



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
August 10, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

- Aug 17 Agriculture Workgroup Face-to-Face Meeting
- Aug. 18 Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) meeting
- Aug 24 STAR Team Meeting
- Aug 29 Quarterly GIT Chairs Meeting
- Aug 30 Summer 2017 Education Workgroup Meeting
- Sept. 7-8 Citizen Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
- Sept. 7-8 CBC Quarterly Meeting

Updates

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Outcomes and Phase 3 WIPs

The Management Board agreed during the July meeting to form a small action team to assess which outcomes should be included in a combined set of WIP communication materials for taking to local governments for consideration in the Phase III WIPs. Current volunteers include: Nicki Kasi, Zoe Johnson, Kristin Saunders, Jim Edward, James Davis-Martin, Greg Barranco Rachel Felver, Jennifer Greiner, Gina Hunt, Zoe Johnson, Reggie Parrish, Lucinda Power, and Renee Thompson. Nicki Kasi agreed to summarize the discussion and write up a straw proposal for how the outcomes could be incorporated in a consistent manner. Once the action team is approved, Nicki will convene the action team to work on issues identified in her summary submitted to the Management Board.

Contact: Nicki Kasi, (717) 772-4053, vbkasi@pa.gov

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.

LGAC Member Seats

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in New York and Virginia.

Local Government Engagement Initiative

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, is working closely with staff in all of the jurisdictions as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Communications Office staff to enhance local government engagement in Phase III WIP development. There was an Initiative conference call on July 17th from 10:30 to noon. The group focused discussion on effectively building networks to engage local governments. Jurisdictions discussed their engagement planning and implementation strategies. LGAC Chair Bruce Williams will represent LGAC at the Maryland Association of Counties August Summer Conference and facilitate a discussion entitled “What Will We See in Phase III? A Bay TMDL Update” with a panel consisting of MD Secretary Ben Grumbles, EPA CBP Director Nick DiPasquale and Prince Georges County Director Adam Ortiz

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Upcoming Meeting

LGAC’s next meeting will be October 5-6 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia.

Contact: Mary or Jennifer Starr, jstarr@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.

The Alliance has hired a new CAC assistant, Adam Bray, who will work closely with Jessica in the Richmond office supporting the Citizens Advisory Committee.

An Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay appointment to CAC, Christy Everett, is ending her term as a CAC member to serve as a gubernatorial appointee on the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Christy Everett is the Hampton Roads Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The VMRC manages recreational and commercial fishing, including oyster and crab harvesting, and habitat management. The Alliance Board will be seeking a replacement for Christy.

CAC member, Joe Maroon the Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment, funded and co-presented to CAC the polling results from the Christopher Newport University’s Wason Center for Public Policy on a 2017 poll of environmental public opinion in Virginia. The findings were that overall Virginians perceive the environment is improving; the most important environmental issue is protecting drinking water; there is strong support for continuing the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay; and that tax payers are willing to pay more for clean water and clean air when they can see positive results of how the money is being spent.

CAC’s next quarterly meeting will be held in Pennsylvania on September 7-8.

To be added to CAC’s Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2017 on September 12-13, 2017 at the Westin Annapolis Hotel. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org.

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting the following six workshops in FY2017, listed here in order of anticipated dates (confirmed dates in bold). Planning is underway for all six activities.

- 1) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design – **September 7-8, 2017**
- 2) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 3) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 4) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop – **January 17-19, 2018**
- 5) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 6) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions

FY16 Workshops

STAC hosted four workshops so far in 2017. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. Information regarding each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) – **March 29-30, 2017**
- 2) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads – **April 24-25, 2017**
- 3) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change – **March 28 (Blue Crab), April 25 (Submerged aquatic vegetation), April 26 (Oysters)**
- 4) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters – **February 6-7, 2017 (Part I), May 2-3, 2017 (Part II)**

Recent Reports

STAC recently distributed the following two review reports. All reports (as available) can be found on the [STAC publication page](#).

STAC released a report entitled “STAC Criteria Addendum Review: Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries: 2017 Technical Addendum” on July 19, 2017. The report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/375_Friedrichs2017.pdf

STAC will be releasing a report entitled “Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Peer Review of Revised Proposal for James River Chlorophyll-*a* Criteria” on August 4, 2017. This report will be available on the STAC website after 8/4. This new report outlines the findings of a follow-up effort from a STAC review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation completed in October 2016 – that report available [here](#).

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 three review activities currently in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. These STAC-sponsored reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment.

- 1) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

The panel are finalizing their review of the remaining two questions, focusing on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill. A final report outlining all of the panel’s recommendations for the Phase 6 model is on track to be completed in early August.

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

The review panel convened on June 5-6 to discuss the material to be reviewed with CBP representatives. The panel’s review will be wrapping up over the next month, with a goal to assemble a report of their findings by late August.

- 3) CBP Partnership’s Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

STAC received the official review request from STAR’s Climate Resiliency Workgroup on the approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Mid-point Assessment in late June. A panel has being formed and are proceeding ahead with the review. This review will take place over the next two months.

