



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
May 26, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

- June 1 Chesapeake Modeling Symposium
- June 2-3 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Biannual Meeting
- June 4-12 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week
- June 7-8 STAC Quarterly Meeting
- Jun 8 NFWF Local Government Forum
- June 9-10 LGAC Quarterly Meeting
- Jun 12 Bernie Fowler wade-in
- June 15 TMDL Milestones Evaluations Release (tentative)
- June 16 Management Board Conference Call
- Sept 27 Executive Council Meeting

Updates

CBP Watershed Agreement Work Plans Finalized

The CBP partnership's Goal Implementation Teams reviewed public input on two-year work plans and posted the final versions on the CBP website on April 29. The work plans were developed pursuant to the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The plans succinctly summarize the specific commitments, actions and resources each self-identified signatory and stakeholder will do individually and collectively to reach two-year targets for each outcome identified in the Watershed Agreement. The draft work plans are available at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies>.

Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

2016-2017 Milestones submissions and Management Lead discussions with Bay jurisdictions

EPA Bay TMDL Management Leads are conducting phone call reviews with jurisdiction liaisons regarding the evaluations of their final submissions of 2016-2017 Milestones from most of the Bay jurisdictions. Similar outreach is being conducted for federal milestones. Actions taken to correct concerns can change the final federal oversight level of the various sectors for the jurisdictions. The 2016-2017 Milestones outline progressive steps the Bay jurisdictions will continue taking over the next two years to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, and what reductions those measures will achieve. The milestones received are posted on the [Chesapeake Bay TMDL](#) website. The milestones are intended to help keep the jurisdictions and federal agencies on schedule for implementing all the needed pollution reducing measures by 2025, with measures in place by 2017 for achieving 60 percent of the needed reductions. The 2016-2017 Milestones are projected to be "final" in June 2016.

Contact: Lucinda Power, (410) 267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Health Indicators

The following indicators were updated between April 14 and May 19, 2016:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
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Black Duck	51,332 ducks observed between 2013 and 2015, up 5% from average between 2012 and 2014 (51 percent of 100K goal).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/black-duck
Blue Crab Abundance	Abundance increased 92% from 101 million in 2015 to 194 million in 2016 (above the 70 million threshold but below the 215 million target).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sustainable-fisheries/blue-crab-abundance
RPI: Nitrogen	Between 2014 and 2015, controls lowered loads by 3%. The 2015 load is 11 million pounds above the 2015 target. Practices are in place to achieve 31% of reductions (goal for 2017 is 60%).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality/watershed-implementation-plans
RPI: Phosphorus	Between 2014 and 2015, controls lowered loads by 3%. The 2015 target has been exceeded by 1.7 million pounds. Practices are in place to achieve 81% of reductions (goal for 2017 is 60%).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality/watershed-implementation-plans
RPI: Sediment	Between 2014 and 2015, controls lowered loads by 4%. The 2015 target has been exceeded by 39 million pounds. Practices are in place to achieve 48% of reductions (goal for 2017 is 60%).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality/watershed-implementation-plans
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	In 2015, there were an estimated 91,621 acres of underwater grasses, compared to an estimated 75,835 acres in 2014 (surpasses 2017 restoration target and marks 49% of 185K goal).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/sav#
American Shad Abundance	Data from the James, Potomac, Rappahannock, Susquehanna and York rivers show the abundance of American shad fell from 44% to 39% of the goal in 2015.	http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/american_shad_abundance
Population Growth	As of 2015, 18,091,710 people were estimated to live in the Bay watershed, up from 17,986,898 in 2014.	http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/chesapeake_bay_watershed_population

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

- Public Access (week of May 23, 2016)
- Striped Bass Abundance (measured as Female Spawning-Age Stock biomass) and Management – coastwide (May 2016)
- Forest Buffer: annual miles planted (May 2016)
- Blue Crab Management (June 2016)
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow (June 2016)

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, free.laura@epa.gov

2015 EO Progress Report

On May 5, the Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) for the Chesapeake Bay published the E.O. 13508 2015 Progress Report following comments from OMB/CEQ. The report summarizes achievements from Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15), utilizing nearly \$513 million toward Chesapeake Bay restoration. This progress report will be the final report exclusive to the federal agencies, with significant progress made toward achieving the goals and outcomes set forth in the 2015 Action Plan. Annual reporting will now be

encapsulated as part of tracking the progress of meeting the goals of the state and federal Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which incorporated the goals set forth in the federal agencies' Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The FLC is composed of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior and Transportation. When final, the report will be published on the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order website at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>
Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

