

Communications Workgroup August Meeting

Program Updates

Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup is taking part in the following events:

1. July 27: MD-DNR conducted a green jobs youth listening session to identify what draws diverse communities to want to get involved in the environmental field and later pursue an environmental career. The **Growing into Green Jobs: A Youth Listening Session** gathers high school students and young adults from a number of different youth development programs to attend along with you, those working in youth development, in an effort to hear from the youth we serve. We want to gather their ideas for solutions to streamline the connection and improve the pathway between environmentally literate students and opportunities for them in an emerging green economy. Our goal is to give selected young people a voice on this topic to influence how we approach, design and implement youth career development programs and opportunities to be more effective, accessible, and inclusive. The information we learn from them will also influence future actions and recommendations from us -- the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition and the Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup.
2. August 8-9: [Trees for All: A Chesapeake Environmental Justice Workshop](#) at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center, Laurel MD. This two-day event will bring together diverse stakeholders working to retain and increase healthy tree canopy in their communities. Learn from exemplary regional and national initiatives, including TreeBaltimore, New Jersey Tree Foundation, Miami Parks and Recreation, and Urban ReLeaf in Oakland, California.
3. September 13: [Naturally Latinos Conference](#) – the Diversity Workgroup will be organizing the [green jobs fair](#) for this event.

Local Government Advisory Committee

The Local Government Engagement Initiative held a conference call July 17th and discussed individual engagement strategies by each State, DC and the CBPO. Each Partner is very active, and unique and proactive outreach efforts continue. There continues to be a strong need for Case Studies and the Bay Journal is also consolidating case studies and building a resource page to help. LGEI partners will be providing feedback for a draft Bay Model fact sheet being prepared by the CBP Communication office. The next LGEI meeting is August 23rd and is proposed to be an in-person meeting in Annapolis.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

We welcomed Kate Fritz as our new Executive Director on August 1st. She comes to us from South River Federation in Annapolis, MD. Please join us in welcoming her to the broader Chesapeake community!

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

- Water quality data can now be uploaded to the Chesapeake Data Explorer! This is for groups who need space for data management. The user interface will be ready later.
- The CMC e-newsletter will be coming out on a more regular basis and include all trainings throughout the watershed.
- Lea Rubin, the CMC Coordinator, has left to start her PhD with the MEES program. A new coordinator will be hired this fall.

Communications Office

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

In August, we expect to release a new set of pollution and water quality standards attainment data in August, as well as the NFWF grantees.

We expect to release the Citizen Stewardship Index (which tracks progress toward the Citizen Stewardship Outcome) in the fall.

The redesigned chesapeakebay.net is now live!

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

- **Upcoming Meetings:** STAC's September 2017 quarterly meeting will be held on September 12-13 at the Westin Annapolis Hotel (100 Westgate Cir, Annapolis, MD 21401). The meeting theme is "integrating ecological and social sciences." More information can be found on the [September 2017 STAC quarterly meeting webpage](#).
- **Recent and Upcoming Reports:**
 - STAC distributed two workshop and one review reports in the past month. Another review report is scheduled for release this week.
 - Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement – **workshop report distributed July 6, 2017 and available at** http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/371_Tango2017.pdf
 - Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation – **workshop report distributed July 6, 2017 and available at** http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/373_Davis-Martin2017.pdf
 - 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 – **review report distributed July 19, 2017 and available at** http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/375_Friedrichs2017.pdf
 - Follow-up Review: Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Peer Review of *Revised* Proposal for James River Chlorophyll-*a* Criteria – **review report is scheduled for release the week of July 31, 2017 and will be available on the [STAC website](#)**
 - 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](#).
 - Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
 - Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
 - Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making
- **Workshops**
 - STAC will be hosting the following six workshops in FY2017. Planning is underway for all of these upcoming activities.
 - Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design – **to be held September 6-7 or September 7-8, 2017**
 - Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Midpoint Assessment and Beyond – **to be held November - December, 2017**
 - Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation – **to be held November - December, 2017**

- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling in 2025 and Beyond: A Proactive Visioning Workshop – **to be held January 17-19, 2018**
 - Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management – **to be held January - February, 2018**
 - Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions – **to be held February 21-22, 2018**
- STAC hosted four workshops so far in 2017 (FY2016). 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 [STAC workshop homepage](#).
 - Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) – **held March 29-30, 2017**
 - Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads – **held April 24-25, 2017**
 - An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change – **held March 28 (Blue Crab), April 25 (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation), April 26 (Oysters)**
 - Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay’s Tidal Waters – **held February 6-7, 2017 (Part I), May 2-3, 2017 (Part II)**
- **Reviews:** STAC has three review activities currently in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. These STAC-sponsored independent peer reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Midpoint Assessment. For more information regarding any of the reviews, visit the [STAC review homepage](#).
 - Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
 - Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
 - CBP Partnership’s Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

NOAA

Two oyster-related reports have been released:

- NOAA Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services Project Research
Update: <https://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/images/stories/habitats/2017oresresearchupdate.pdf>
- Oyster Reef Monitoring Report:
<https://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/images/stories/pdf/2016oysterreefmonitoringreport.pdf>

Fish Habitat Workgroup

The Fish Habitat Workgroup will be looking for some help with communication materials for local governments in the fall/winter.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

No updates

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

No updates