



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
September 21, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Sep 21	Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum
Sep 25	NFWF grants announcement (Va.)
Sep 25-26	WQGIT F2F meeting
Sep 25-26	Reducing Pollution/Water Quality Standards indicators release
Sep 28	STAR Meeting
Sep 30	CBARA budget report due
Oct. 3	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting (Annapolis, Md)
Oct. 5-6	Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting
Oct 19	MB meeting
Oct. 30-31	Principals' Staff Committee Water Quality Retreat (Cambridge, Md)

Updates

House Passes Omnibus Domestic Spending Bill

On Thursday, September 14, Congress moved one step closer to setting federal spending levels for the remainder of FY 2018. The House passed a partial omnibus bill (H.R. 3354) which includes \$7.5 billion for the EPA, \$534 million below fiscal 2017 enacted levels, bringing the agency's budget in line with 2006 spending levels. The measure, passed almost entirely on party lines, came only days after the White House struck a deal with the Democratic leadership to pass a continuing resolution to keep the federal government running at FY 2017 levels through December 8. The House bill ignores most of President Trump's budget requests including funding levels for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Instead, the bill would provide for \$60 million for the CBPO. The bill is full of poison pill amendments including one from Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) that would prohibit EPA from enforcing the accountability measures of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The Senate is not expected to take up the House version of the bill and will not likely begin its work on FY 2018 appropriations until later this fall.

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

Grants Announcement: Annual NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grants

Over \$12.6 million in grant funding will support 44 environmental projects in the Chesapeake Bay region, restoring critical habitats and reducing pollution from cities, suburbs and farms. The funding, announced on September 19 at an event in Middle River, Maryland, comes through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, which is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and funded primarily by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Representatives Dutch

Ruppersberger and John Sarbanes along with Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles provided remarks at the event attended by about 60 grantees and members of the press.

Thirteen projects will be funded by the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program, which supports projects that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the watershed. And, 31 more will be funded through the Small Watershed Grants Program, which funds on-the-ground restoration, habitat conservation and community engagement projects. The 44 projects will collectively leverage an additional \$21.2 million in matching funds, for a total of almost \$34 million to strengthen the health of the watershed. Press Releases were sent out to the Annapolis, Baltimore and other local media markets.

Contact: Rachel Felver, (410) 267-5740, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net,

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.

LGAC Member Seats

LGAC has two new Virginia members appointed by Governor McAuliffe; the Honorable Jasmine Gore, Vice-Mayor of Hopewell, Virginia and the Honorable Charles “Chip” Jones, Vice-Chairman of the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District. Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York.

Local Government Engagement Initiative

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, is working closely with staff in all of the jurisdictions as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Communications Office staff to enhance local government engagement in Phase III WIP development. There was an Initiative meeting in Annapolis on August 23rd from 10:30 to 2:30. The group focused discussion on incorporating watershed agreement outcomes into the Phase III engagement process, jurisdiction communication product needs and shared strategy development and implementation.

LGAC Chair Bruce Williams represented LGAC at the Maryland Association of Counties August Summer Conference and facilitated a discussion entitled “What Will We See in Phase III? A Bay TMDL Update” with a panel consisting of MD Secretary Ben Grumbles, EPA CBP Associate Director Carin Bisland and Prince Georges County Director Adam Ortiz.

Any questions about LGAC should be directed to Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

LGAC sent a letter to the EPA Administrator, copying the Chesapeake Executive Council, in support of continued EPA funding of the Bay Journal.

Upcoming Meeting

LGAC's next meeting is scheduled for October 5-6 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. Agenda topics include Midpoint Assessment activities, Jurisdiction updates on local engagement strategies for Phase III WIP and financing stormwater program/Pay for Success.

Contact: Mary or Jennifer Starr, jstarr@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.

CAC met in Huntingdon County, PA on Sept 7-8 and focused on an agricultural theme. The meeting included briefings from EPA on Water Monitoring Trends and Storylines in central PA, Chesapeake Conservancy's precision conservation, nutrient management, updates on PA in the Balance, updates on Bay Program midpoint assessment and Phase III WIPs, and tours of two farms- highlighting conservation practices on a swine finishing farm and a heritage angus cattle farm.

Members discussed the importance of the Farm Bill to help the Chesapeake Bay states meet challenges with manure excess, the value of federal funding for the Bay Journal and the need to move forward with an environmental education directive at the EC level.