New Insights Report on Managing Stormwater in Response to Climate Change

A new report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) looks at how local planners and decision-makers can incorporate the effects of a changing climate into their efforts to manage stormwater runoff. To look at how local stormwater managers can incorporate climate change adaptation practices into their work, EPA and NOAA hosted a series of workshops and community efforts throughout the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes regions. In the Chesapeake region, workshops were held in York County, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; and Stafford County, Virginia.

Throughout the discussions, several common themes and challenges emerged. Uncertainty can make it difficult to incorporate climate change predictions into planning efforts. Local-level professionals may lack the resources and interagency cooperation needed to design, construct and permit projects that deal with stormwater runoff. And because the benefits of managing polluted runoff can be difficult to quantify, managers need better information on the costs and benefits of different climate adaptation strategies. Further assessing these common challenges and opportunities will help planners and decision-makers better incorporate climate change into their stormwater management efforts. For a copy of the report, *Stormwater Management in Response to Climate Change Impacts: Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes Regions*: <https://www.epa.gov/risk>

22 New Public Access Sites Opened in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

In 2015, Chesapeake Bay Program partners opened 22 boat ramps, fishing piers and other sites that grant public access to creeks, streams and rivers in the region. Virginia opened 10 sites along eight waterways; Pennsylvania opened six sites along the Susquehanna River; Maryland opened five sites along three waterways; and the District of Columbia opened one site along the Anacostia River. There are now 1,247 public access sites in the watershed for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational activities.

Increasing public access to open space and waterways creates a shared sense of responsibility to protect these important natural environments. Through the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, our partners have committed to increasing public access as part of a larger effort to engage communities in our conservation work. The number of public access sites in the watershed is on track to reach 1,439 by 2025. Since tracking began in 2010, our partners have opened 108 sites, meeting 36 percent of our goal to open 300 sites over the next decade.

For more information:

<http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/public-access/public-access>

UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card

Scientists at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) measured a modest improvement in Chesapeake Bay health in 2015, once again giving the estuary a "C" in their annual

Chesapeake Bay Report Card. Although the “C” grade has remained the same since 2012, the score of 53 percent marks one of the three highest since 1986: only 1992 and 2002 scored as high or higher. But unlike 2015, both those years accompanied major droughts, and according to UMCES researchers, that makes these results particularly notable. The Bay Health Index is based on several indicators of Bay health, including water clarity and dissolved oxygen, the amount of algae and nutrients in the water, the abundance of underwater grasses and the strength of certain fish stocks, including [blue crab](#) and [striped bass](#). Most of these indicators improved over the previous year; only phosphorus pollution worsened from 2014 to 2015.

For more information: <http://www.umces.edu/release/2016/may/17/chesapeake-bay-health-improves-2015>

Midshore River Report Card

Improvements in water clarity helped waterways on the Chesapeake Bay’s Eastern Shore score higher grades on Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy’s sixth annual report card. Of the sixteen rivers and streams tracked by the Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, fifteen of the waterways either improved or maintained the same grade from the previous year. Increased water clarity—in part caused by decreased precipitation—helped the Choptank maintain its “B-” grade from 2014. Eastern Bay and the surrounding creeks showed some of the best water quality recorded, all scoring “B” grades or higher. According to the report, continued stormwater and agricultural runoff are slowing the recovery of water quality in the area. The Wye River continues to struggle—earning a “C” grade overall—with phosphorus pollution in the “D” to “D-” range.

