



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee
December 13, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Dec 10-15	RAE New Orleans
Dec 19	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Dec 19	CB Oyster Panel findings
Jan 3	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting
Jan 5-6	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting
Jan 12	Management Board Meeting
Jan TBD	Land Use Data available for local govt

Updates

OMB Releases CBARA Report to Congress

In response to the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2015 (CBARA), the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, on December 6 released the first of the required interagency cross-cut budgets. The report, submitted to Congress, contains a detailed accounting of all funds received and obligated from Federal restoration activities during the current and preceding years which went to states for restoration activities for FY 14, 15 and 16, as well as proposed federal and estimated state funding to be carried out in 2017. A copy of the final report is currently posted on the OMB website at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fy17_chesapeake_bay_crosscut.pdf

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

Werowocomoco Acquisition Ceremony

On November 30, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, along with Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis celebrated the acquisition of approximately 264 acres of land in Gloucester County VA encompassing "Werowocomoco" -- the former capital of the Powhatan Chiefdom and the presumed site of Captain John Smith's first meeting with the leader Powhatan and his daughter, Pocahontas. The site is a rare archeological find -- an intact, relatively undisturbed, town site and cultural landscape.

Werowocomoco will be managed by the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Program office and their staff on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The site is not yet open to the public. A public planning process will take place this winter in close consultation with the Virginia Indian tribes.

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 Chair Brianne Nadeau has taken on additional duties with DC Council for the balance of 2016. Therefore, LGAC member Bruce Williams (Takoma Park, MD) is representing LGAC at the PSC meeting and full-day MB meetings, plus chaired the LGAC Quarterly meeting December 1-2 in Annapolis, MD.

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York and Virginia. Don Philips, Laurel Councilmember has agreed to fill in the seat for Delaware.

At the December quarterly meeting topics for discussion included finalizing the draft Report on Streamlining Green Infrastructure Implementation, Updated on the Local Government Engagement Initiative, Climate Change and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, a moderated discussion of technical assistance program sufficiency, and update on the Chesapeake Bay Program and Environmental Finance Symposium Report Action Team activity to date. Outcome of the meeting determined significant technical assistance gaps exist and the Committee will seek funds to hold a Local Government Forum on Technical Assistance Sufficiency in June. LGAC will need jurisdiction participation/input. Also, Mary Gattis' appointment to the Environmental Finance Symposium Report Action Team was confirmed and Diane Davis was recognized for her service on LGAC which ended in April 2016.

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, continues to work with the jurisdictions' technical leads on the Local Government Engagement Initiative. Several tools have been created for jurisdictions and EPA to use in developing individual strategies, and work has begun on messaging. A basic fact sheet on the midpoint assessment and phase III WIP development for local governments is almost ready for primetime. An infographic is circulating for review and will serve as a quick, "at a glance" guide to local engagement over the next several years. There was an Initiative conference call on November 16 from 1-3. The group focused on sharing lessons learned from past engagement efforts and further refining individual local government engagement strategies. Note: LGAC coordination of LGEI will be scaled back significantly at the end of December unless additional resources are secured. Any questions about this Initiative should be directed to Mary at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

LGAC's next meeting in March 23-24, 2017 in Virginia. To be added to the LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at 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.

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 third quarterly meeting of FY2016 on December 6-7, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu and Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org.

FY16 Workshops:

Planning is underway for the following four workshops in FY2016. All workshops are being scheduled for the spring of 2017. For additional information about the workshops below, contact Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- 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

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize five reports from the following FY2015 workshops. 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 each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) - can be found on the STAC workshop webpage at:

http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation
- 4) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- 5) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

For more information, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu.

Reviews:

http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php%23. STAC has four review activities currently in progress:

1. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum
The STAC Criteria Addendum review panel is still finalizing its review of the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum. The review panel suggested a clarifying re-write of the addendum and then requested additional revisions to the updated document. The review panel is in the process of working with CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments.
2. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
The review panel completed their review of the requested documentation in late October and have finalized a report of their recommendations. The report is currently under review by STAC staff and is undergoing preparation to be distributed to the Partnership within the next month.
3. General Additive Models (GAMs) Approach on Tidal Trends
A review panel was assembled in October and the review is currently underway. The panel is working to complete its review and finalize the report by mid-December.
4. Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion
STAC approved the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested STAC technical review of potential impacts of boat generated waves on shoreline stability and attendant ecosystem

properties, and provide advice on available policy actions to minimize adverse effects. The panel completed their requested review in late October and have assembled a draft report of their recommendations. The report has been sent out for external review, and the panel aims to incorporate feedback and finalize the report over the next few months.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for approximately four additional STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews between now and 2017. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months.

1. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations
2. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
3. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment
4. Phase 6 Land Use Hind Cast Methodology

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

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

The Workgroup will use the Indicators Framework to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

Indicators

The following indicators were updated since the November Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Protected Lands	Data collected between 2015 and 2016 show that, since 2010, approximately 936,639 acres have been permanently protected from development (47% achievement of Protected Lands outcome in Agreement). Protected land in the watershed totals 8.74 million acres.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-conservation/protected-lands

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

- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (December 2016)
- Juvenile Striped Bass Abundance (December 2016)
- Fish Passage (January 2017)

The Status and Trends workgroup expects to publish, via [ChesapeakeProgress](http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com), baseline information for the following new indicators in December 2016-January 2017:

- Diversity (December 2016)
- Environmental Literacy Planning (December 2016)
- Sustainable Schools (December 2016)

- Student Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) (December 2016-January 2017)
- Oysters (December 2016-January 2017)

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 [Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team](#) (Fisheries GIT) hosted their [biannual full goal team meeting](#) on December 6th and 7th in Annapolis, MD. Meeting topics focused on oyster restoration, ecosystem services, and research in the Chesapeake Bay, as well as blue crabs, forage, and fish habitat.

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office approved two Fisheries [GIT-funded projects](#), which are set to be awarded to bidders this month. These two projects include a study on oyster shell/habitat loss dynamics in the Bay and an evaluation of ecosystem factors on the blue crab population. In addition, the Fisheries GIT collaborated with the Habitat GIT for a project on citizen monitoring of SAV beds, which includes a pilot study component to test forage sampling gear.

An oyster indicator and dashboard are in development by the Fisheries GIT, and was presented to the full GIT at this week's full Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting. The dashboard seeks to communicate progress toward the [Oyster Restoration Outcome](#) of restoring 10 tributaries by the year 2025. This dashboard names all selected tributaries, quantifies the amount of completed in-water restoration acreage and target acreage and reports the progress of each tributary. The proposed indicator is acres of in-water restoration, defined as reef construction or seeding practices in tributaries. These metrics and communication tools will be available online at [Chesapeake Progress](#).

Fisheries GIT staff hosted a meeting of the Maryland, Virginia, and Potomac River fishery managers and oyster experts to discuss oyster management. Each jurisdiction shared management practices and discussed the outlook for aquaculture, wild harvest, and restoration.

Contact: Kara Skipper, kara.skipper@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 Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has finished compiling the data sets of recent stream macroinvertebrate counts, habitat scores, and water quality measurements submitted by federal, state and local monitoring staff from across the Chesapeake Bay basin. An updated non-tidal benthic database is being sent to the CBP Data Center in early July. It holds biological data for more than 25,000 sampling events collected since 1986. A refinement of the Chessie BIBI (Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity) is well underway. The important taxa-specific attributes (e.g., feeding guilds, habit preferences, tolerance values) needed to calculate some metrics were updated with the help of a Technical Advisory Group. R-scripts to evaluate the raw data and calculate the Chessie BIBI are nearly complete; they could eventually be expanded to calculate individual, program-specific metrics

and indices. A reference-based approach is being used to establish thresholds for scoring individual metrics. Genus-level metrics are being added to the original, family-level metrics in the index. Preliminary results show the new index is sensitive to habitat and water quality degradation. It can correctly identify Reference or Degraded sites about 80% of the time despite the natural variability in stream populations. When the BIBI refinement is complete, the Stream Health Workgroup will need to decide how to use the index in measuring and reporting progress towards attainment of the CBP stream health goal. A draft report is being reviewed within the technical advisory group of the project in November, with a wider release anticipated in the coming months.

- [The Habitat GIT held their Fall 2016 meeting](#) at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV on November 14th, 2016. Building upon the momentum created at the Spring meeting, the GIT will be moving forward by coalescing the state actions and tools shared into a watershed-wide, landscape-scale vision to further the Chesapeake Conservation Design concept. The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC) Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas (RCOAs) project was presented with use case scenarios aimed at answering specific habitat conservation/restoration questions. The Habitat GIT plans to utilize and showcase the tools presented by initiating a conservation/restoration project with interested partner organizations within the next year. Full minutes will be posted soon.
- An extension of the Habitat GIT meeting took place on November 15th and 16th at NCTC for members of the SAV Work Group and the Black Duck Action Team as Tetra Tech and the [Climate Resiliency Workgroup present decision making workshops](#) on their Climate Resiliency Assessment and Decision-Making Matrix project. The SAV and Black Duck groups walked away with a “climate-ized” workplan and are now equipped with the thought process required for climate smart decision making.
- The Wetland Workgroup approved the Wetland Expert Panel’s preliminary report with noted caveats and comments that were provided. Four categories of wetland BMPs will be included in the beta calibration and Phase 6 Watershed Model: Creation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Enhancement. Creation and Restoration will be a land use change plus treatment of a set ratio of upland acres to each acre of wetland; Rehabilitation and Enhancement are functional gain categories and will treat a set ratio of upland acres to each acre of wetland with no land use conversion. The retention efficiency and acres treated numbers from the WEP will be included in the beta calibration. Those for Restoration may be adjusted during the comment period for the full Expert Panel report; those for Creation, Rehabilitation, and Enhancement (averages of the existing values) will not be able to be adjusted until a new Expert Panel is formed in the future. The Panel’s full report is expected to be distributed to appropriate GITs and workgroups just before Thanksgiving with a brief comment window closing on December 7th. Final approval of the report will be sought in after the comment period in December.
- The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) recently completed for the CBP a series of maps that identify high density forage availability for black ducks in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Expert opinions and observations on black duck populations and the potential loss of wetland habitat due to climate change were factored into their creation. They will be used to identify areas within the CBW best suited for restoration, enhancement, and management for wintering, breeding, and migrating black ducks. The Black Duck Action Team plans to use the maps to

