can be found on the STAC publication page when available.

Upcoming Reports:
STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the STAC archived workshop homepage.

1) CBP Climate Change Modeling 2.0
2) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triblet' Connection
3) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
4) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
5) An Analytical Framework for Aligning CBP Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
6) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
7) Linking Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
8) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
9) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the review homepage or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup
The following indicators were updated since the September Management Board meeting:

Indicator	*Statement of Status/Progress*	*Link*
Average Air Temperature	Of the 33 climate divisions located within the watershed, 32 have experienced	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-

	statistically significant long-term increases in air temperature.	change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment
Change in high temperature Extremes	In our watershed, only one weather station has experienced a statistically significant increase in high temperature extremes since 1948.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment
Stream Temperature Change	79% percent of the 72 stream sites monitored between 1960 and 2014 experienced an increase in water temperature. Of these increases, more than half are considered statistically significant trends.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment
Change in Total Annual Precipitation	Of the 33 climate divisions located within our watershed, 32 experienced an increase in total annual precipitation between 1901 and 2017. Seven of these divisions—four of which are located in New York—experienced increases that can be considered statistically significant.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment
River Flood Frequency	Between 1965 and 2015, 71% of 47 stream sites in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia experienced an increase in the frequency of river floods. Because most of these stream sites experienced variation in flood size and frequency from year to year, experts do not consider these trends to be statistically significant.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment
River Flood Magnitude	Between 1965 and 2015, 72% of 47 stream sites in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia experienced an increase in the size of river floods. Because most of these stream sites experienced variation in flood size and frequency from year to year, experts do not consider these trends to be statistically significant.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment
Relative Sea Level Rise	Relative sea level has risen at all 7 long-term tide gauge stations. Between 1960 and 2017, sea level has increased between one-eighth of an inch and approximately one-sixth of an inch each year.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/climate-change/climate-monitoring-and-assessment

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Wetlands – 2016 and 2017 data (October)
- Forest Buffers – 2017 data (October)
- Protected Lands (October)

- Water Quality Standards Attainment (preliminary, without water clarity acres assessment) (October)
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment Loads and River Flow (October)

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Laura Drescher, 410-267-5713, drescher.laura@epa.gov

Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

- Executive Committee: In an effort to remain focused on priority issues for members, the Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee discussed "Envisioning Next Steps for Fisheries GIT" on the September monthly conference call. Participants identified several short-term issues to work on and a number of broader, long-term concepts to consider becoming more involved with in the future. The GIT will work with the Navy in upcoming months to provide information about users of a lower Chesapeake Bay telemetry receiver array that is scheduled to be removed in 2019, and currently used to track movements of endangered sturgeon and other species.

- GIT Funding: The Fisheries GIT jointly supported four proposals that were selected to receive GIT Funding, two of which were developed in collaboration with the Habitat GIT and one with the Water Quality GIT. Projects implemented will address nearshore oyster and seagrass restoration planning, a regional-scale fish habitat assessment, and hypoxia monitoring technology

- Indicators: Chesapeake Bay Program indicators for tracking progress towards Fisheries GIT outcomes were updated, specifically for oysters following the recent 2017 Maryland Oyster Restoration Update report release. The Fisheries GIT also discussed with Communications team the need to regularly maintain indicators for striped bass, Atlantic menhaden, and American shad, which are each remnants of previous Chesapeake Watershed Agreements.

- Biannual Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting: Planning is underway for the December 2018 Biannual Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting. Tentative plans are for the meeting to take place December 17-18, 2018 at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA. Oyster restoration and monitoring will be the main focus of the meeting.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

- Fall meeting: The Habitat GIT will hold its annual fall meeting Thursday, November 8 and Friday, November 9 at Cacapon State Park in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. The meeting will focus on

linking decision support tools and data with funding opportunities to implement habitat restoration/protection in shared priority areas. A draft agenda can be found here.

- STAC report: The final report of the STAC fish habitat workshop entitled *Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions* will be available for the October Management Board meeting. The workshop was held this past April in Richmond, Virginia. Comments on the draft report have been received from workshop participants and a revised draft will be going to STAC. A brief presentation on the report, recommendations and next steps will be given at the October Management Board meeting.