CAC's next quarterly meeting will be held in DC on November 29-30.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org
For program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC held its second quarterly meeting of FY2017 on September 12-13, 2017 at the Westin Annapolis Hotel. The next STAC meeting will be held on December 5-6, 2017 at a location to be determined. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org.

Workshops:

STAC hosted the following workshop this month. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshop, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available), can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design

This workshop was held on September 7-8, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The objectives of this workshop were to 1) assess the state of the knowledge on how anticipated changes in weather patterns and extreme events may affect the structural integrity of a subset of urban stormwater, agriculture, and stream restoration Best Management Practices (BMPs) over time; 2) compile siting and design guidelines to reduce the future impact of sea level rise, coastal storms, increased temperature and extreme events on BMPs; and, 3) identify remaining gaps and highest priority needs (i.e., research, monitoring, programmatic) in order to better inform and improve BMP development and implementation. Presentations and more information can be found [here](#).

STAC will be hosting five additional workshops in FY2017, listed here in order of anticipated dates (confirmed dates in bold). Planning is underway for all five activities.

- 1) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond – **December 12-13, 2017**
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop – **January 17-19, 2018**
- 4) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 5) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions

Recent Reports

STAC recently released a report entitled “Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Phase 6 Review” on September 1, 2017. This report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/379_Easton2017.pdf. All other reports (as available) can be found on the [STAC publication page](#).

STAC is working to finalize four reports from the following FY2016 workshops held in spring 2017. Information regarding each workshop (including agendas and presentations) can be found on the [STAC workshop homepage](#).

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

STAC is also 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](#).

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

Reviews:

STAC has two review activities currently in progress. These STAC-sponsored reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. For more information, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

The review panel convened on June 5-6 to discuss the material to be reviewed with CBP representatives. The panel is working to finalize a report of their findings and recommendations.

2) CBP Partnership's Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

STAC received the official review request from STAR's Climate Resiliency Workgroup on the approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Mid-point Assessment in late June. The panel is working to finalize their comments, and this review is on track to be complete by the end of September.

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

No indicators were updated since the August Management Board meeting.

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

- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (October 2017)
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (tidal segments achieving water quality standards and USGS assessment of monitored nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads) (October 2017)
- Toxic Contaminants (October 2017)
- Student MWEE* (October 2017)
- Planting Forest Buffers (October 2017)
- Sustainable Schools (Fall 2017)
- Citizen Stewardship* (Fall 2017)
- Adult Striped Bass Abundance and Fishery Management (Fall 2017)

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

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

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.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force is hosting an Invasive Catfish Symposium on November 6-7 at the VCU Rice Rivers Center to discuss the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery. Topics will include population dynamics, movement and habitat use, diet, and harvest. If you are interested in attending, please email kara.skipper@noaa.gov. Space is limited.

The Fish and Habitat GITs successfully competed for a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) sponsored workshop for fiscal year 2017. The workshop will help fill scientific and technical gaps in understanding of fish habitat. The steering committee held their third planning meeting in late August and will follow up through preparing pre-materials and arranging logistics.

- "Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions" will be coordinated by Gina Hunt (MD DNR), Mark Monaco (NOAA) and Donna Bilkovic (VIMS) to evaluate and determine the significance of factors influencing habitat function for a range of representative species across Chesapeake Bay habitats.

Contact: Kara Skipper; kara.skipper@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

Fall Meeting

The Habitat GIT will hold its Fall meeting on November 8th, 2017 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA. Discussion will focus on WIP and local government communications strategies, updates to biennial workplans, and reporting on ongoing GIT projects. Agenda and other materials will be distributed as they become available.

Stream Health Workgroup

A committee within the Stream Health Workgroup has formed to resolve issues with permitting of restoration projects. The group is seeking additional representation from states and regulatory agencies, particularly USACE, EPA, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Please contact hobaugh.paige@epa.gov if your jurisdiction or agency is lacking representation.

New Staffer

The Habitat GIT recently welcomed its newest staffer, Margot Cumming. Originally from Northern VA, Margot just returned to the area from Washington state where she was studying impacts of hatchery steelhead on wild populations. After spending summers during college working on streams throughout MD and VA, she is excited about the opportunity to turn towards policy. She studied Conservation Biology and Life Sciences Communications at University of Wisconsin – Madison. Various work groups she will be involved with include: stream health, wetlands, fish passage, fish habitat, comm team and MAPAIS.

