



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*A Watershed Partnership*

**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
May 10, 2018**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

May 14	Climate Resiliency Workgroup in person meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
May 14	Water Quality GIT conference call
May 16	Integrated Monitoring Networks meeting
May 21	Diversity Workgroup meeting (Lancaster, Pa.)
May 21-23	Maryland State of the Coast conference (Cambridge, Md.)
May 22-23	Choose Clean Water Coalition meeting (Lancaster, Pa.)
May 23	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
May 23-24	Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting (Lancaster, Pa.)
May 23-24	STAC Workshop: Revising Coastal Land Water Interactions (Frederick, Md.)
May 31	Expanded GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
May 24	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting (Annapolis)
June 6	Forestry Workgroup conference call
June 7-8	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Harrisonburg, Va.)
June 14	Management Board meeting (Annapolis)
July TBD	Principals' Staff Committee meeting

**Updates**

**Release of Phase III WIP Expectations**

EPA plans to issue the expectations document for the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs by the end of May. The document is designed to help maintain accountability in the work under the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL), encourage continued adaptive management to the new information generated during and after the Bay TMDL 2017 midpoint assessment, and lay the groundwork for implementation of the next generation of innovative practices. A press release and other supporting materials being developed.

Contact: Rich Batiuk, (410) 267-57731, [batiuk.rich@epa.gov](mailto:batiuk.rich@epa.gov)

**CBPO Acting Director to Attend John Smith Trail Advisory Council Meeting**

On May 14 -15, CBPO Acting Director Jim Edward will attend the final meeting of the Captain John Smith Trail Advisory Council Meeting in Williamsburg, Va. After ten years of work, this meeting will celebrate the accomplishments of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council and commemorate the final council meeting. Past and present Advisory Council members will attend the meeting. The Advisory Council, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in 2008, consisted of representatives of federal and state agencies, tribes, and Bay-related organizations. The Council consulted with the Secretary on matters relating to the trail and assisted the National Park Service in development and implementation, identifying significant trail resources, and other matters.

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

### **Winter Dredge Survey Shows Healthy Blue Crab Population**

On May 9, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources released the results of the 2018 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which shows that the population of blue crabs remains healthy and sustainable. While this year's cold weather and ice cover took a toll on the adult crab population, causing an estimated 35 percent mortality of adult females wintering in state waters, the number of young crabs that returned to Chesapeake Bay this year increased 34 percent. Even with unfavorable conditions, the blue crab population remains well within sustainable population parameters, showing that the species is being well managed. The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee plans to release a full analysis this summer. The annual Winter Dredge Survey has been conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science since 1990.

For more information: <http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2018/05/09/survey-shows-chesapeake-bay-blue-crab-population-healthy/>

### **Underwater Grass Abundance Breaks Decades-Long Records**

For the third consecutive year, the amount of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay has broken decades-long monitoring records. According to data from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), an estimated 104,843 acres of grasses grew in the Bay in 2017. This total is 14,843 acres greater than the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2017 restoration target, 57 percent of our ultimate restoration goal and the first time in modern history that grasses in the Bay have surpassed 100,000 acres.

In an article published by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences* last month, scientists linked the recent resurgence of the region's underwater grasses to the nutrient reductions made under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL). Experts are seeing increases in certain areas: the very salty (sustained recovery of eelgrass), moderately salty (widgeon grass) and tidal fresh (wild celery, water stargrass and other species) regions of the Bay.

For more information:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/underwater\\_grasses\\_in\\_the\\_chesapeake\\_bay\\_experience\\_record\\_growth](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/underwater_grasses_in_the_chesapeake_bay_experience_record_growth)

### **Potomac River earns "B" on latest report card**

The health of the Potomac River continues to improve, as the Potomac Conservancy gave the waterway a grade of "B" in its latest report card, up from a "B-" in 2016 and a "D" less than a decade ago. Named the most endangered river in America in 2012, the Potomac River has seen a comeback due in part to declining pollution, returning wildlife and protected land. Pollutants such as nutrients and sediment continue to decline, while native wildlife like shad and bald eagles are returning. At the same time, more forest and farmland is being protected in the river's headwaters. While the river's health increases, so too does its popularity with the public, thanks in part to new places to access and enjoy the water.

