



Joint STAR Coordinator/Staffer Meeting for 8-23-12

Attendance:

- Tim Wilke, CRC/Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management Team Staffer
- Greg Allen, US EPA/Partnering GIT Coordinator
- Mike Mason, US EPA
- Hannah Martin, CRC/Habitat GIT Staffer
- Sarah Brinzinski, CRC/Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT Staffer
- Beth Zinecker, Chesapeake Stat
- Mark Trice for Bruce Michael, MD DNR
- Katie Foreman, UMCES
- Jennifer Greiner, USFWS/Habitat GIT Coordinator
- Anna Stuart Burnett, CRC/Healthy Watersheds GIT Staffer
- Carin Bisland, US EPA/Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management Team Vice-Chair
- Bruce Vogt, NOAA/Fisheries GIT
- Nita Sylvester, US EPA/Indicators Coordinator
- Carl Hershner, VIMS/Decision Framework Implementation Workgroup Chair
- Mike Fritz, US EPA/Healthy Watersheds GIT Coordinator
- Margaret Enloe, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Molly Harrington, CRC/Water Quality GIT Staffer
- Jeremy Hanson, CRC/Water Quality GIT Staffer
- John Wolf, USGS
- Peter Tango, USGS/STAR Coordinator
- Mark Bennett, USGS/STAR Vice-Chair

Event page:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18625/>

MINUTES & SUMMARY:

Deadlines:

- Next decision framework & GIT goal statements update to MB will be at the 9-13-12 meeting.

Supporting/Guiding GITs and Engaging STAR in the Balance of the Decision Framework Implementation – Carl Hershner (Decision Framework Implementation Workgroup Chair):

Carl Hershner led the discussion in developing a strategy for supporting/guiding the GITs and engaging STAR in the balance of the Decision Framework. STAR and GIT Staffers and Coordinators engaged in the discussion of “How and where STAR can assist the GITs in their implementation of the Decision Framework?”

STAR’s Role:

- STAR will help assist GITs through mentoring and by providing any necessary models or analysis necessary for the Decision Framework and Adaptive Management process. (data mining, etc.)
- STAR will reach out to non-traditional partners and tap into monitoring programs that already exist such as universities, federal agencies, etc to aid GITs.
- It was suggested to have joint Staffer/Coordinator meetings with STAR once a quarter to check in with GITs regarding decision framework progress.
 - We can use this Staffer/Coordinator STAR forum as a way to “check” goals and search for holes and provide friendly assistance to goal teams.

Decision Framework Next Steps:

- During the second stage of the DF process the GITs will be setting performance expectations. This is the section where you define what you will be evaluating.
- It is critical to be explicit in your goal statements in order to monitor and assess it accurately
- There is no magic characteristic. You don’t need a single parameter, index, etc. You can have multiple parameters but you need to convince others that what you have chosen to monitor is sufficient to address our progress with goals.
- The 3rd part of the adaptive management process will spell out the management practices that actually get us to the outcome.
- GITs must make sure their E.O. goals are on track.
- Extract a performance expectation from each goal.
- GITs and their DF mentors need to organize workgroup level unique factors and source sectors. Several workgroups can go further to identify the unique factors impacting their goals, and outline the current and future planned management actions.
- The goals need to be set when Phase II is done, so MB and PSC can turn away from the WIPs and states and turn more toward the direction of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Continued Development of Decision Framework:

- The new PSC chair Christophe Tulou is very interested and excited in implementing the decision framework and chairing the PSC and involving them with this process.
- At the next MB meeting on Sept 13 we will bring another GIT Goal Statement update to them and expect a long discussion that will result in actions and comment on the current articulation of the goals even if they are draft.
- Carl: The main tenants of the presentation are 1.) Improving Bay Program Accountability and 2.) Adaptive Management.
- If you're going to be accountable as a program and engage at adaptive management at some point then you will need a decision framework present....helps answer NAS reports and GAO
- To make informed decisions we have to be explicit of our goals and what we want to accomplish.
- STAR exists to perform these sorts of tasks (the big 2 – accountability & adaptive management) and STAR performs the data mining, creating, and analysis within the bay program. STAR is a great resource for the adaptive management program.
- During the second stage of the DF process the GITs will be setting performance expectations. This is the section where you define what you will be evaluating.
- It is critical to be explicit in your goal statements in order to monitor and assess it accurately.
- Outcomes are normally environmental quality...understanding...etc....they are much harder to establish and describe a descriptive parameter.
- There is no magic characteristic. You don't need a single parameter, index, etc...you can have multiple....but you need to convince others that what you have chosen to monitor is sufficient to address our progress with goals.
- The 3rd part of the adaptive management process will spell out the management practices that actually get us to the outcome.
- This stage of the process will answer monitoring questions such as – How is the system responding? How do we determine how to fix it? How do we monitor ourselves to ensure these questions are being addressed?
- Mike Mason/Scott Phillips: STAR tries to reach out to non-traditional partners and tap into monitoring programs that already exist such as universities, federal agencies, etc.
- Adaptive management will force us to be willing to adopt outcomes which will help us stay on track.
- State how and when you think a system will respond and set goals and expected results when planning for monitoring programs.
- If you're going to take an action there needs to be some thought that it will make a difference. You should state if something is a educated guess and state the degree of uncertainly.
- Extract a performance expectation from each goal.
- Carl: One of the things that motivates the bay program to do this is to track our past work and past steps. This new process will help with that.

- All these evaluations point out problems we already know, which is why an adaptive management program should help us better address these problems that we see coming.
- We will continue to be audited in the future...so building up a decision framework for an adaptive management process will serve us well with future audits.
- Carin: I'm worried it will just become a notebook paperwork activity...it's much more valuable if we actually use it to help ourselves.
- Greg Allen: We will need to organize workgroup level unique factors and source sectors. I think we need to have the several workgroups go further to identify the unique factors impacting their goals, and outline the current and future planned management actions.
- Another benefit of the DF is it can help line up work that might not have originally been on their radar.
- Outcome vs. Output
- If someone is presenting in front of STAR talking about their goals then STAR will ask questions like "how will you measure the water temperature outcome, etc"
- Cairn: my concern is with so many goals how can we all fit them in to STAR meetings.
- We can use this Staffer/Coordinator STAR forum as a way to "check" goals and search for holes and provide friendly assistance to goal teams.
- Harris creek example worked well - they wished they had more discussion time which is a good problem to have.
 - Mike Fritz commented that if we use this geographic targeted approach to GIT coordination that this represents a possible paradigm adoption as a way forward and we should consider the implications of taking this path forward.
- Ask how does this reflect on the spreadsheet? (34 goal statements)
- The goals need to be set when Phase II is done, so MB and PSC can turn away from the WIPs and states and turn more toward the direction of the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- If your team doesn't put forward the goal statements then the management teams will.
- Next meeting Staffer/Coordinator meeting is September 6th
- Suggestion: Have joint Staffer/Coordinator meetings with STAR once a quarter.