- Bloede Dam: Demolition of Bloede Dam near Catonsville, Md. started in September after more than a year of preparations. Bloede has been a safety hazard for many years and its removal is being celebrated as a success for humans and wildlife. Bloede is the third dam to be removed from the Patapsco since 2010 and will open over 65 miles of habitat to fish and provide enhanced recreation. The stream miles opened will count towards the Fish Passage outcome.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, hobaugh.paige@epa.gov

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held conference calls on September 10, September 24 and October 9. A subset of topics is included below:

- The WQGIT reviewed of revised management strategies and workplans for the following outcomes, as part of the Strategy Review System Process: 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs, Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring, Forest Buffers, Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention, and Toxic Contaminants Research. The final SRS materials for Forest Buffers, Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention, and Toxic Contaminants Research outcomes were approved by the WQGIT on October 9. The 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs and Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring SRS materials will be reviewed and finalized by the WQGIT through October and November 2018.
- The WQGIT was briefed on final results of 2025 forecasted land use conditions.
- The WQGIT was briefed on new approaches and tools for targeting sediment sources and management actions
- WQGIT revisions to the climate resiliency narrative use in the Phase III WIPs, and recommended Management Board approval of the narrative revisions.
- Jurisdictional representatives briefed the WQGIT on development of local planning goals in preparation for presentation of local planning goals to the PSC in late fall 2018.
- The WQGIT was briefed on a new data dashboard developed to support Phase III WIP planning, implementation, and local decision-making.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on October 22. A subset of planned topics is included below:

- The WQGIT will be briefed on the use of CAST in creating implementation scenarios that reflect needs for effectiveness, implementation efficiency and co-benefits.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on model runs and map products in development to communicate segment-shed expectations for Phase III WIP development and implementation purposes.
- The WQGIT will be asked to approve the draft SRS progress presentation and proposed indicator for the Tree Canopy outcome and management strategy.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team september

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.

- Preliminary watershed health assessment: The Healthy Watersheds Goal Team is busy working with Tetra Tech to finalize the data collection phase of the Preliminary Watershed Health Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They have compiled dozens of regional and bay specific datasets to help inform watershed health and vulnerability characteristics. The core planning team will be meeting with a larger advisory team later in October to review preliminary results and obtain feedback.

- Conserved lands project: Phase III of the Healthy Watersheds TMDL Forest/Conserved Lands project is well underway. Key project leads are meeting with CBP staff in early October to review the project timeline and assure the process and deliverables related to Task 1 (Working with Essex County VA to develop and implement plans policies and ordinances intended to foster high quality forest and agricultural and retention) and Task 2 (developing long term funding mechanisms to incentivize private capital to invest in land conservation) are well aligned with current CBP modeling efforts related to “conservation plus” land change forecasting scenarios.

- SRS prep: The GIT has begun facilitating the SRS review preparations for the Land Use Methods and Metric Outcome (in partnership with the Land Use Work Group) and the Land Use Options Evaluation outcome set to come before the MB in November.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@chesapeakebay.net

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.

- Education Workgroup: The Education Workgroup met in Annapolis on July 13th to review actions in the 2018-19 workplan and engaged them in the implementation of this work. The

group also received a progress update from the team working on the online MWEE training (FY17 GIT Funding Project).

- Citizen Stewardship Workgroup: The Citizen Stewardship Workgroup met in Annapolis on July 30th to identifying existing resources and determined what additional efforts would be needed to accomplish the 2018-2019 workplan actions. Workgroup members self-selected subgroups that will further target efforts in doing so.

- Stewardship Online Tool: A subcommittee from the Citizen Stewardship Workgroup along with staff from the CBP Web and Communications Teams met with contractor Green Fin to lay out expectations and assign roles for developing the Stewardship Online Tool (FY17 GIT Funding Project) and will be meeting next in late summer/early fall to begin the design phase of the project.