Improvements in wastewater treatment plants, reductions in non-point source pollution runoff and sediment, and other upgrades are identified as factors in the recovery. The recovery is, however, fragile. Some problems persist and are slowing the recovery of the river including increases in polluted stormwater runoff, invasive species like blue and flathead catfish, and a decrease in tree plantings.

For more information: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/potomac\\_river\\_earns\\_b\\_on\\_latest\\_report\\_card1](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/potomac_river_earns_b_on_latest_report_card1)

### **Baltimore becomes the first city in Maryland to finance through environmental impact bonds**

A new form of financing, the environmental impact bond (EIB), which spreads the risk between private investors and local governments is being employed by the city of Baltimore to help pay for \$10 million of green infrastructure projects. EIBs are a form of “pay for success” financing. For these impact bonds, some of the risk shifts from the public sector (the government) to the private sector (a private investor).

Implementation can differ, but the general model is based on improvement to the environment. If a project meets its intended targets, the government pays back the private investor, possibly including interest. If a project does not meet the measurement of success, the public sector is not left holding the bill. If the program is more successful than presumed, the government repays the private investor along with an increased interest rate or a “bonus” value. That slightly higher cost is repaid by the multiple benefits the community gains through successful green infrastructure: reduced flood risk, improved climate resiliency, a more beautiful town and even new jobs in the community.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its partner, impact investment advisor Quantified Ventures (QV), are helping Baltimore to design the plan. An additional \$6 million dollars' worth of infrastructure projects will also be funded through EIBs in the city, with Kresge Foundation and other funders yet to be named, acting as the private investors. The first EIB occurred in October of 2016 to combat the District of Columbia’s combined sewer overflows, with the Calvert Foundation and Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group providing the upfront capitol to DC Water.

For more information:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a\\_new\\_form\\_of\\_funding\\_helps\\_cities\\_finance\\_green](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_new_form_of_funding_helps_cities_finance_green)

## **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.*

- Open seats: Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York.
- Next meeting: LGAC will be holding its next quarterly meeting June 7-8, 2018 in Harrisonburg, VA. Topics to be discussed will include the Chesapeake Bay Commission reports on technical assistance and the Farm Bill, non-point source nutrient trading, forest and agricultural land conservation efforts, Phase III WIP development and prioritizing recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff Assistant Harriet Newquist at [hnewquist@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:hnewquist@allianceforthebay.org).
- Roundtables: In an effort to assist jurisdictions with better engaging local officials, LGAC members in PA, VA and DE will host roundtables for their peers during May and June 2018. For more information on roundtables, please contact LGAC staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).
- Virginia: Virginia LGAC Members attended Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting. Afterwards they met with Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, Matthew Strickler on April 30th to share local priorities and concerns.

The next LGAC meeting will be held on June 7-8 in Harrisonburg, VA.

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org) or 717-475-8390.

### **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.*

- Priority issues: CAC's February quarterly meeting resulted in the members self-identifying the following topics as their priorities for the 2018: Continuing to follow the BMP verification process and the Phase III WIP development; Forest Buffers; Federal Funding; Environmental Education and opportunities in the Farm Bill.
- Next meeting: CAC will hold their spring meeting in Lancaster, PA on May 23-24 and will interact with the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference on the concurrent day.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Paula Jasinski (VA), CAC Chair and Matt Ehrhart (PA), Vice Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray [abray@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

#### ***Upcoming Meetings:***

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2018 via webinar on June 20, 2018. More information will be made available on the [June meeting webpage](#).

#### ***Workshops:***

On April 25-26, STAC hosted a workshop titled "*Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision*". This meeting took the first step in identifying information needs on the quality and quantity of fish habitat and its sensitivity to stressors to inform the development of a regional (Chesapeake Bay) fish habitat assessment. More information can be found [here](#).