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 June Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Forest Cover	Today, our most recent data show that 57 percent of the watershed—about 24 million acres—is forested.	http://www.chesapeakebay.net/strate/tree_cover

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

- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (Summer 2017)
- Adult Striped Bass Abundance and Fishery Management (August 2017)
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (tidal segments achieving water quality standards and USGS assessment of monitored nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads)
- Toxic Contaminants (Summer 2017)
- Student MWEE* (Summer 2017)
- Planting Forest Buffers (Summer 2017)

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 Free, 410-267-5713, free.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.

The Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services [2017 Research Update](#) was published in July 2017. This document details the preliminary results from research projects aimed at quantifying ecosystem benefits provided by restored oyster reefs.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force is holding an Invasive Catfish Symposium in the fall to discuss the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery. Topics will include population dynamics, movement and habitat use, diet, and harvest.

The Fish Habitat Action Team met to evaluate their previous workplan and assess what actions should be removed, modified, or added to their new draft workplan in order to progress towards the Fish Habitat Outcome in the next two years.

The Fish and Habitat GITs successfully competed for a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) sponsored workshop for fiscal year 2017. The workshop will help fill scientific and technical gaps

in understanding of fish habitat. The steering committee held their second planning meeting on August 1 and will follow up through preparing pre-materials and arranging logistics.

- *"Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions"* will be coordinated by Gina Hunt (MD DNR), Mark Monaco (NOAA) and Donna Bilkovic (VIMS) to evaluate and determine the significance of factors influencing habitat function for a range of representative species across Chesapeake Bay habitats.

Contact: Kara Skipper; kara.skipper@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.

Strategy Review System

The Habitat Goal Implementation Team and Workgroups will present outcome achievements, challenges, and requests to the Management Board during the Strategy Review System meeting on August 10th. The SAV Workgroup will ask for assistance from the Budget & Finance Workgroup in securing funding for the SAV monitoring program and public and political support to promote the benefits of SAV. SAV Workgroup Chairs Brooke Landry and Rebecca Golden (MD DNR) led the workgroup's SRS efforts.

Stream Health Workgroup

A committee within the Stream Health Workgroup has formed to resolve issues with permitting of restoration projects. The group is seeking additional representation from states and regulatory agencies, particularly USACE, EPA, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Please contact hobaugh.paige@epa.gov if your jurisdiction or agency is lacking representation.

Nature's Network

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.

Fall Meeting

The Habitat GIT is planning their Fall meeting for mid-November 2017 in Virginia to discuss WIP and local government communications strategies, updates to biennial workplans, and reporting on ongoing GIT projects. If any organization located in Virginia is willing to host, please contact Hobaugh.paige@epa.gov.

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 July 10 and 24.

- The WQGIT was briefed on a preliminary cost-benefit analysis for land-based options to address Conowingo phosphorus inflow.
- The WQGIT continued to address submitted fatal flaw comments on the phase 6 suite of modeling tools.
- The WQGIT was briefed on results from water quality monitoring in the Choptank watershed, and implications for implementing Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the current draft E3 scenario definitions for agriculture in the phase 6 model.
- The WQGIT approved four priority projects to be submitted for the 2017 round of GIT funding projects (in order of highest to lowest priority): Integrating Modeling, Monitoring and Trends Analyses to Inform Management Decisions; Crafting Guidance for Enhanced Treatment by Roadside Ditch Management Practices; Feasibility Study for Voluntary Phase-out of PCBs in current use; Quantifying Atmospheric Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Deposition in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on August 14 and 28. A subset of planned topics include:

- Following the Agriculture Workgroup meeting on August 17, on August 28 the WQGIT will approve the Agriculture Workgroup's recommendations to adopt a time frame for modeling soil phosphorus load reductions in the model.
- Following the Agriculture Workgroup meeting on August 17, on August 28 the WQGIT will approve the Agriculture Workgroup recommendation to adopt the revised E3 and No action draft scenarios in the phase 6 watershed model.
- Resolution of submitted fatal flaw comments on the phase 6 watershed model. The comment period closed on July 31, and comments submitted will be addressed and resolved during August.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the results of the latest analysis of additional nutrient and sediment loads from the Conowingo inflow.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on key model changes in transitioning between the phase 5.3.2 and phase 6 suite of modeling tools.
- The WQGIT will review the draft agenda and key decisional items for the upcoming September 25-26 Face to Face meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the results of the latest climate change analysis and preliminary options for incorporating climate change considerations in Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on very early preliminary draft phase III WIP planning targets for WQGIT discussion and feedback.

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

Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

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.

The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT currently has an RFP out for a FY16 GIT funding project, "The Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessments for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed". This project will apply EPA's Healthy Watersheds Assessment Framework to develop an approach for characterizing the health of watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay, thereby supporting the MHWGIT in tracking progress towards the Healthy Watersheds Outcome. Further, this project will assess vulnerabilities in healthy watersheds to help target management efforts.

The MHWGIT will also be submitting a proposal for a FY17 GIT funding project. The project will be the third phase of the "Healthy Watersheds TMDL Forest Retention" project. This phase will test intra-basin credit trading mechanisms described in the Phase 2 Final Report, and will provide training to local officials to implement toolbox elements that were also identified and described in the Phase 2 Final Report.