Grades are based on data from more than 100 sampling sites, where volunteers test for water clarity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and chlorophyll a. The Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy also tracks water temperature, pH, salinity and bacteria levels. For more information:

<http://www.midshoreriverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Final-MRC-Report-Card-2015.pdf>

New EPA Environmental Justice Action Agenda

On May 23, the U.S. EPA released the EJ 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020), a strategy to advance the agency’s environmental justice efforts. Over the next five years, EJ 2020 will serve as a framework to advance environmental justice—particularly in communities where a combination of environmental, health, social and economic factors disproportionately affect the community. Under the strategy, the EPA will work to improve results for overburdened communities, incorporate environmental justice in decision-making, build partnerships with states and co-regulators, strengthen their ability to take action on environmental justice issues, and demonstrate progress on critical national environmental justice challenges. Environmental justice is one of the guiding principles of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, and through the Diversity Action Team, the Bay Program is working to identify groups that are under-represented in its activities and looking for ways to create meaningful opportunities for engagement.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda>

Environmental Finance Symposium

On April 25-26, the Chesapeake Environmental Financing Symposium was held in College Park, Md. The symposium was convened at the request of the Chesapeake Executive Council with the goal of identifying options, opportunities, and resources that can reduce and accelerate implementation. The event brought together more than 100 creative, innovative, and successful financing, business, and policy leaders to identify options for advancing a more market-like approach to environmental

protection and restoration. The Executive Council called for an Environmental Finance Symposium at their 2015 EC meeting, with recommendations due to the EC for their consideration at their 2016 meeting.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

Environmental Literacy Summit

On April 20, senior education and environmental policy officials gathered in Annapolis, Md. for the first Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit. The summit included environmental education experts, cabinet-level representatives from state government and federal agency decision makers who gathered to explore how states can assist local education agencies in creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms and to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.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.

Environmental Finance Symposium - Several LGAC members participated in the Environmental Finance Symposium. Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District, Fairfax County, VA) spoke during the opening session. Her remarks are available on the LGAC page at Chesapeakebay.net. LGAC hosted a webinar for its' members on Chesapeake Bay modeling tools and the USGS Water Quality Trends report. Presenters included Lee Currey, Dave Montali, Gary Shenk and Scott Phillips. Members found it extremely informative and are exploring opportunities for broader dissemination of the information.

Local Government Forum - LGAC and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay are hosting a Local Government Forum to develop recommendations for streamlining implementation of integrated infrastructure projects. The Forum is being held in conjunction with LGAC's quarterly meeting, June 9-10, 2016 in Gettysburg, PA. To be added to LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr, at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org or [804-793-8786](tel:804-793-8786). For more information about the Forum, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@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.

Quarterly Meeting - CAC is holding their spring quarterly meeting in VA Beach, VA on May 18-19, 2016. The meeting theme is Environmental Literacy and Stewardship. Topics include: a briefing on the Citizen Stewardship Index, presentations from local organizations: Elizabeth River Project and Lynnhaven River NOW; a panel discussion on Environmental Literacy with Shannon Sprague of NOAA and Dr. Spence, the VA Beach City Public Schools Superintendent; an update on Department of Defense's commitment to Bay restoration on military installations; an educational boat trip hosted by CBF's Hampton Roads office;

updates from the Chesapeake Bay Program and Oyster BMP policy and communications; lastly CAC will begin to work on their preliminary recommendations for the Chesapeake Executive Council.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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.

Quarterly Meeting: STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2016 on June 7, 2016 at The O’Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. A draft agenda can be found on the meeting [webpage](#). Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY16 Results of the STAC Workshop Request for Proposals (RFPs)

STAC agreed to support the following five workshops in FY16:

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay’s Tidal Waters

FY15 Workshops:

STAC hosted seven workshops so far in 2016. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months.

Information regarding the workshops including agendas, presentations, and reports can be found on the workshop [homepage](#).

1. Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality – January 13-14, 2016
2. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation – January 14, 2016
3. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System – February 1-2, 2016
4. Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation – February 17-18, 2016
5. The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments – March 7-8, 2016
6. Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement – April 12-13, 2016
7. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making – April 20-21, 2016

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

Reviews:

STAC is in the process of finalizing one review and planning for a second. Additionally, STAC is anticipating approximately six reviews between now and 2017. Details of those reviews are listed below.

1. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The STAC Criteria Addendum Review Panel completed its initial review of the addendum in early spring. At that time, the review panel requested that the addendum be revised and a second draft be used for the final review. The review panel met on May 12th to discuss the preliminary results of their second review. The panel is in the process of determining their next steps.

1. Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder

In late April, STAC leadership met with representative of the Bay Program's Scenario Builder team to discuss the details of the upcoming review request for a STAC-sponsored Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder review. This request is currently being review by the full STAC membership. If approved, the panel is scheduled to complete its review by the end of July.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews are below.

