



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee
June 27, 2013**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

July 11 Management Board Meeting (Annapolis, Md)
August 22-23 CAC Meeting (PA)
September 27 LGAC Meeting (WV)
October Executive Council Meeting, Agreement Signing, and 30th Anniversary Reception

Program Updates

CAFO Rulemaking Changes

EPA is not proposing revisions to regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) under an agreement reached with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. EPA will instead work cooperatively with states and the agricultural community in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to continue the significant progress made since 2010 in approaches and actions to reduce water pollution from animal agriculture.

Over the next several years, EPA will conduct assessments of animal agriculture programs for each of the states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to evaluate effectiveness and consistency with the Clean Water Act. EPA will also review a sampling of animal agriculture permits and operations to ensure compliance with legal obligations, and will continue to provide assistance through grants to states and farmers to help them meet their goals. In 2018, EPA will reassess progress in reducing pollution from animal agriculture and if necessary reconsider revisions to CAFO regulations. This alternative approach will more quickly and comprehensively address environmental issues posed by animal agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Tracking Healthy Watersheds page on ChesapeakeStat

The Tracking Healthy Watersheds page is now on ChesapeakeStat. The partnership's healthy watershed tracking system is a three-legged stool that supports healthy watershed protection: maps of state-identified healthy watersheds, the best available assessments of the vulnerability of those watersheds to threats such as land use change, and the most current information on protections that are in place to assure long-term sustainability of watershed health. This information establishes public accountability for healthy watershed protection and provides useful information to support targeting of conservation efforts and local action. <http://stat.chesapeakebay.net/?q=node/131>
Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Local Government Advisory Committee

LGAC met twice since our last report to the Management Board. They began implementing their strategic plan, focusing primarily on improving communications. Members are committed to hosting facilitated discussions with local government officials at state conferences as a means of

conveying information to and gleaning feedback/input from local governments. This work is being supported by the new LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis.

At its June quarterly meeting, LGAC formed a committee to participate in drafting the new Bay Agreement. LGAC members strongly support inclusion of language that recognizes the vital role of local governments in achieving the goals of the new agreement. They believe that the Partners' primary focus should be on enabling, empowering and facilitating local implementation.

LGAC's next meeting will be held on September 27, 2013 in West Virginia. They are working with the Environmental Finance Center to offer Leadership Training for local governments on September 26, 2013.

Citizen's Advisory Committee:

As a result of the CAC meeting in February, a CAC workgroup drafted a letter to follow-up on BMP verification and transparency. CAC decided to learn more about the programs in the Bay watershed that address toxic contaminants with the intention to learn whether it is appropriate for the Bay Program to adopt a toxics goal.

CAC welcomed two new members: Matthew Ehrhart with the Stroud Research Center in PA and Scott Fickbohm with the Ostego Soil and Water Conservation District in Cooperstown, NY. We are continuing to look for members to represent WV and DE.

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on May 30-31 in Stevensville, M. CAC discussed the Bay Agreement, hosted a Climate Change Panel, learned about the progress on developing a toxics contaminants goal and the progress on developing outcomes for environmental education goal. CAC learned that NOAA's B-WET (Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training) funding for hands-on learning experiences for students and teachers in the Bay Watershed is proposed to be eliminated in the President's Budget. B-WET is the only federal funding dedicated to environmental education in the Bay Watershed. CAC plans to send a letter to the Executive Council to alert them that the \$2 million for B-WET will be terminated and urges the members to voice their opinion or concerns on how this will impact achieving the watershed's environmental education goals and commitment. CAC will be in PA on Aug 22-23.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee:

STAC held its first quarterly meeting of FY 2013 on June 11-12, 2013 in Annapolis, Maryland.

STAC held workshops in April and May. Below are descriptions of those workshops:

1) *Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats* - This workshop was held on April 16-17, 2013 at The Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland. The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (GIT) proposed a workshop to convene coastal wetland, living shoreline, black ducks, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration partners to discuss complementary targeting approaches that will facilitate the development of coastal habitat complexes. A workshop report will be distributed this summer.

2) *Emerging Issues and Opportunities for Improving Performance of Water Quality Credit Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* - This workshop is being planned for May 14, 2013

at The Sheraton hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The purpose of the workshop will be to provide an in-depth treatment of important trading issues by utilizing state trading program managers, watershed stakeholders, and academic thoroughly familiar with the Bay watershed.

For additional information about the workshops, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

Finally, STAC held its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2012 on March 12-13, 2013. STAC heard seven FY 2013 workshop proposals presented at the meeting. STAC members did NOT vote to approve, or disapprove the RFPs. Instead, STAC members will form an assessment committee to develop evaluation criteria that would bring all the current (and future) proposals up to the quality/level of information STAC needs to evaluate them. FY 2013 RFPs will be re-presented to STAC at the June 11th and 12th quarterly meeting.