One additional workshop will be hosted this spring on **May 23-24, 2018**: "Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triplet' Connection". Information regarding recent and upcoming workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

STAC will be sponsoring the following 5 workshops in FY2018:

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0

- 2) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Barriers: How do we accelerate the path to 95,000+ acres with the greatest economic, social, and environmental impact?
- 3) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings
- 4) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management
- 5) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals

**Upcoming Reports:**

STAC is working to finalize the following nine reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision
- 2) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
- 3) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 4) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 5) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 6) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay’s Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 7) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 8) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 9) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

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

**Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

**Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup**

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Fish Passage	Between 2012 and 2017, 1,236 additional miles were opened to fish passage, surpassing the 1,000-mile goal.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/fish-passage">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/fish-passage</a>
SAV (preliminary 2017 data)	An estimated 104,843 acres of underwater grasses were observed in 2017: 14,843 acres greater than the 2017 restoration target and 57% of the 185,000-acre goal.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sav">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sav</a>

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

- Forest Buffers (May)
- Reducing Pollution Indicator (May/June)
- Wetlands (June)
- Blue Crab Abundance (spring/summer)

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 Drescher, 410-267-5713, [drescher.laura@epa.gov](mailto:drescher.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 Forage Action Team held a call on April 9 and decided that a subset of this team will meet in-person on May 29 to begin indicator development.
- The Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey results were submitted from MD DNR on April 24.
- The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee is planning to meet on May 14 to work on the annual advisory report.
- All Fisheries GIT workplans have been accepted as complete except for the Blue Crab Outcome workplan. We will meet with the SRS Planning Team to make necessary revisions and ensure the workplan is consistent with the others.
- The Fisheries GIT has been planning a joint meeting for June with the Habitat GIT to focus on some shared interests and priority areas, with potential for drafting a proposal for cross-GIT funding.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@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.*

- Joint meeting: The Habitat and Sustainable Fisheries GITs plan to hold a joint meeting the third week of June. Themes will include synergy around focal areas for bay restoration (oysters, fish habitat, SAV, etc.), the groups' next steps following the Fish Habitat STAC Workshop and SAV Finance Dialogue recommendations, and the development of a potential joint GIT funding proposal. Location and date will be shared once finalized.
- STAC workshop: The STAC fish habitat workshop entitled *Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions* was held April 25-26, 2018 in Richmond, Virginia. Meeting information and material can be found at [this](#) website. A pre-workshop questionnaire was conducted to determine the utility of a regional fish habitat assessment and inform the workgroup participants of user needs. The Questionnaire Report includes responses from every jurisdiction and can be found [here](#). The next post-workshop steps include the follow up of several action items by Steering Committee members over the next few months; the final report is due late July.

- State of the Coast Conference: Members of the Habitat GIT will be attending the inaugural Maryland State of the Coast Conference later this month (May 21-23) in Cambridge. They look forward to learning about Maryland's coastal conservation efforts, participating in outdoor stream and oyster workshops, and hearing from NASA astronaut Richard R. Arnold II.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, [hobaugh.paige@epa.gov](mailto: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 April 9 and April 23. A subset of topics discussed included:**

- The WQGIT continued preparation for the SRS presentation to the Management Board in May 2018, including review of a detailed timeline for SRS tasks to prepare for the May 10 Management Board presentation, review of management strategies and workplans, identification of future management strategy and workplan priorities, and coordination with other outcomes under the WQGIT (Toxic Contaminants and Forestry outcomes).
- The WQGIT was briefed on the latest results from the jurisdictions' 2017 progress data.
- The WQGIT provided feedback on the draft CBP response to the STAC report, "Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation."
- The WQGIT was briefed on the Watershed Resources Registry (WRR) and applications for developers, and planners.
- The WQGIT was briefed on Delaware's request for a special case allowance in the final Phase III Planning Targets.