1. Proposed revised James River chlorophyll *a* water quality criteria
2. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanation s and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
3. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
4. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
5. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu or visit the STAC review webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php.

Recent Report:

Microbeads/Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay

STAC distributed a review report entitled "Technical Review of Microbeads/Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay" on April 18, 2016. This report summarizes the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested STAC-sponsored technical review results. The panel addressed questions related to fate and transport, potential impact, removal, urgency. The final report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/352_Wardrop2016.pdf.

STAC Independent Evaluator Comments to PSC:

The Bay Program is considering three options for establishing an Independent Evaluator, which were presented to the PSC in March. STAC members provided comments on the pros and cons of each option being considered. The comments advise on appearance of conflict of interest, cost, responsiveness, timeliness, and managing the evaluation. Those comments were sent to the PSC Chair, Molly Ward on May 9, 2016 for consideration at the May 26th PSC meeting.

For additional information contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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.

Biannual GIT Meeting - The [Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team](#) is hosting their biannual full goal team meeting on June 2nd – 3rd at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), both at their downtown Richmond campus and their Rice Rivers Center located along the James River. The meeting is structured around the team's 2-year workplans and topics include land use impacts on aquatic species health, ecosystem approaches to fishery management, the effect of climate change on blue crabs, and a summary of the latest science on Atlantic Sturgeon. The draft agenda and additional information for the meeting can be found [here](#).

Blue Crab Winter Survey - The results of the 2016 [blue crab winter dredge survey](#) were released in mid-April showing an overall crab abundance increase of 35% from the 2015 estimate. Spawning-age female crabs almost doubled in abundance, from 101 million in 2015 to 194 million this year, above the overfished threshold of 70 million and slightly below the target of 215 million. For additional information, please find the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and [Virginia Marine Resources Commission](#) press releases. The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee is meeting on May 18th to draft the 2016 Blue Crab Advisory Report.

Last year, TetraTech developed a review and synthesis of habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species under a Chesapeake Bay Program contract to support the fish habitat management strategies. The project was expanded and is finishing up in June 2016 to include more information on threats and stressors to fish habitat at different life stages.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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 has transitioned to the leadership team of Christine Conn and David Whitehurst as of April 30th. The two are proposing a Co-Chair partnership where duties will be split to focus on specific subsets of Habitat GIT workgroups.
- The Habitat GIT held their Spring 2016 meeting on May 3-4 at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia. Representation from all watershed states participated with 38 in-person and an additional 21 remote attendees. [Presentations and meeting notes are available online](#).
- The Wetland Expert Panel is currently finalizing their draft report and preparing for a partnership review over summer of 2016. In September 2015, the panel received approval from the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership for the recommended Phase 6 wetland land use classes of Floodplain and Other. Recommendations for retention efficiency and acres treated for the wetland restoration BMP within separate physiographic subregions are soon to be completed. The panel will present recommendations to the Wetlands, Agricultural, and Watershed Technical Workgroups, as well as the Habitat and Water Quality GITs.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.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 April 11th and April 25th.

- The WQGIT was not able to reach consensus on the Street Sweeping and Storm Drain Cleaning BMP Expert Panel report. The membership was polled for their respective positions on approving the report as-written, as well as for approving the report with Virginia DEQ's proposed amendment. The poll results will be sent to the Management Board for their consideration and final decision.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the status of the Oyster BMP Expert Panel.
- The WQGIT discussed options for revising the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP development schedule. A summary of the options, and the pros and cons of each, will be provided to the Management Board for their consideration and decision.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on May 9th and May 23rd. A subset of the topics include:

- The WQGIT will discuss a proposed protocol for addressing policy issues raised during the BMP expert panel evaluation process.
- The WQGIT will discuss options for addressing extractive lands in the Phase 6 Model.

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 met on May 16th at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Participants discussed near term workplan priorities, including ideas and strategies toward accomplishing several workplan key actions with tangible results in 2016. The focus of the discussion was on shared goal team action items that led themselves to cooperation with all Goal Team members. These included assessment of the protected status of State-identified healthy waters and watersheds, a discussion related to approaches, methods and outreach strategies related to shared priorities, and how to better engage federal agencies that are not traditional CBP partners. There was also an in-depth conversation on cross-goal team local engagement topics.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, Phillips.tuana@epa.gov

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.