Communications Workgroup:

Working on:

- Innovative ways to promote the 30th anniversary of CBP. Needs to incorporate messages into the presentation, not just a visual. Please contact Margaret with any ideas.
- E-news communications revamp
- Restoration Spotlight: Agriculture BMPs in West Virginia

Partner Happenings:

NPS

- Chesapeake campaign events are coming up for Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

MDE

- Final release of the green house gasses plan due out soon.
- Spring regional workshops on the WIPs are starting soon

NOAA

- The field team and computer modeling team are developing a work plan primarily for Little Choptank for enhanced monitoring and analysis of pre and post oyster restoration work.

CBP Comm. Office:

News/features in the works for April/May

- Restoration Spotlight: Agricultural BMPs in West Virginia
- From the Field: Winter Dredge Survey
- April 30th: News release and blog post: Reducing Pollution Indicators
- Restoration Spotlight: Largemouth bass spawning

Recent News/Features

<i>Original Features</i>	<i>Partner-related news stories – linked out</i>
Feature: Project Clean Stream photo essay	Maryland Public Television celebrates Chesapeake Bay Week
Critters: Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Chesapeake Bay's underwater grasses decline in 2012
Blog Post: Ten invasive species of the Chesapeake Bay	Maryland's oyster population continues to rise
Indicator posted: Underwater Grasses	Half of nation's rivers and streams are in poor health

Feature: Living shorelines photo essay	Federal agencies outline progress towards Chesapeake Bay cleanup
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Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Goal Implementation Team Updates:

GIT 2 – Habitat

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

The Habitat GIT will hold its Spring 2013 meeting on Tuesday, June 25th from 1:00-4:00PM. This will be a “virtual meeting” in webinar format that will focus on the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement and updates from the Habitat GIT workgroups.

GIT 3 – Water Quality

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.

On May 22nd and 23rd, the Agriculture Workgroup hosted an Ag modeling workshop at the University of Maryland to address priorities raised through the midpoint assessment. This workshop brought together representatives from the industry, private, federal, state, and academic sectors. Additional information can be found here:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/20725/building_a_better_bay_model_a_workshop_for_a_griculture_partners_annotated_051713.pdf

In addition, on May 30th, EPA provided its interim assessments to the seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions’ on their progress toward meeting their 2012-2013 Milestones and Watershed Implementation Plan goals. In addition, EPA provided an interim assessment to the federal agencies of progress toward meeting their 2012-2013 water quality milestones set forth under the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order 13508 strategy. These goals and milestones outline steps the Bay jurisdictions and federal agencies are taking toward having all the pollution control measures in place by 2025 to fully restore the Bay. The interim assessments are available on the [EPA Chesapeake Bay TMDL website](#).

Finally, the Water Quality GIT approved during their May 13th conference call the final report entitled, “Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Individual Stream Restoration Projects”. The Expert Panel conducted an extensive review of recent research on the impact of stream restoration projects in reducing the delivery of sediments and nutrient to the Bay. The Report describes four general protocols to define the pollutant load reductions associated with individual stream restoration projects.

GIT 6 – Partnering, Leadership, and Management

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

In response to decisions related to the goals & governance options that were made at the April 17th PSC meeting, GIT 6 is moving forward with the agreed process to develop a new agreement for the partnership.

GIT 6 established section leads and has had extensive participation from members leading to the first draft of the agreement, which is tentatively titled “Chesapeake Watershed Agreement”. This draft was distributed to Management Board (MB) members for review on June 6th and will be discussed at the June 13th MB meeting.

GIT 6 will proceed with additional drafting of the agreement based upon feedback received from the June 13th MB meeting. The final first draft will be presented to the PSC for comment at their July meeting.

The GIT Chairs met on June 6th to discuss revisions to the list of GIT goals & outcomes. These updated GIT goals & outcomes will be presented at the June 13th MB meeting. GIT members will explain the rationale behind each goal and outcome.

Recent Meetings and Events

May 8-10	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting
May 14	STAC Emerging Issues and Opportunities for Improving Performance of Water Quality Credit Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Annapolis, Md)
May 16	Management Board Meeting (Annapolis, Md)
May 22-23	Ag Modeling Workshop (UMUC)
May 30-31	CAC Meeting (Stevensville, Md)
June 5-6	LGAC Meeting (Baltimore, Md)
June 6	GIT Chairs Meeting (Annapolis, Md)
June 11-12	STAC Quarterly Meeting (Annapolis, Md)