- GIT funding proposals: The Stewardship GIT submitted three proposals for FY18 GIT funding, one of which would be a cross GIT collaboration between Healthy Watersheds and Stewardship.
    - Stewardship GIT projects:
        - Scenic Resources Impact Assessment Tool/Methodology (Land Conservation Goal)
        - Quantify and Support BMP Installations and Restoration at Schools to Contribute Directly to Bay Restoration Goals (Environmental Literacy Goal)
    - Cross GIT project between healthy watersheds and stewardship:
        - Development of Improved Methodology for Data Collection of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Indicator

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

GIT 6 in-person meeting

GIT 6 will have its annual in-person meeting September 18-19 in Hershey, PA. Agenda topics include evaluation and adaptive management and enhancing/improving the partnership's functionality.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The SRS Planning Team is planning the 2019 Biennial SRS meeting. The tentative dates for this meeting will be two consecutive days between March 11-14 2019; the tentative location for this meeting is Richmond, VA. The planning team will bring additional details to Management Board for review and approval in late 2018/early 2019.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found under the "Project and Resources" section of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.
Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY2018 GIT Funding

The EPA funded 13 projects for a total of $855,100 in the FY2018 round of GIT Funding project selection. GIT and project technical leads are working with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop robust scopes of work for each of these projects. Scopes of work will be submitted to the Trust in early November, and an RFP will be released in December 2018 (with a second release planned for early January 2019).
Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup
The Local Leadership Workgroup has been undertaking a "reconstitution of the workgroup," in a effort to reinvigorate the membership prior to the Local Leadership outcome review by the Management Board (November 2018). The workgroup is holding a meeting at the Chesapeake Bay Program on October 11, 2018, where workgroup members will discuss and agree on priorities for the next 2-year work plan. The next planned meeting will take place in Laurel, DE in March 2019, and will be a joint meeting between the workgroup and the Local Government Advisory Committee (tentative).
Contact: Jennifer Starr, jstarr@allianceforthebay.org

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team

The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.

Status and Trends Workgroup
Next Status and Trends workgroup meeting will be on Oct 10th from 10 am to 12 pm.

Data Integrity Workgroup
Data Integrity Workgroup quarterly meeting was held on June 21 at Chesapeake Bay Laboratories, Solomons, MD, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found here. During this meeting, Elgin Perry presented his teams work on a new software package that has been developed to visualize water quality data trends that is currently being used by all jurisdictions. There was an additional discussion on the new MDL directive and its implementation by all the Chesapeake Bay Analytical Labs. Bruce Michael addressed the group on the 2018 Hypoxia Report, Phase III WIP status, and progress on the Conowingo Dredging Project. Mike Mallonee and Melissa Merritt presented the Split Sample and USGS Reference Sample study results. New ways to present historic data was also discussed. Next Workgroup meeting will be in October in Annapolis.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup
Next Workgroup meeting will be on October 29.

STAR
STAR and its workgroups have been involved in collaborating sampling efforts and synthesizing information on the recent high flow events to the bay and the potential impacts on SAV, living resources and wildlife habitats in the Chesapeake Bay. During September 27th STAR meeting, Peter Tango presented updated information on the high flow to the during Summer 2018 and influence of Florence. The information has been widely reported in media and the CBP did a blog to summarize the findings. Scott Phillips shared with STAR the request of the MB on prioritizing science needs. STAR, STAC, and the

Goal Teams agreed they should work together to prioritize science needs and present recommendations to the MB in 2019. A map of the most recent Lidar collection was presented and next steps for STAR to request new Lidar were discussed. An investigation of the relationship between TSS and oyster biomass in the Choptank by Ron Vogel was presented and received feedback from STAR. Aaron Bever and Marjy Friedrichs presented a new method to estimate hypoxic volume by using two strategically vertical profilers. Next STAR meeting will be on October 25th, 2018.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is working to support the partnership's WIP3s while making progress on the completion of the Phase 6 and WQSTM model documentation. The CBP Modeling Team is also actively working to complete, by the close of 2019, a fully operational model assessment system of the influence climate change has on Chesapeake water quality. The last Modeling Workgroup conference call was held on September 11th, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found here**.** On September 24th and 25th, CBP modeling team received feedback and recommendations from experts on CBP climate change modeling and assessment and meeting materials can be found here. The next Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Review will be held on October 16th and 17th.