Citizen Stewardship

- The indicator sub-workgroup met on May 11th. At this meeting the group viewed the updated analysis of the stewardship performance and stewardship factors influencing indicator based on last meetings discussion, discussed the upcoming presentations to the Citizens Advisory Committee, Management Board and Principals Staff Committee, and discussed options for financing the remaining portion of the Phase II budget.

- Please contact Amy Handen at Amy_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy

- Workgroup held a meeting on April 20th with the Chiefs of Education from each jurisdiction as well as representation from the U.S. Department of Education to discuss the importance of creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms across subject areas. Please visit the website for meeting materials and minutes - <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23922/>
- Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access

- The Public Access team is continuing to prepare for the development of the Public Access Data Quality Assurance and Application Integration project. The group has collected data on new access sites developed in 2015, reporting 22 new sites, 5 in MD, 6 in PA, 10 in VA, and 1 in DC. For more information please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov

Land Conservation

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership's steering committee will meet in early June to discuss upcoming priorities and the annual meeting. The committee will welcome 5 new members at the June meeting, filling several vacancies following retirements and staffing changes. Several Partnership participants participated in a panel presentation and discussion at the 2016 Annual Virginia Land Conservation Conference on a collaborative approach to developing a strategy to more effectively respond to major linear infrastructure projects.
- For more information contact Kate Baker kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org

Contact: Amy Handen, AHanden@chesapeake.net

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.

New CRC Staffer:

Goal Team 6 welcomes Emily Freeman to the Chesapeake Bay Program. Emily will serve as the new GIT 6 staffer beginning May 17th. She will also staff the Local Leadership Workgroup that falls under GIT 6.

New Chair and Call for Vice-Chair: The Management Board approved Dave Goshorn to serve as the new GIT 6 Chair. Dave participated in his first meeting on May 3rd and plans to take charge of the goal team beginning June. The goal team is currently seeking nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. This person will eventually move into the Chair position after 2 years. He/she can come from the local, state, or federal government or even from an NGO. Please email Carin (Bisland.carin@epa.gov) with your nominations or ideas.

Budget and Finance Workgroup Formation: The Management Board endorsed the formation of a new Budget and Finance Workgroup. The GIT is currently working to identify potential members and leadership roles for the workgroup. Carin Bisland and Greg Allen developed a mailing list to solicit for members and a mission statement for the workgroup was sent out along with a membership. The

group is looking for individuals with the skills or interests in one or more of the following: finance and innovative environmental finance, knowledge of funding sources, economics and measures of merit (e.g., NPV, ROI), financial reporting, and knowledge of Federal, State and Local government budgeting and procurement processes. There are currently 7 people who have volunteered to be on the B&F WG (5 from NGOs, 2 from states). The Workgroup will have a kick off meeting on June 1st from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For more information about the workgroup or to suggest members, please contact Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Governance Document Updates: Potential revisions to the Governance Document have been collected since the last update in July 2015. Current issues that are to be discussed include chairs/vice-chairs at the workgroup level, salaries of chairs or vice chairs, member representation when neither the member nor the alternate can be in attendance, and the description of each GIT's membership protocols. The coordinators and staffers will be asked to look at sections related to their GITs and provide updates on current wording or any other general issues. A request will also go out to the GIT Chairs. The goal is to have all changes made by June, and review the changes with coordinators and staffers before taking the document to the Management Board. The current Governance Document is always available online at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf.
Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@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.

The April STAR meeting included reviews of the **Climate Resiliency, Monitoring and Assessment and Adaption Work plan**, and the **Modeling Work Group work plan**. Both are available on the [STAR calendar website](#). The **STAR Seminar** reviewed work in the Chesapeake Bay watershed associated with the Urban Waters Initiative study areas of Baltimore and Anacostia by Emily Majcher, USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center- See [Presentation](#).