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.

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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The SRS team is continuing to collect feedback in order to refine and strengthen the SRS process and Quarterly Progress Meeting materials. SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can now be found under "Project and Resources" of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

As a reminder, the SRS "small group" began informally during summer 2016 as the process was beginning to be defined. A group of individuals volunteered to develop and refine the details of the SRS. As the SRS process progressed and the need for assistance grew, the small group decided to select a coordinator during summer 2017. The group continues to be transparent and open to all interested parties. As GITs and their associated workgroups work through the SRS process, they are encouraged to request assistance from the SRS team.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

SRS "Small Group" Participants: Dave Goshorn (Chair), Laura Free (Coordinator), Emily Freeman (Staffer), Laurel Abowd (Staffer), Carin Bisland, Doreen Vetter, Greg Barranco, Kristin Saunders, Greg Allen, Catherine Krikstan, Carl Hershner, Kirk Havens

GIT Funding

GIT 6 leadership has received project proposals from all interested CBP Goal Team and/or workgroups, and is working with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to solicit external peer review comments. Goal Team Chairs, Coordinators and Staffers will meet on August 29 to review and rank all proposals, and Goal Team Chairs will select the final list of projects to be submitted to the CBP Director by September 5.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Workgroup has submitted a proposal through the GIT Funding process to host a one-day financing forum, to include representatives from all GITs and outcomes, where financial experts will be present to assist GIT/outcome leads in working through development of financing strategies. The proposal also includes providing access to financial experts for some follow up on work started during the forum.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

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.

SRS Scientific Needs in advance of August Management Board Meeting

At the last STAR meeting, a representative from each outcome: blue crab abundance, blue crab management, oysters, forage fish, and SAV, provided their SRS Biennial Review presentation, incorporating cross-GIT mapping, planned for the August Management Board meeting. Participants at the STAR meeting provided constructive feedback on each presentation.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

The CRWG is currently working on developing Climate Resiliency Indicators for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This is a project from GIT funding to help track indicators that relate to climate and the 2014 Bay Agreement. The current phase of this project is to compile lists of potential indicators and data sources in terms of three indicator types: physical climate trends, ecological and societal response, and programmatic progress towards resilience. For more information, and to provide feedback, see the [presentation given at a recent STAR meeting](#).

A "[Climate-Smart Toxic Contaminants Workshop](#)" on July 31 - August 1, 2017 was held at the UMCES IAN Annapolis Office. The workshop was facilitated by Tetra Tech, the lead for the Chesapeake Bay Program's Climate Resiliency Analysis Matrix project. This two-day workshop was a hands-on event, focused on applying the "Matrix" to Chesapeake Bay Program's Toxic Contaminants Management Strategy.

MODELING WORKGROUP

The Watershed Model Phase 6 draft final version fatal flaw review will be ongoing through June and July with a resolution of any fatal flaw issues scheduled for the month of August. The CAST [website](#) has also been finalized, and is available for users to develop scenarios to manage nutrient and sediment reductions. The WQSTM will be calibrated to the June 1 Phase 6 Watershed Model loads and the calibration is to be completed in August, with an interim calibration ready by early July. Plans are also underway to finalize STAC

reviews of the CBP modeling framework including the approach to simulation of Conowingo infill and climate change in both the watershed and estuarine models. The next Modeling Workgroup Quarterly will be on August 9 and will review the latest WQSTM calibration in detail. A draft agenda has been posted to the [meeting webpage](#). All webinars for the review of the Phase 6 model have been completed and posted under the projects tab of the [Modeling Workgroup webpage](#).

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.

The Communications Workgroup hosted its summer retreat on July 11 in Richmond, Virginia. In the morning, they learned about polling and behavior change, with a specific emphasis on the Bay Program's forthcoming Citizen Stewardship Index. They also learned about recent polling done for the Choose Clean Water Coalition on residents' attitudes toward water in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and another poll conducted by Christopher Newport University on Virginians' attitudes about the environment. In the afternoon, they worked on creating messages around the Stewardship Index and brainstormed actions for a two-year work plan for the Communications Workgroup.

Caitlyn Johnstone, CBP Outreach Coordinator, joined members of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Pennsylvania office to host a [hunters and anglers](#) listening session at Stroud Water Research Center on July 19.

In August, the Communications Office will send out press releases about the updated pollution and water quality standards attainment data, as well as the NFWF Stewardship Fund grant awards. They also expect to release the Citizen Stewardship Index (which tracks progress toward the Citizen Stewardship Outcome) in the fall.

The new and improved [chesapeakebay.net](#) has been launched! Creating the new site involved a tremendous amount of hard work and collaboration between the Web and Communications teams (and many others). While the new site maintains much of the structure and function of the previous site, we have made enhancements based on user research and staff recommendations. These improvements include:

- Mobile-friendly web design
- Improved navigation
- Better team pages
- Enhanced calendar
- New content (State of the Chesapeake)

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

July 25-26 Modeling WG Quarterly Meeting

July 27 STAR Team Meeting

Aug. 1 Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Meeting

Aug. 2 Land Use Workgroup Meeting