CAP Workgroup

The Criteria Assessment Protocol WG met on June 19th to review the status and recommended updates to the James River Chlorophyll a (CHLA) criteria. The work summarized by VADEQ takes into account the recently completed four-year water quality study providing the best available science in support of setting quantitative chlorophyll a criteria protective of the open water designated use for tidal waters of the James River. Options for improving the CHLA monitoring protocols were discussed and remain under evaluation and review. VADEQ is determining the final timeline involved in completing the review and adoption of the proposed criteria and protocols.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. The purpose of these webinars is to communicate management-relevant research findings to the CBP Partnership's natural resource managers. August, September, and October presentation topics:
    - A synthesis of patterns in estuarine water clarity, with insights for nutrient and sediment management (Jeni Keisman, USGS and Carl Friedrichs, VIMS)
    - Targeting CREP buffers and wetland restoration to maximize water quality benefits (Kathy Boomer, TNC)
    - BMP Implementation: Integrating cost-effectiveness and co-benefits with nutrient efficiency (Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting, Inc)

Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information

STAR Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive

branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

Communications Workgroup:

- Monthly meeting: The Communications Workgroup held our monthly meeting on October 3. We coordinated shared messaging around four events in October: Seafood Month; National Farmer's Day (October 12); the anniversary of the Clean Water Act (October 18); and Halloween (October 31). In addition, Cailtyn Johnstone introduced a new action team focused on contributing to the user guide for the Bay Program's Fish Consumption Advisory project.

- WIP III Local Engagement Action Team: The action team had their first meeting on October 1. Members shared their organizations' various strategies and efforts around the Phase III WIPs and discussed the different expertise they can each bring to the table. The next call will be a deeper dive into the needs and challenges that members are facing. The Forest Buffer Communications Action Team will be having its first meeting in the near future.

- Workgroup chair: Catherine Krikstan, our workgroup chair, is moving on from the Bay Program to a new opportunity at NOAA. Our vice-chair, Deb Klenotic with Pennsylvania DEP, has agreed to take over the chair position early and will begin in November.

Communications Office and Web Team:

- The Chesapeake Bay Program/Businesses for the Bay webinar on Engaged Communities was held on September 25. The final webinar in the series, on Conserved Lands, will be held November 6.
- The Second Annual Sportsmen's Forum was held in Pennsylvania on October 5. Conservationists and sportsmen discussed shared goals in areas such as land conservation, prescribed burning, fish and wildlife habitat restoration and more.

- The Festival del Rio Anacostia will be held the weekend of October 13. The Bay Program will be part of a demonstration of ways to cook fish that limit contaminants.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in September:

- Chesapeake Bay Program releases best management practice guide: New guide explains conservation practices and how they impact modeling water quality in the Bay
- Good for business, good for the Bay: How Businesses for the Bay contributes to a healthier environment
- A boat built for the Bay: Annual Skipjack Race and Festival honors a uniquely Chesapeake boat
- Breaching Bloede Dam: Dam removal will eliminate danger for humans, improve habitat for wildlife
- When green jobs training leads to more than a paycheck: An immersive Maryland program prepares workers for careers in sustainability
- Keeping an eye on the storm: Monitoring program to measure the impact of Hurricane Florence on an already waterlogged region

- The best ways to manage pollution: Best management practices benefit your community, local waterways and the Bay
- Boldly going where oysters can't: New restoration efforts are boosting freshwater mussels for their ecosystem benefits
- Fresh water in the Bay meddles with nettles: High rainfalls have led to fewer jellyfish in the Bay
- What this summer's rainfall could mean for the Bay: Record-high water flows test the Bay's resilience
- Oyster restoration now underway at eight tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay: Maryland, Virginia report continued progress toward meeting the oyster outcome under the Watershed Agreement
- A community telling its own story: "Anacostia Unmapped 2.0" helps change the narrative around a southeast D.C. neighborhood
- Iconic critters of the Chesapeake: Meet some of your animal neigh

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Recent Meetings and Events

Sept. 18-19	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT in person meeting (Hershey, Pa.)
Sept 20	GIT Chairs' GIT Funding Scoring meeting
Sept. 20	Agriculture Workgroup in person meeting (Georgetown, De.)
Sept 21	WCOG Water Quality Forum
Sept. 24	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference call
Sept. 24-25	STAC Workshop: Climate Change Modeling 2.0
Sept. 26	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
Sept. 26-27	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Winchester, Va.)
Sept. 27	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
Oct. 3	Forestry Workgroup conference call
Oct. 10	Status and Trends quarterly meeting
Oct. 12	Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Annapolis)