The Wildlife Society Conference

Habitat GIT Coordinator Jennifer Greiner will speak at The Wildlife Society Conference in Albuquerque, NM later this month on “Aligning Actions for Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, and People in the Chesapeake Watershed”. The conference session, “Wetlands, Water & Wildlife: finding common ground among diverse stakeholders,” seeks to showcase diverse entities involved in water quality and quantity issues across the country and provide examples of successful models and tools to advance wetland and wildlife conservation initiatives amidst water challenges in the 21st century.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, hobaugh.paige@epa.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 August 14 and 28.

- On August 28, the WQGIT approved all recommended resolutions and paths forward for fatal flaws and comments raised during the fatal flaw review period for the Phase 6 Watershed Model, with the exception of the comments raised regarding the use of the Applied Soil Phosphorus Load Equation (APLE) in the Phase 6 Watershed Model. All changes to the model were final as of September 8. The WQGIT approved the use of the final Phase 6 Watershed Model to calculate draft planning targets for the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT did not reach consensus on the issues raised within the Agriculture Workgroup on the use of APLE in the Phase 6 Watershed Model. The specific comments raised included concerns regarding equity on the use of APLE across the agriculture and urban sectors, and concerns regarding uncertainty of the observational data set used to develop the soil phosphorus representation in the model.
 - Therefore, these issues will be raised to the Management Board for their decision during their September 21 meeting.
- Following the Agriculture Workgroup meeting on August 17, on August 28 the WQGIT approved the Agriculture Workgroup’s recommendation to adopt a 25-year time frame for modeling soil phosphorus load reductions in the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- Following the Agriculture Workgroup meeting on August 17, on August 28 the WQGIT approved the Agriculture Workgroup’s recommended E3 and No Action scenario definitions in the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- The WQGIT reviewed and approved the draft agenda and key decisional items for the upcoming September 25-26 Face-to-Face meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.

The WQGIT held a conference call on September 11. Key briefings to prepare for the WQGIT Face-to-Face meeting on September 25-26 included:

- The WQGIT was briefed on the decision points of scenario years for Phase III WIP planning targets and Phase III WIP development, and the key criteria of consideration for each scenario year. Options for planning target scenario years include 2010, 2012, 2017, and 2025.

- The WQGIT was briefed on options for addressing climate change qualitatively in the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT was briefed on preliminary results of the 2025 growth forecast using a historical trends scenario to predict land use growth.

The Modeling Workgroup will host a webinar on September 19.

- The Modeling Workgroup will be briefed on the results of the latest climate change analysis and preliminary options for incorporating climate change considerations quantitatively in the Phase III WIPs.

The WQGIT will hold their annual Face-to-Face meeting on September 25-26 at the CBP office, in the Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room. Key topics and decisions include:

- Recommendations to the Management Board and PSC on the scenario year to develop Phase III WIP planning targets.
- Recommendation to the Management Board and PSC on how and when to incorporate climate change considerations into the Phase III WIPs.
- Recommendations to the Management Board and PSC on whether to incorporate 2025 growth projections into the Phase III WIPs.
- Recommendations to the Management Board and PSC on how to address additional loads from Conowingo Dam, including 1. Who is responsible for the additional loads and how additional loads should be allocated; and 2. When to address additional loads.
- Recommendations to the Management Board and PSC on the draft planning targets for developing Phase III WIPs for the Bay TMDL, taking into account the previously listed decisions.
- Recommendation to the Management Board and PSC on the timeline and process for jurisdictional review of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets once released.

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 HW Goal Team Chair Angel Valdez, MDE has created a Story map. The innovative outreach tool is worth a look.

Maryland's Tier II Waters Story Map: This interactive story map application is a new outreach tool that provides an introduction to Maryland's Tier II waters, which are the designated high quality streams and their watersheds, through narrative, interactive maps, photos, and diagrams. This application is hosted by the Maryland Department of the Environment, and no special software is necessary for viewing other than an internet connection. Please feel free to post and share the following link to the story map: <http://arcg.is/1ami4K>

The 2017 HWGIT funding proposal for Phase 3 of the “Healthy Watersheds Forest Retention Project” was approved. This phase will test intra-basin credit trading mechanisms described in the Phase 2 Final Report, and will provide training to local officials to implement toolbox elements that were also identified and described in the Phase 2 Final Report. In addition, due to the focus of this phase on crediting conservation and local engagement, we are working closely with other related Goal Teams to make sure we complement efforts and make connections between multiple outcomes and benefits of related to the recommended land use practices.