realize the amount of wetland by area (acres or hectares) necessary to accommodate 100,000 black ducks as identified by the Outcome for a more manageable approach to restoration.”

Contact: Kyle Runion, runion.kyle@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 November 14th and 28th:

DECISION: The WQGIT agreed to approve the Phase 6 Nutrient Management BMP Expert Panel report with the language shared with the WQGIT last week. EPA CBPO will consult directly with Phase 6 NM Expert Panel members to get their input on what a state would need to submit in order to demonstrate book values are equally or more conservative than manure/soil analyses when it comes to nutrient applications. A state would need to submit such documentation to EPA CBPO in time for review and approval by EPA CBPO prior to December 31, 2016 in order to receive credit in the Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration.

DECISION: The WQGIT approved the proposed responses to the STAC review of the Phase 6 Scenario Builder.

DECISION: The WQGIT approved the proposed climate change assessment procedures.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on December 12th and December 19th. A subset of the planned topics include:

- Approval of 6 BMP expert panel reports (Oyster Aquaculture, Wetlands, Conservation Tillage, Cover Crops, Manure Incorporation/Injection, Animal Waste Management Systems)
- Approval of the Local Planning Goals Task Force’s final recommendations

Nutrient Management language referenced above:

1. *Go back to the original version of the Expert Panel Report as submitted to the Ag Workgroup on October 20. This keeps the “strongly recommended” language.*
2. *Delete the existing Appendix G as drafted by the Ag Workgroup.*
3. *Add a new Appendix G with the following conditional language:*
 - *Where book values are used in lieu of site-specific manure or soil analyses, the jurisdiction’s program must be sufficiently conservative to ensure that implementation of the standard process is sufficiently restrictive to be protective of water quality.*
 - *Jurisdictions reporting book value based nutrient management for credit in the Chesapeake Bay Program’s modeling system must provide a description and justification documenting how their program, including the methods for calculating the book values, meets this standard as part of their EPA approved BMP verification program plan.*

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 Healthy Watersheds GIT had a face-to-face meeting on Friday, November 18 in Harrisburg, PA. STAC workshops, future GIT funding projects, and shared goal team action items were a few topics discussed at the meeting. On November 3, the HWGIT presented to the Communications Team how to package and distribute communication products for GIT funding projects. One GIT funding project, the *Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project*, being conducted by the Virginia Department of Forest in the Rappahannock River basin had grown, and the Pennsylvania DCNR is now replicating Virginia's findings to complete Phase I in Pennsylvania. The HWGIT is also working with states to determine whether updates are needed to the healthy watershed database and map. The Goal Team is working with the jurisdictions to developed a timeline and methodology to assess the current health status of the state-identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value. In addition, the Goal Team is working cooperatively with the STAR Team to utilize added capacity related to science needs toward this goal.

Contact: Renee Thompson, rthomps@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: Amy Handen, AMHanden@chesapeakebay.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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The GIT has been working with Goal Teams, STAR, Advisory Committees, and other members of the Partnership to develop a Biennial Strategy Review System (SRS). Draft versions of the SRS have presented to the Management Board (MB) and the Principal's Staff Committee (PSC) for review and comment. The GIT has incorporated this input while developing key system meeting details, including objectives, inputs, outputs, meeting templates, and reporting timelines. The Goal Team plans presents a final recommendation to the MB in December 2016.

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

GIT Funding

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) issued a Request for Proposals to seek bidders in early October 2016, with a submission deadline of November 18, 2016. At this time, project leads and other identified reviewers are evaluating the proposals submitted to the Trust. The winning bidders will be selected in December 2016.

