**March 2012 Communications Workgroup, 3/8/2012**

1. **Round Robin Updates**
2. **Tom Wenz, US EPA**
* EPA is holding Public Forums on WIPS throughout the states: EPA reps going to forums
* Maryland WIP Forums are over
* Friday (tomorrow): NFWF watershed implementation demonstration/press event at Marvin Gaye Park (Anacostia River)
* Next Tuesday: NFWF Local Government Assistance Program announcement in Havre de Grace
* Video: City of Havre de Grace/Siemens just updated their wastewater treatment plant. <http://www.water.siemens.com/en/videos/wastewater-treatment/Pages/chesapeake-bay-water.aspx>
1. **Josh, Maryland DNR**
* Currently working on a lot of legislative press
* New videos posted at: Youtube.com/statemaryland: new video about Governer’s goals, including Bay restoration: get out through social media
1. **Mike Land, CBPO/National Park Service**
* Working with park service to build mobile app for visiting Chesapeake Bay region; launched June
* New website for Star Spangled banner national historic trail in conjunction with bicentennial (June)
* Re-developing Bay Journal website
1. **Greg Barranco, US EPA**
* EC Meeting, June in Lancaster
* Thank you to everyone for Communications Update for PSC meeting
1. **Amy Pelsinsky, University of Md. Center of Environmental Science (UMCES)**
* Amy is fairly new to UMCES and new to the group, Welcome!
1. **Alicia Pimental, CBPO/Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**
* Keeping new website maintained; check out new blog/video features
1. **Rick Keister, Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)/Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**
* National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to offer assistance to local governments in WIPs
* Public Information Campaign/Communications Effort: LGAC wants to make local governments more aware of the WIPs. Ongoing effort to offer them technical assistance, general information, etc. about Watershed Implementation Plans. For more information on how to be involved with this effort, contact Rick
1. **Gary Waugh, Va. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation**
* Plant more Plants Campaign will have funding to do advertising in the fall
* This spring, Plant more Plants will work with retail centers to get their message out
1. **Samantha Kappalman, Maryland Dept. of the Environment**
* Last Md. public WIP meeting Monday at MDE in Baltimore
* Video conferencing WIP forum allowed participants from all over the state to interact
* Maryland National Groundwater Awareness Week (look for in Social Media)
1. **Molly Mullins, Chesapeake Bay Trust**
* Watershed Assistance (Md. DNR) and Green Streets Green Jobs Green Towns Grants (EPA) closing tomorrow
* Closing Chesapeake Conservation Corps host applications (third year of program) for nonprofit organizations
1. **Donnelle Keech, Nature Conservancy**
* Donnelle is new to the group; she works on GIT 4 (Healthy Watersheds) Communications Workgroup
* Update on Goal Team 4 (Healthy Watersheds): STAC workshop in Buckeystown Md.: how healthy watersheds improve water quality
1. **Leila Mitchell, Ny. Dept of Environment**
* Finalizing WIPs
1. **Nita Sylvester, US EPA**
2. **GIT-Liasion for Communications Workgroup**
3. **What is the role of a GIT Liaison?**
	1. A GIT-Liasion can offer communications/public relations perspective to the GITs’ policymakers and scientists who may not have expertise in communicating or relating to the public.
	2. They can also update the Communications Workgroup on the GITs’ communications priorities (i.e. if they would like to let people know about an upcoming event or project, have an idea for a blog feature, etc.)
4. **Who are the GIT liaisons?** See Page 2 of meeting document for list of potential liasions for GITs:
	1. Fisheries: Kim Coranz, Josh Davidsburg
	2. Habitat: Josh Davidsburg, can help with this GIT if Kim ends up doing GIT 1
	3. Water Quality: Tom Wenz, Samantha Kappalman
	4. Healthy Watersheds: Donnelle Keech
	5. Stewardship: Cindy Chance (NPS), Mike Land can also step into this role
	6. No GIT Liaison necessary
5. **How often should GIT liaisons attend Communications Workgroup meetings?** GIT liaisons can attend Communications Workgroup meetings regularly, as needed, to update the workgroup; identify the GIT’s communication priorities

D. Inter-workgroup communications

- Suggestion: Margaret's issue calendar can be posted to the Comm Workgroup site. This will let members know what press releases are coming up