The HWGIT is also in the process of reviewing bidders for the "leftover" FY16 GIT Funding project, “Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed”. This project will apply EPA’s Healthy Watersheds Assessment Framework to develop an approach for characterizing the health of watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay, thereby supporting the MHWGIT in tracking progress towards the Healthy Watersheds Outcome. Further, this project will assess vulnerabilities in healthy watersheds to help target management efforts.

The team is also working with jurisdictions to update the State-Identified Healthy Waters and Watersheds map for the Chesapeake Progress site.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@chesapeakebay.net

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.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov

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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The SRS team has collected feedback from multiple user groups, including Goal Teams, STAC, and the Management Board, in order to refine and strengthen the SRS process and Quarterly Progress Meeting materials. The Quarterly Progress Meeting Guide and the Logic Table/Work Plan Template have been revised to reflect this feedback. The revised Logic Table/Work Plan Template will be presented to the Management Board on September 21. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can now be found under “Project and Resources” of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY2017 GIT Funding

GIT leadership met on August 29 to review and select proposals to be put for final consideration for funding by the CBP Director. A total of 14 projects were approved for funding, for a total amount of \$825,000. Guidance for developing RFP content has been distributed to the Goal Teams and project technical leads, and will be submitted to GIT 6 leadership by the end of September.

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

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Workgroup has developed a conceptual framework for working with the SAV workgroup to develop a process for creating finance systems and/or strategies. These systems and/or strategies will help teams in the development of new two-year work plans and/or updated management strategies. This framework will be presented to the Management Board on September 21. The workgroup's FY2017 GIT Funding proposal to host a one-day financing forum was approved, and will continue through the RFP and bidding process as agreed upon by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup

EcoLogix has submitted the final report on the "Strategic Outreach Education Program for Local Elected Officials." The contents of this report are being used to develop and implement the third phase of the local official watershed education project "*Implementation Support for Local Official Watershed Education and Capacity Building*." The workgroup's FY2017 GIT Funding proposal to develop cross-outcome curriculum pertinent to local elected officials was approved, and will continue through the RFP and bidding process as agreed upon by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Contact: Andy Fellows, afellows@umd.edu

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.

CURRENT PROJECTS OF STAR

SRS Monitoring and Science Needs are Post-Management Board Meeting focus

STAR and the Goal Teams continue to review the monitoring and science needs requested by the Outcomes Teams during the spring and summer 2017 Management Board meetings. STAR is promoting discussions and capacity building through its work groups and networking with science providers. STAR remains a forum for GIT preparation for the SRS Biennial Review, with dedicated meetings occurring prior to the Management Board's themed SRS quarterly review meetings.

Funding Support for Data Mapping Layer Repository Approved

The STAR Climate Resiliency Work Group (Chair Mark Bennett and Coordinator Zoe Johnson) submitted two proposals for 2018 GIT competitive funding support from CBPO. The CRWG priority #1 proposal for creating a GIS-mapping layer repository was approved. The repository project along with many other important GIT-directed projects that were approved for the next year total over \$800,000 of GIT-specific work addressing their progress toward meeting 2014 Bay Agreement goals and outcomes.

NASA Satellite Image Interpretation Provides a New Opportunity for Evolving Bay-wide Water Clarity Assessments

Tish Robertson (VADEQ) and STAR Coordinator Peter Tango (USGS@CBPO) partnered with Emily Gotschack (NASA) and Kenton Ross (NASA) and their two NASA DEVELOP teams in the last year to apply new algorithms that could provide a new tool for local to baywide scale water clarity assessments in Chesapeake Bay. The NASA DEVELOP program teams of young professionals getting real world experience on practical problem solving issues like water clarity assessments. Their efforts and results provide promising progress in the application of satellite imagery for enhancing CBP partnership

capacity for water quality assessments in our tidal waters at local to regional scales. Their NASA work was presented at the August STAR meeting. A presentation is available [here](#).

