



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Conference Call
Wednesday, November 21, 2013**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Nov 26	Bay Barometer release
Nov TBD	USDA CEAP report release
Nov 20	Federal Facilities WQ Milestones public comment period begins
Dec 3-4	STAC Quarterly Meeting
Dec 5-6	CAC-LGAC Joint Meeting
Dec 12	Executive Council Meeting
Jan TBD 2014	EO Action Plan and 2013 EO Progress Report release
Jan/Feb TBD	Draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement public comment period

Program Updates

Draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement distributed for Signatory comments

On November 8, a draft of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was provided to the CBP Principals' Staff Committee for a 6-week review and comment period. The draft incorporates recent changes agreed to by the PSC at its November 6 meeting. Signatory comments are due to CBPO no later than December 20, will be discussed by the partnership, and, as appropriate, incorporated into a final draft to be released for public comment in late January or early February.

Contact: Carin Bisland, (410) 267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

The 2013 meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council will be held on December 12, 2013 from 9:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Because of ongoing work on the new *Chesapeake Watershed Agreement*, this year's event will follow an abbreviated agenda and will largely focus on the draft Agreement (anticipated for public release and comment by early 2014). The meeting will include a press conference from 12:30 p. m. to 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Carin Bisland, (410) 267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Federal partners' Water Quality Milestones

On November 20, the Chesapeake Bay Federal Leadership Committee posted its Water Quality Milestones for a 30-day public review and comment period. The WQ Milestones are required to be finalized no later than January 7, 2014. They are available electronically on the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order website at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net>.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund directs \$9.2 million to environmental work

More than \$9 million of funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund for 40 environmental projects across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Half of the projects will be funded by the Small Watershed Grants Program, which supports on-the-ground restoration, conservation and community engagement. Twenty more will be funded by the Innovative

Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program, which finances the reduction of nutrient and sediment pollution in rivers and streams. The awards were announced on October 30 at the Earth Conservation Corps Pump House, where a wetland restoration project was funded by the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund in 2012.

CBP Report to Congress

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office, this week, will transmit to the Office of Management and Budget for informal review and comment a draft Report to Congress required to be developed every 5 years under section 117(h) of the Clean Water Act. The report, which was reviewed by the Management Board, assesses the state of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, the effectiveness of management strategies being implemented and makes recommendations for the improved management of the CBP. The final report is due to Congress in December 2013.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

Slow-moving Groundwater May Delay Effects of Restoration Efforts

A new report published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) concludes that slow-moving groundwater on the Delmarva Peninsula could push excess nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay even after nitrogen and phosphorous land applications are reduced. A USGS model developed to track the movement of nitrogen through the region showed that groundwater—and the pollutants it can contain—takes an average of 20 to 40 years to flow through the peninsula's porous aquifers into rivers and streams. In some parts of Delmarva, the groundwater that is now flowing into local waterways contains nitrogen linked to fertilizer used three decades ago.

The slow flow of nitrogen-laden groundwater into the Bay could affect efforts to restore the watershed, lengthening the “lag-time” between the adoption of a conservation practice and the effect of that practice on a particular waterway. In other words, it could take days or even decades for today's management actions to produce positive water quality results. While these findings seem to contradict the value of our restoration work, the study in fact indicates that pollution-reducing practices put in place over the past decade have begun to work. The study also confirms that rigorous steps taken to reduce nutrients on the land will lower the amount of nitrogen loading into streams in the future.

More information:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/groundwater_pushes_nitrogen_into_bay_delays_effects_of_restoration_work

Local Government Advisory Committee

Quarterly Meeting: LGAC's next quarterly meeting is being held at the Loews in Annapolis, MD December 5-6, 2013. The first day is being devoted to a joint meeting with CAC. Agendas will be posted on Chesapeakebay.net. If you plan to attend either or both days please send your RSVP to Amy Robins at arobins@allianceforthebay.org.

Activities to Date: LGAC hosted a Local Government Forum in coordination with the Alliance's annual Watershed Forum. Approximately 40 people, including elected officials and senior water resource program managers, attended. The focus of the workshop was tools for communicating complex issues. Training was provided by staff from the Environmental Finance Center West (CA). Participants learned how to use a tool called Conversation Mapping to tease out new ideas. This tool will be used at the upcoming joint meeting of CAC and LGAC.

LGAC led the development of local government language for the new Bay Agreement. LGAC's coordinator is in discussion with several GITs about better engaging, empowering and facilitating local governments in the Bay protection and restoration effort.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee is planning a joint meeting with the Local Government Advisory Committee on Dec 5 in Annapolis. CAC and LGAC will hear presentations on successful local implementation and recent assessments of local WIP capacity and healthy watersheds. Each Committee will meet separately on Friday Dec 6th.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

STAC will hold its third quarterly meeting of FY 2013 on December 3-4, 2013 at Hilton Garden Inn in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan on attending this meeting, please send your RSVP to Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

STAC is in the process of finalizing three FY 2012 workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few months.

- 1) Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay (M3.2)
- 2) Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats
- 3) Critical Issues in Implementing Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

STAC staff and the workshop steering committees are in the beginning stages of the planning process.