STAR Work Groups

- **The Integrated Monitoring Work Group** conducted a STAC-sponsored Integrated Networks Workshop on April 12-13, 2016 at UMCES-HPL, Cambridge, MD, that [focused on monitoring](#) linked to several Bay agreement outcome targets to provide a process that produces integrated monitoring plans.
- The **Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative**, working on citizen-based and nontraditional monitoring integration into the Chesapeake Bay Program monitoring efforts, is establishing [a non-tidal monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) (QAPP). The goal of the QAPP is to outline Tier 1 and 2 parameters and corresponding quality assurance methods for non-tidal monitoring data collection. Reference: [3 Tier Strategy](#).
- The **Climate Resiliency Work group** held a recent STAC-sponsored workshop regarding [Climate Forecasts and Projections](#) on March 7 and 8th, 2016 to address the need of developing a set of climate projections for the Chesapeake Bay Program progress assessments. The next work group meeting will work to address one of the key recommendations that came from that workshop regarding the selection of 2050 sea level rise estimates and the best approach to simulating effect of sea level rise on tidal wetlands in the modeling effort supporting the 2017

Mid-Point Assessment. Future work group meetings will be formatted to focus on [Key Action Focus Areas](#), allowing the prioritization of the meeting topics to best work towards achieving elements in the Climate Resiliency Work plan.

- **The Status and Trends Work Group** is currently reforming now that Laura Free is the new Indicators Coordinator. The workgroup will use the [Indicators Framework](#) to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, and identify gaps, as well as ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.
- **The Criteria Assessment Protocols Work Group's** STAC review of the draft technical report "Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity, and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries 2015 Technical Addendum." was initiated on Feb. 12, 2016. STAC feedback is expected in Spring 2016.
- **The Modeling Work Group** is working to provide a Beta 2 version of the Watershed Model by incorporating recommendations provided by STAC pertaining to both a better understanding of the impacts of Conowingo Reservoir and a multi-model ensemble approach to incorporating anticipated water quality effects of climate change.
 - A recent STAC-sponsored workshop was held on Comparing Shallow Water models on April 20-21, 2016. The workshop convened experts in the field of shallow water modeling to discuss results of the shallow water models supporting Chesapeake Bay Program decision-making efforts.
- **Data Integrity Work Group** is currently working on a review and approval of revisions to the Analytical Methods for the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program document. The document can be found on the [Data Integrity Workgroup webpage](#) under Projects and Resources.
- **The Integrated Trends Analysis Team** held its May meeting with Smithsonian Environmental Research Center scientists focused on the Shorelines Project. The meeting included a review of research findings on shoreline hardening's effects on bay grasses, *Phragmites*, fish, and crab populations.

National Conference Contributions

- **Chesapeake science shines at Ecosystem Restoration Conference, April 18-22, 2016.** How to restore the Chesapeake and other ecosystems was discussed at the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER), held near the FL Everglades. NCER is the premier conference to bring together restoration managers and scientists to discuss innovative approaches to restore the Nation's ecosystems. The Chesapeake was highlighted during the opening plenary session "federal and state large- scale ecosystem restoration: implementation, political challenges, and lessons learned", with Ann Swanson as a panelist and Don Boesch moderating the session. Chesapeake sessions also included adaptive management in the Chesapeake ecosystem, pollutant loads to the Chesapeake Bay, and endocrine disruption in the Chesapeake watershed.
- **National Water Quality Monitoring Conference, Tampa, FL, May 2-5, 2016 contributions.** The National Water Quality Monitoring Conference is held every two years highlighting monitoring programs, partnerships, citizen science, new technologies, new assessment approaches, data management, data visualization, communications, success stories and management challenges. STAR members and community partners contributed more than a dozen presentations on Chesapeake Bay and watershed water quality monitoring addressing an expanding range of applications for new and existing technologies, citizen science integration, water quality trend assessment advances, assessing effectiveness of conservation practices and improvements in CBP data management.

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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.

At its May meeting, the Communications Workgroup discussed ways to promote Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, which will take place in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania from June 4th-12th. Kristin Saunders reported on the recent GIT chairs' retreat, and the workgroup discussed ways to better work with and promote the activities of the GITs and advisory committees. The workgroup also discussed hosting their own retreat to foster workgroup cohesion, deliver professional development training and work on projects.

Last month's RPI and SAV press releases received good media attention—CBS Baltimore even came to interview Nick DiPasquale about the SAV numbers. The Hatcher Group is in the process of gathering information to inform the CBP Communications Office's strategic plan. On May 10th, the Web and Communication Teams hosted WebStock, their annual review of CBP's web products. This year's program also focused on teaching participants about the teams' creative process.

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Recent Meetings and Events

Apr 11	WQGIT Meeting
May 12-13	CBC Quarterly Meeting
May 18-19	CAC Quarterly Meeting