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

On Sept. 7-8, 2017, STAC hosted the workshop, Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design. The workshop was planned for the purposes of: 1) assessing the state of the knowledge on how anticipated changes in weather patterns and extreme events may affect the structural integrity of a subset of urban stormwater, agriculture, and stream restoration Best Management Practices (BMPs) over time; 2) compiling siting and design guidelines to reduce the future impact of sea level rise, coastal storms, increased temperature and extreme events on BMPs; and, 3) identifying remaining gaps and highest priority needs to address in order to better inform and improve BMP development and implementation. The workshop was well attended, with many valuable presentations and good attendee participation. The following topics were examined and will be presented in the written workshop report: general best practices/principles for siting and design; climate data, projections and scenarios; modeling applications and approaches; siting and design guidelines, engineering studies; legal and regulatory tools, mechanisms and barriers; case studies/demonstration projects; project screening checklists; monitoring protocols; tools and resources; research needs; and communication/outreach products and support needs.

MODELING WORKGROUP

The Watershed Model Phase 6 Model draft resolution of any fatal flaw issues is scheduled for August 28, 2017. The CAST [website](#) has also been finalized, and is available for users to develop scenarios to manage nutrient and sediment reductions. The WQSTM calibration was completed in August. The STAC reviews of the CBP modeling framework including the approach to simulation of Conowingo infill and climate change in both the watershed and estuarine models will be completed in August. All webinars for the review of the Phase 6 model have been completed and posted under the projects tab of the [Modeling Workgroup webpage](#).

STATUS AND TRENDS WORKGROUP

The September 12 meeting reviewed an MOU that the Citizen Monitoring Cooperative is creating for data use and incorporation into the Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners. The Water Quality Standards Attainment Action team provided a brief update on the [Water Quality Standards Attainment indicator](#) that was discussed at the June Status and Trends meeting.

INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORKS WORKGROUP

At the last meeting, IMN WG Coordinator Peter Tango and Citizen Monitoring Project manager at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Liz Chudoba provided an overview of the development of a region-wide monitoring Memorandum of Understanding. A single page document will be created over the next 6-9 months regarding the collection, integration and application of Citizen Monitoring data into the decision-support resources of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership. The IMN WG members were asked to review, comment and edit text on the proposed themes in time for the upcoming September meetings.

Future efforts were discussed to create and approve project templates that reflect volunteer engagement on specific monitoring program needs and acknowledge product development that is informative to the volunteers on how their data are or will be used.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net

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.

The 2017 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grantees will be announced at a public event at the Miramar Landing community in Middle River, Maryland on September 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, Maryland Representative Dutch Ruppersberger, Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles and Environmental Protection Agency Acting Regional Administrator Cecil Rodriguez are confirmed to speak. A second public event will take in Norfolk, Virginia on September 25 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Hermitage Museum and Gardens to celebrate the awarding of grants that will complete oyster restoration on the Lafayette River. Governor Terry McAuliffe, Virginia Representative Bobby Scott and Chesapeake Bay Program Director Nick DiPasquale are confirmed to speak.

Outreach Coordinator Caitlyn Johnstone hosted a webinar June 28 for businesses and nonprofit organizations on the links between environmental business practices and the *Watershed Agreement* outcomes with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Businesses for the Bay program.

In late July, she conducted outreach visits to underserved D.C. Muslim communities with leadership of Green Muslims in preparation for a [faith and nature event](#).

On September 9, Caitlyn exhibited to a mixed science, academic and community audience at a Chesapeake Biological Laboratory event in Solomons Island, using an in-house developed interactive activity to explain the role of individuals in watershed protection.

We are sad to announce that Stephanie Smith, our Web Content Specialist, has taken another position. Please share the [job posting](#) with your networks.

We recently put out a [video](#) on blue crabs and climate change. Also this month we passed 2,500 Instagram followers, reaching over 1,500 different people in a seven-day period.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

- Aug. 17 Agriculture Workgroup Face-to-Face Meeting
- Aug. 18 Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) meeting
- Aug. 24 STAR Team Meeting
- Aug. 29 Quarterly GIT Chairs Meeting
- Aug. 30 Summer 2017 Education Workgroup Meeting
- Sept. 7-8 Citizen Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
- Sept. 7-8 CBC Quarterly Meeting