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

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup is working with the Communications Team to develop a series of “Financing 101” and “Bay 101” primers. These primers will be used for education and training purposes, in an effort to foster a more complete understanding of the relationship between financing strategies and Bay Program operations. The Workgroup is also working with GIT6 to fully integrate considerations of funding and financing into the Biennial SRS process.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup and EcoLogix have been participating in local and regional meetings (i.e. MACo), where they have conducted short surveys using a series of questions aimed at understanding the information needs and preferred delivery mechanisms of local elected officials in the Bay watershed. The workgroup plans to synthesize this information, as well as engage in targeted outreach to individuals, to gather responses from a diverse set of local elected officials.

Contact: Reggie Parrish, parrish.reginald@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.

STAR:

STAR is supporting the Cross GIT Mapping project, utilizing monthly meetings to solicit feedback on mapping priorities from the Goal Teams and next steps. [See Workplan](#). On Nov 29, the STAR GIS team presented their initial versions of maps for restoration and conservation priority areas. The Goal Teams provided feedback and we discussed next steps for the project.

STAR is also playing an active role in presenting indicator options for Goal Teams in outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. See [presentations on indicators](#) from the September 22 STAR meeting.

Integrated monitoring networks workgroup:

In November, the **Citizen-Based and Nontraditional monitoring project group (aka the Chesapeake Monitoring Consortium)** reviewed their progress on a prioritization report following up on findings of their Prioritization Workshop held October 13, 2016. The CMC prioritization report is due to CBP by December 31, 2016. A presentation on conceptual models that integrate the context for coordination of work with multiple outcomes and driving the 2017 work plan elements was provided by workgroup coordinator Peter Tango and is available for reference [here](#).

Climate resiliency workgroup:

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) completed several tasks related to the integration of climate effects in the Midpoint Assessment modeling and decision-making process. The CRWG developed a briefing paper outlining a list of possible options for incorporating climate considerations in Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans, which is now on the [website](#) and also provided feedback on the climate data variables and scenarios for input into the Chesapeake Bay watershed and estuarine modeling efforts. Presentations on the climate modeling and policy options were provided to the [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#), the [Management Board](#) and the [Citizen Advisory Committee](#).

The Climate Smart Habitat Restoration Structured Decision-Making Workshops for Submerged Aquatic

Vegetation and Black Duck/Tidal Wetlands occurred this month on Nov. 15 and 6, 2016 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. This two-day workshop was a hands-on event, focused on developing and applying the Climate Resiliency Analysis Matrix to Chesapeake Bay Program SAV and Tidal Wetlands/Black Duck Management Strategies. For more information about the workshop and to view workshop materials, [click here](#).

The next Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting will occur Dec 19 at SERC. The area of focus will be workgroup actions for 2017.

Status and Trends Workgroup:

The workgroup will use the [Indicators Framework](#) to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

At the last meeting, workgroup members reviewed a final version of the [workplan](#) for the group, and workgroup members discussed adding leads to workplan action items for 2017. The direction of the Diversity Indicator was also discussed, with plans to work with the Communications team to best visualize this information on Chesapeake Progress.

Criteria assessment protocols workgroup:

The CAP WG completed the CBP requested 2016 CAP WG Chlorophyll Criteria Protocol Review during November 2016. There is a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Regulatory Advisory Panel (VADEQ RAP) meeting in Richmond, VA on December 14, 2016 addressing the issue of James River Chlorophyll Criteria Rule-making. CAP WG Chair Peter Tango will be presenting the CAP WG report findings and recommendations to the VADEQ RAP at their December 2016 meeting.

Modeling workgroup:

Development of the Phase 6 Beta 4 version of the Watershed Model, to be unveiled at the December 13-14 Quarterly Meeting, is ongoing. The agenda for the December Quarterly Review can be found [here](#). The documentation for Beta 3 has been updated and can be found on the Modeling Workgroup's [website](#) under the Projects & Resources tab. The date for an upcoming webinar that will further explain changes to the Beta 3 version of the Watershed model is still to be determined.

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.

At its December meeting, the Communications Workgroup talked about the 2015-2016 Bay Barometer which will be finalized and released in January. They also heard from Caroline Donovan from UMCEs about the [Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative](#). The workgroup will host its biannual retreat on January 11th at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Md. The two-year terms for the workgroup's Chair (Bill Hayden, VA DEQ) and Vice Chair (Catherine Krikstan, UMCEs) will be up in January, so the workgroup will vote on new leadership at the retreat.

The Communications Office put out a [press release](#) on the [high-resolution land cover](#) on December 6th.

Contact: Rachel Felver, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Nov 16-17 CAC meeting
Nov 15-18 Ag Networking Forum (Staunton, Va.)
Nov 28 Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Nov 29 Goal Implementation Team Chairs Quarterly Meeting
Dec 1 STAR Meeting
Dec 1-2 Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting
Dec 6-7 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
Dec 6-7 Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Dec 6 Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management (GIT6) Meeting