#### **The WQGIT will hold a conference call on May 14. A subset of planned topics includes:**

- The WQGIT will continue to discuss data needs for STAR support, following the SRS presentation to the Management Board and initial takeaways for WQGIT priorities for the 2018-2019 workplans and management strategies.
- The WQGIT will review the recommendations from the Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panel Establishment Group for approval to include agricultural stormwater practices in CAST and NEIEN.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup's technical memo, "The Phase 3 WIP Challenge: The extent of unregulated urban land and small MS4s in the Chesapeake Bay watershed makes urban load reduction problematic."
- The WQGIT will be briefed on new land conservation scenarios available in CAST and the results of a comparative analysis of thematic land use conservation scenarios.
- The WQGIT will hold further discussion and review of available data in order to make a recommendation to the PSC on Delaware's special case request at the May 14 WQGIT conference call.

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

Contact: Katherine Wares; [kwares@chesapeakebay.net](mailto: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.*

### **Diversity Workgroup**

- MOU postponed: MOU signing with EPA and Virginia State University in Petersburg, VA has been postponed to September due to scheduling conflicts and students leaving at the end of the semester.
- EJ SCREEN-Chesapeake: User testing has commenced and should be completed by the end of next week.
- Internships: The pilot summer program for Chesapeake Student Recruitment, Early Advisement and Mentoring Program (C-StREAM) for short, will kick off this summer, with 3 student summer positions at CBP and one student research position at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC).

Contact: Darius Stanton; [stanton.darius@epa.gov](mailto:stanton.darius@epa.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**

As a result of the SRS outcome reviews, the SRS Planning Team is developing a process for GITs/Workgroups to bring forward the consideration revising Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes, as well as a recommended path for acceptance by the Management Board, Principals' Staff Committee and, where appropriate, the Executive Council. The Planning Team will present the recommended process to GIT 6 on June 19, and to the Management Board on July 12 for final approval.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found under the "Project and Resources" section of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **FY2017 GIT Funding**

Contracts for 13 of the 15 projects funded in FY2017 were distributed to awardees by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), and are currently being reviewed and signed. One project is still in the contact

development phase, and one project has been delayed to work through administrative topics. CBT staff will contact project technical leads directly with the status and award information.

Contact: Emily Freeman, [freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@epa.gov)

### **FY2018 GIT Funding**

Chesapeake Bay Program GIT leadership is reviewing the process used in past fiscal years to determine how the FY2018 GIT Funding process can be strengthened, with a particular emphasis on cross-GIT/cross-outcome projects. A final process and timeline will be determined by the end of May 2018, at which point a call for project ideas will go out to all GITs and associated workgroups.

Contact: Emily Freeman, [freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@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.*

### **Status and Trends Team**

The Status & Trends workgroup met on April 10, their first meeting on a quarterly schedule. GIS support for indicators was discussed, and workgroup members offered input on questions to consider when creating an indicator. This set of questions will be brought to STAR for input before being finalized and used to create indicators as needed across the Program. The workgroup also tentatively approved 8 indicators related to climate change, with the desire to see more specifics as they emerge. The Indicators Coordinator will bring in experts on the Status & Trends workgroup to inform the development of these indicators.

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

As a follow-up to the presentation at the last DIWG meeting in February 2018, a study comparing sampling methods by SRBC has been initiated. The initial study focus is the two nontidal stations in Pennsylvania at Marietta and Conestoga, with a potential for other sites to be included based on the outcome of the initial study.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The draft response to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee's (STAC) Review of *Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts* and the draft response to STAC *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Phase 6 Review* has been released for review by the Modeling Workgroup. The Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Review was held on April 10-11th, and the presentation materials can be found [here](#). The CBP Modeling Team is also working actively with Virginia in support of the James River chlorophyll assessment. Finally, the 2019 CBP Climate Change Assessment Model is in the early phase of development. The next Modeling Workgroup conference call will be held on June 7th.

### **The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)**

Synthesis Efforts:

A STAC workshop was held in December, 2017 to share insights from several recent research synthesis efforts on understanding trends in water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and estuary. Participants discussed synthesis effort outcomes and discussed next steps for advancing research to

explain water quality and SAV trends. Findings and recommendations are being finalized, and will be ready for communication in June 2018.

**ITAT Jurisdiction Team:**

The ITAT jurisdiction team has held several conference calls throughout 2017 and early 2018 to communicate management-relevant science to interested jurisdiction representatives. Topics have included: insights from the recent USGS synthesis of sediment sources, transport, and delivery; an integration of science insights to inform management decisions: Choptank case study; and results and management implications from the third SAV Technical Synthesis. Monthly conference calls will continue through 2018, to communicate relevant science for informing adaptive management of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and estuary.

**Tidal Trends Analysis Team:**

The TTAT has achieved significant progress in quantifying trends in major tidal water quality parameters. Maps illustrating long-term and recent (2007-2016) trends in several key water quality indicators are available for download from the ITAT website. The TTAT will be working through 2018 on interpretive summaries of tidal trends in major Chesapeake Bay tributaries. TTAT organizers are also working with the CBPO on data visualization of annual tidal trends results.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; [mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net](mailto: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.*

Communications Office and Web Team:

- Underwater grasses: On April 24, the Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office issued a press release and held a media call in regard to the 2017 underwater grass data. Media coverage ranged from the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Richmond Times-Dispatch, U.S. News and World Report and the Associated Press, as well as local newspaper, radio and TV outlets.
- Phase III WIPs: Work continues on the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan communications packages. Planning targets, Conowingo and Accounting for Growth are currently in review and will be available within the next week.
- Indicators: We updated our Fish Passage indicator and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation indicator on ChesapeakeProgress. We have achieved 124 percent of the restoration goal for the former, and 57 percent of the goal for the latter.
- The Bay Program's Instagram site hit 3,000 followers the week of April 23.

Communications Workgroup:

Updates from last workgroup conference call:

- Choose Clean Water: Our monthly workgroup call was on May 2. We heard from Kristin Reilly at Choose Clean Water Coalition, who shared some successes and lessons learned from a list building technique that her Maryland groups used. The technique combined capacity building with advocacy and allowed the groups to reach new audiences that they had previously been missing.
- Public access messaging: We also coordinated shared messaging around public access. We anticipate that as we approach Memorial Day and summer, many of our member organizations will focus on getting outside, and this is a great opportunity to promote our public access goal. We shared supporting resources from the Bay Program, and members shared some of their own resources that they would be promoting.
- Shared Google drive: Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is coming up June 2-10. Our theme will focus on the many unique rivers and landscapes of the watershed coming together to form one Chesapeake. We created a shared Google drive where members can provide or get information to share during the week. We also will be compiling a list of the various events going on during the week.
- Project updates: Staffers from Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT, Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT and Diversity Workgroup came to discuss the status of their ongoing projects, describe their newly funded projects and identify any existing or potential communications needs our workgroup could support.
- Environmental education: We heard from Michael Hanes with Expedition Chesapeake. He spoke about the environmental education resources that they offer and about their new giant screen/IMAX film. The film will be the first IMAX film to feature the Chesapeake and will include footage from all over the watershed and the Bay. They anticipate a release date next spring.

#### Communications Workgroup Participation:

Following up from the last Management Board Meeting, we created a list of current gaps in our membership. Communications professionals from the following jurisdictions/organizations are requested:

#### **Watershed Jurisdictions:**

*(currently no members exist)*

D.C. Department of Energy and Environment  
 NY Department of Environmental Conservation

*(inconsistent attendance – twice a year or less)*

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
 Environmental Protection Agency Region 3  
 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

*(nice to have – based on Management Board and PSC membership)*

Delaware Department of Agriculture  
 Maryland Department of Agriculture  
 Virginia Department of Agriculture

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
New York Department of Agriculture

### **Federal Agencies**

*(currently no member exists)*

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*(inconsistent attendance – twice a year or less)*

National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office

U.S. Geological Survey

### **NGOs**

*(currently no member exists)*

Chesapeake Bay Commission

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

*(inconsistent attendance – twice a year or less)*

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (note: this pertains to the wider institution; we do have good representation from IAN)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; [rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Recent Meetings and Events**

March 21-22	Local Government Advisory Committee
March 22	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 26	Fisheries GIT Executive Committee meeting
April 17	Chesapeake Conservation Steering Committee meeting (Baltimore)
April 24	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting (Annapolis)
April 25-26	STAC Fish Habitat workshop (Richmond)
May 3-4	Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting (Washington, DC)