The workshops include:

1) *Management Effects on Water Quality Trends* - This workshop will take place on January 28-29, 2014 at The Westin Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop will investigate connections between trends in human activities (including management actions in the watershed), watershed loads, and estuarine water quality and living resources.

2) *Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* - The workshop is being planned for early May 2014. The objective of this workshop is to create agreement among practitioners, regulators and scientists on a common language and methods for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health to address water quality, climatological impacts, physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.

3) *In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems* - The workshop will take place on December 17-18, 2013 at the National Association of Home Builders Headquarters in Washington, DC. This workshop will be an open forum to further discuss decentralized systems issues to bring the watershed as a whole into a new era of management. The workshop will focus on potential measures addressing state management of existing onsite septic systems and new technologies that may be used in new installations of onsite septic systems.

4) *The Peculiarities of Perviousness* - The steering committee tentatively scheduled this workshop for February 12-13, 2013 at an undetermined location. This workshop plans to define, measure, and model the nutrient dynamics from the land cover known as pervious land.

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

Finally, STAC distributed two workshop reports this fall. Below is a description of both reports. As always, the full report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.

1) The report entitled "Incorporating Lag-Times into the Chesapeake Bay Program" was distributed on September 11, 2013. The report is a product of the October 16-17, 2012 STAC Lag-Times workshop.

2) The report entitled "Evaluation of the Use of Shellfish as a Method of Nutrient Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay" was distributed on September 23, 2013. The report is a product from the CBP request that STAC conduct a review of the relevant information on the potential use of shellfish as a method of nutrient reduction in Chesapeake Bay and advise the program specifically on how shellfish might be incorporated into nutrient reduction practices.

Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Fisheries

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

- The Invasive Catfish Task Force met in late October to discuss new research, updates on current research and jurisdiction activities, and to review their draft management recommendations as part of their in-progress *Chesapeake Bay Invasive Catfish Response Plan*.
- The full Fisheries GIT will have their biannual meeting on December 3-4, 2013 at Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD.
 - Day 1 of the meeting will focus on oyster management & restoration followed by invasive catfish science and proposed management strategies.
 - Day 2 will focus on multiple species including blue crabs, forage fish, and striped bass. The second day will also feature discussion on ecosystem-based fisheries management and the role of economics and ecosystem modeling.
- CBSAC will meet in-person in late November to discuss how to address the gear selectivity issue between states for the Winter Dredge Survey.

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

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 held a stream health workgroup meeting on Wednesday Oct 30 to discuss the scope and purpose of the group.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov

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.

No new updates at this time.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

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.

Ms. Tuana Phillips has joined the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT as a Staffer through the Chesapeake Research Consortium environmental management fellowship program.

Mike Fritz and Tuana Phillips have planned to meet with Laura Gabanski and Owen McDonough at EPA Headquarters' national Healthy Watersheds Initiative, as well as with state GIT4 members in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The purpose of these visits is to introduce Tuana and to discuss Healthy Watershed management strategies.

GIT4 is currently preparing for a December meeting to discuss progress to date on state-specific management strategies and GIT4 collective strategies, in addition to the development of management strategies for 2014 and beyond. The meeting will also be used to share ideas on how to track watershed health and protection status and discuss possible pilot local engagement demonstration projects.

Contact: Mike Fritz, fritz.mike@epa.gov

GIT 5 – Foster Stewardship

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.

No new updates at this time.

Contact: Amy Handen, AMHanden@chesapeakebay.net

GIT 6 – Partnering and Leadership

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

New Agreement Development

The Partnering and Leadership Team has been assisting the Bay Partnership with the development of a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The Team led the development of options on process and content that led to the Partnership's decision to work toward a new Agreement that for the first time would include headwater states as full partners, simplify and update the goals and outcomes of the Partnership, and allow the flexibility to adaptively manage the Program. The Team

members have coordinated the development of the timeline for developing the draft, the public comment tracking, and the formation of the Issues Resolution Committee and Editorial Board. The Team will continue to provide leadership and staff support as the agreement is made available for final public comment and subsequent efforts to finalize and adopt the agreement. The Team will update governance documentation to reflect elements of the new agreement.

Implementing Adaptive Management

The Team led the implementation of adaptive management throughout the program by helping the Goal Implementation Teams develop logic-based decision frameworks. These decision frameworks set the stage for adaptive management through setting goals, developing strategies, and monitoring the success of those strategies to achieve those goals. Such adaptive strategies allow for enhanced accountability and greater ability to improve knowledge and redirect strategies as needed.

ChesapeakeStat

The Team is laying the groundwork to track the goals, outcomes, and management strategies for the new agreement. Enhancements to ChesapeakeStat include: development of the Tracking Healthy Watersheds page, BMP Review progress table, and addition of 5.3.2 Watershed Model data to the TMDL Tracker. The Tracker now includes simulated pollutant load data by source sector for multiple years at the state, basin, and segment scales, as well as enhanced information on significant wastewater facilities. This online resource is a valuable resource for the Chesapeake Bay Program's partners.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Recent Meetings and Events

November 6	PSC Conference Call
November 12-13	Chesapeake Large Landscape Collaborative meeting in Shepherdstown, W.V.
November 18	Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting