



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
August 9, 2018**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

August 13	Water Quality GIT conference call
August 15	Status and Trends Quarterly meeting
August 20	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
August 23	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) team meeting
August 29	Budget & Finance Workgroup meeting
Sept. 5	Forestry Workgroup meeting
Sept. 5-6	Citizens Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (Richmond, Va.)
Sept. 6-7	Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Woodbridge, Va.)
Sept. 11-12	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (Annapolis)
Sept. 13	Management Board meeting (Annapolis)
Sept. 18-19	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT in person meeting
Sept. 24-25	STAC Workshop: Climate Change Modeling 2.0
Sept. 26-27	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Winchester, Va.)

Updates

Executive Council Signs Directive Supporting Increased Technical Assistance for Farmers

Members and designees of the Chesapeake Executive Council met on August 7 at the Frederick Douglass – Isaac Myers Maritime Park in Baltimore to set annual conservation and restoration goals and continue to guide the policy agenda for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the EPA Administrator signed a directive in support of increasing technical assistance to the farmers of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Directive recognizes the crucial role that farmers play in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, while acknowledging the need for increased technical assistance to help the agricultural sector in meeting their pollutant reduction goals.

EC Chair, Governor Larry Hogan, also announced that the Chesapeake Bay Program is setting new goals for increasing diversity by 2025. These include increasing both the percentage of people of color in the Chesapeake Bay Program to 25 percent and the percentage of people of color in leadership positions to 15 percent. The Executive Council also heard from the chairs of the Chesapeake Bay Program's three advisory committees, representing citizen, local government and scientific and technical interests. The members of the Executive Council unanimously re-elected Governor Hogan to a second term as Chair of the EC.

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

Final Milestone/Midpoint Assessment Evaluations Released

On July 27, EPA released its midpoint assessment of efforts by the Chesapeake Bay Program jurisdictions and the federal partners to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The assessment measures progress toward restoration goals under the Bay TMDL.

According to data submitted by the Bay jurisdictions, overall watershed-wide restoration efforts exceeded the 60 percent goals for reducing phosphorus and sediment as, but they did not achieve the 2017 goal for reducing nitrogen. Specifically, practices are currently in place to achieve 40 percent of the nitrogen reductions, 87 percent of the phosphorus reductions and 67 percent of the sediment reductions necessary to attain applicable water quality standards as compared to 2009, the year before the Bay TMDL was established. EPA's assessment includes an evaluation of the jurisdictions' and federal agencies progress toward meeting their 2016-2017 milestones, and their commitments for 2018-2019.

The six watershed states and the District of Columbia are now moving into the third phase of the Bay TMDL, using the information from the midpoint assessment to write their watershed implementation plans (WIPs). The EPA will continue to measure progress through two-year milestones. Should the states or D.C. need to modify their commitments between when they finalize their WIPs and 2025, they can do so through their two-year milestones.

Contact: Greg Barranco, [\(410\) 267-5778](tel:4102675778), barranco.greg@epa.gov

CBP Reducing Pollution Indicator Posted

On July 17, the CBP posted the 2017 update of the "Reducing Pollution Indicator" data on its ChesapeakeProgress website. This annual update provides model-simulated progress on reducing nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution loads reported by the jurisdictions. CBP issued a press release on the RPI data in advance of the release of EPA's Final Milestone/Midpoint Assessment Evaluations. According to the CBP Partnership Watershed Model (Phase 5.3.2), the partnership exceeded its 2017 pollution reducing targets for phosphorus and sediment, but it shows the partnership fell short of its 2017 nitrogen reducing target.

Contact: Laura Drescher, (410) 267-5713; drescher.laura@epa.gov

CBP Partnership Sets New Targets for Nutrient Reductions

During a July 9 meeting of the CBP Principals' Staff Committee (PSC), the partnership unanimously approved the new Phase III WIP planning targets for nitrogen and phosphorus. These new planning targets were set based on refinements made to the most recent version of the Watershed Model, Phase 6, which uses the most up-to-date science and monitoring data available to replicate the conditions of the Bay. The Phase 6 Watershed Model includes more insight on how pollution loads have changed as pollution control practices have been implemented across the region. The new planning targets take into account the importance of location and geography in the effectiveness of pollution control measures and actions. Targets not only exist for each of the states and the District of Columbia, but also for the major river basins throughout the watershed, because implementing the same action in different areas could have varying levels of impact. For example, a pound of nitrogen reduced in the James River might not have the same impact as a pound of nitrogen reduced in the Potomac River.

These new planning targets will help the six states and the District of Columbia develop Phase III WIPs to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution by 2025, but efforts will need to be increased to meet these goals. The planning targets are set and will not be adjusted through 2025, when the Bay TMDL calls for 100 percent of pollution reducing practices to be in place. The Phase III WIPs will be final in August 2019.

A table identifying the new planning targets by Jurisdiction and geography is available at:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/Phase_III_WIP_Planning_Targets.pdf

OMB 2018 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending Crosscut Request

On Friday, July 6, Region III EPA Administrator Cosmo Servidio transmitted an OMB/EPA memo and excel spreadsheets regarding this year's Budget Data Request for the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. The jurisdictions were asked to provide, to the extent that information is available, estimated funding for restoration activities to be carried out in the coming fiscal year; expenditures for the current fiscal year and preceding two fiscal years; and an accounting of funds received from a Federal agency during the current and preceding fiscal years. For this report, restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$300,000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are required. OMB is encouraging the jurisdictions to roll-up funding in their definitions of a program to meet these thresholds. After this year, CBARA requires reporting restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$100,000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. EPA and OMB requested that the information be transmitted by July 30, 2018. The final Crosscut will be posted on the ChesapeakeProgress website (www.chesapeakeprogress.com/funding) and distributed to the partners.

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

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: Pennsylvania Governor Wolf appointed Lancaster Mayor Danene Sorace to LGAC. Mayor Sorace replaces former Mayor Rick Gray who resigned earlier this summer. Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York. These vacancies impact LGAC's ability to fulfill our mission of advising the Principals' Staff Committee and Executive Council. Therefore, we ask that members of the Management Board discuss the matter of appointments with your Principals.
- Executive Council meeting: LGAC Chair Bruce Williams presented LGAC's recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council at the August 7th annual EC meeting. Recommendations included an urgent request to provide tools and resources local governments need to succeed including innovative workforce development skills.
- Local government forum: LGAC will host an invitation-only Local Government Forum on "Filling Gaps to Advance WIP Implementation" in conjunction with their next quarterly LGAC meeting (September 26-27, 2018 in Winchester, VA). LGAC staff have consulted with jurisdiction WIP leads to discuss how the forum can best inform the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs. A watershed-wide planning team is being assembled to assist with planning this working meeting. For more information, please contact Mary Gattis or Monica Billig at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff Assistant Harriet Newquist at hnewquist@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.

- Executive Council meeting: The Citizens Advisory Committee submitted their annual report of recommendations to the Executive Council Chair, Governor Hogan.

Highlights from their report include:

- Recognition of the Partnership's work to maintain federal funding, increase transparency with the jurisdiction BMP verification systems, and the new diversity goal.

Recommendations include:

- Phase III WIPs:
 - We encourage the jurisdictions to continue with the development of programmatic infrastructure and financial support for meaningful BMP verification as a part of implementation of Phase 3 WIPs, particularly in accounting for growth and land use changes as stated in the EPA Expectations document;
 - We recommend the jurisdictions integrate Watershed Agreement Outcomes into the water quality restoration plans as a way to incentivize practices that offer corollary ecological benefits and to encourage meaningful participation in local planning targets supporting local economies and communities.
- Forest Buffers and Wetlands:
 - Develop programmatic, policy, and financial capacity for increasing forest buffers and wetlands in the Phase 3 WIPs and two-year milestones;
 - Include technical assistance and education on multi-functional forest buffers like nut and fruit trees as riparian production crops on agricultural lands- as some U.S. jurisdictions and Central American countries have done with great success;
 - Meet with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to encourage the prioritization of buffer and wetland practices to advance water quality goals;
 - Communicate to local implementers the co-benefits and cost savings that buffers and wetlands provide in protecting drinking water sources and flood mitigation;
 - Reformulate state funding vehicles such as Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant Programs and State Revolving Loan Funds for forest buffers on non-agricultural lands;
 - Simplify the information and process the states provide for landowners to find and apply for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE), and other conservation practices.
- Environmental Education and Literacy:

We understand that there was a proposed Executive Council Directive for environmental literacy that did not move forward with full support by all the jurisdictions. For those jurisdictions that are able to advance the actions outlined for environmental literacy:

 - We encourage you to also consider going further and including elements of workforce development and training to support the next generation of stewards with options for living wage environmental careers such as: storm water control; water and waste water operations; construction and maintenance of green infrastructure; stream rehabilitation; and pollution control and cleanup.

For those jurisdictions that do not yet have the capacity to pursue all the actions in the Environmental Literacy Directive:

- We strongly encourage you to at least meet the baseline of participating in the conferencing of high-level leaders every two years to discuss progress of the Watershed Agreement Environmental Education goal and outcomes. Participation will increase understanding which can begin to build capacity based on the successful models used in other jurisdictions.
- Next meeting: CAC's next quarterly meeting will be in Richmond, VA on September 5-6, 2018 and will focus on urban stormwater, CSO and waste water
- 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 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.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2018 on September 11-12, 2018 at the Double Tree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. More information will be made available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting five workshops in FY2018, listed here in order of anticipated date. Planning is underway for several of these activities. Information regarding recent workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 – **September 24-25, 2018**
- 2) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Barriers: How do we accelerate the path to 95,000+ acres with the greatest economic, social, and environmental impact? – **TBD November 2018**
- 3) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management – **TBD January 2019**
- 4) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals
- 5) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings

New Report:

STAC released a report on July 30, 2018 titled "Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond" that summarizes a December 2017 workshop. The report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/394_Keisman2018.pdf. STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

Upcoming Reports:

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

- 1) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The ‘Triplet’ Connection
- 2) Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
- 4) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 5) An Analytical Framework for Aligning CBP 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 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

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Reducing Pollution	Pollution-reducing practices are in place to achieve 40% of needed nitrogen reductions, 87% of needed phosphorus reductions and 67 percent of needed sediment reductions.	http://www.chesapeakeprogram.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans

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

- Population (August)
- Sustainable Schools – add missing US Green Ribbon 2015 and 2016 schools (August)
- Environmental Literacy Planning – new Delaware data (August)
- Student MWEE – new Delaware data and corrected DC data (August)
- Wetlands – 2016 and 2017 data (summer)
- Forest Buffers – 2017 data (summer)
- Protected Lands (summer)
- Climate Resiliency indicators* (multiple TBD, August)

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

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.

GIT funding proposals: After the June joint meeting of the Fisheries and Habitat GITs, staff and GIT chairs met several times to rank and review the proposals generated from the breakout session. Ideas generated from the meeting were based on the geographic areas highlighted in the USACE Comprehensive Plan. Two joint proposals were put forth with the support of both GITs:

- Proposal 1: "Support for development of a database of Chesapeake Bay habitat, stressor, condition, and biological data" is seen as a critical next step towards a regional Fish Habitat Assessment in the Chesapeake Bay and will build off the April 2018 STAC Fish Habitat workshop.
- Proposal 2: "Oysters and seagrass: an ecosystem approach to green infrastructure" will be a shoreline demonstration project with anticipated outcome of a workplan ready to hand over to local planners. The project will use re-purposed derelict crab pots to stabilize a vulnerable shoreline, and focus on oysters and seagrass ecosystem services of these nearshore habitats.

Executive Committee: Sustainable Fisheries GIT staff coordinated with members of the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee, staff at the NOAA Marine Debris Program, and the authors of a derelict fishing gear report to join the Executive Committee conference call on July 23. The meeting was an opportunity for fishery managers to ask questions about the report and receive information to guide future management actions.

Fish habitat: The Fish Habitat Action Team had a biennial conference call on July 23 to review progress made towards the Fish Habitat Outcome workplan actions, specifically the need to develop a communications strategy. Members also discussed updating the Fish Habitat Outcome management strategy, which will incorporate results from the April 2018 STAC workshop when the final report is available.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; 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 Fisheries GITs held their first ever joint meeting on June 20th at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD. The meeting served as a forum for collective discussion on a variety of topics of shared interest. The GITs endorsed the future development of a Chesapeake Bay Fish Habitat Assessment, the subject of a recent STAC Workshop, and identified several ideas for potential joint GIT Funding project development. Following the meeting, the GITs plan to work closely together to maintain collaboration and further the progress those projects.

- Restore America's Estuaries Summit: Habitat GIT Staffers will present a poster titled "Monitoring SAV Recovery in the Chesapeake Bay" at the 2018 Restore Americas Estuaries conference in Long Beach, CA this December. The poster will cover the recovery of SAV in the Bay, the Bay Program's innovative efforts to sustain and expand current monitoring efforts (creation of a financing network for SAV monitoring and restoration efforts, citizen scientist SAV programs), and the need for positive SAV communication campaigns as SAV recovery continues. The Staffers look forward to sharing this Chesapeake Bay success story with scientists across the country.

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 a conference call on July 23. A subset of topics discussed included:

- The WQGIT was briefed on proposed interim BMPs in Phase 6 CAST. Practices to be considered include conservation landscaping practices, agricultural denitrifying bioreactors, agricultural saturated buffers, onsite wastewater treatment practices, and boat pump-out practices.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on August 13. A subset of planned topics includes:

- Decision from the WQGIT to approve interim BMPs in the Phase 6 modeling tools prior to August 31 deadline for inclusion of planning BMPs in Phase 6 CAST. Practices to be considered include conservation landscaping practices, agricultural denitrifying bioreactors, agricultural saturated buffers, onsite wastewater treatment practices, and boat pump-out practices.
- WQGIT review of revised management strategies and workplans for the following outcomes, as part of the Strategy Review System Process: 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs, Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring, Forest Buffers, Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention, and Toxic Contaminants Research. The draft revised management strategies and workplans will be posted for public comment through early September; final revisions to management strategies and workplans will be published September 13.

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.

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.

- Education Workgroup: The Education Workgroup met in Annapolis on July 13th to review actions in the 2018-19 workplan and engaged them in the implementation of this work. The group also received a progress update from the team working on the online MWEE training (FY17 GIT Funding Project).
- Citizen Stewardship Workgroup: The Citizen Stewardship Workgroup met in Annapolis on July 30th to identifying existing resources and determined what additional efforts would be needed to accomplish the 2018-2019 workplan actions. Workgroup members self-selected subgroups that will further target efforts in doing so.
- Stewardship Online Tool: A subcommittee from the Citizen Stewardship Workgroup along with staff from the CBP Web and Communications Teams met with contractor Green Fin to lay out expectations and assign roles for developing the Stewardship Online Tool (FY17 GIT Funding Project) and will be meeting next in late summer/early fall to begin the design phase of the project.
- GIT funding proposals: The Stewardship GIT submitted three proposals for FY18 GIT funding, one of which would be a cross GIT collaboration between Healthy Watersheds and Stewardship.
 - Stewardship GIT projects:
 - Scenic Resources Impact Assessment Tool/Methodology (Land Conservation Goal)
 - Quantify and Support BMP Installations and Restoration at Schools to Contribute Directly to Bay Restoration Goals (Environmental Literacy Goal)
 - Cross GIT project between healthy watersheds and stewardship:
 - Development of Improved Methodology for Data Collection of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Indicator

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 Planning Team is in the beginning stages of planning for the 2019 Biennial SRS meeting. The tentative timeframe for this meeting is March 2019. The planning team will present draft timelines, venue options, and a draft agenda to the Management Board for review and approval by October 2018.

Since the June Management Board meeting, the following management strategies have been accepted as complete: Healthy Watersheds and Citizen Stewardship, for a total of 9 completed management strategies and 13 completed work plans.

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

FY2018 GIT Funding

The EPA is continuing the GIT Funding Program in FY2018 at a level of \$860,000. Goal Teams submitted 18 proposals for a total of ~1.1 million. GIT Chairs, Coordinators and Staffers will meet in August or September to select a list final projects, scored against a set of pre-determined and approved criteria, for submittal to and approval by the CBPO Iterim Director.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, 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 Workgroup

The August 15 meeting of the Status and Trends workgroup will begin planning for the 2018 Bay Barometer, to be published in early 2019. The meeting will cover current indicator data, expected updates before the Barometer publication, and news story ideas for Outcomes without an indicator. The agenda will be posted [here](#) in July.

Data Integrity Workgroup

Data Integrity Workgroup quarterly meeting was held on June 21 at Chesapeake Bay Laboratories, Solomons, MD, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#). During this meeting, Elgin Perry presented his teams work on a new software package that has been developed to visualize water quality data trends that is currently being used by all jurisdictions. There was an additional discussion on the new MDL directive and its implementation by all the Chesapeake Bay Analytical Labs. Bruce Michael addressed the group on the 2018 Hypoxia Report, Phase III WIP status, and progress on the Conowingo Dredging Project. Mike Mallonee and Melissa Merritt presented the Split Sample and USGS Reference Sample study results. New ways to present historic data was also discussed. Next Workgroup meeting will be in October in Annapolis.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup leadership is working on the SRS materials to prepare the meeting to the MB on August 9th. Next Workgroup meeting will be on August 20th.

STAR

STAR and its workgroups have been involved in providing support for the 2019 GIT-funded project proposal developments with multiple GITs. Short-form proposals are being submitted by July 20th. Further support will be provided for proposals selected in the review process during the GIT Leadership Coordinator meeting on July 31. The July 26th STAR meeting will focus on Strategic Review System presentation preparations to the Management Board in August for Climate Monitoring and Adaption, Wetlands and Black Duck outcomes in the Bay Agreement.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is working to support the partnership's WIP3s while making progress on the completion of the Phase 6 and WQSTM model documentation. The CBP Modeling Team is also actively working to complete, by the close of 2019, a fully operational model assessment system of the influence climate change has on Chesapeake water quality. The last Modeling Workgroup Quarterly was held on July 10, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#). The next Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Review will be held on September 11 and a STAC workshop on CBP climate change modeling and assessment will be held on September 24-25 in Annapolis.

CAP Workgroup

The Criteria Assessment Protocol WG met on June 19th to review the status and recommended updates to the James River Chlorophyll a (CHLA) criteria. The work summarized by VADEQ takes into account the recently completed four-year water quality study providing the best available science in support of setting quantitative chlorophyll a criteria protective of the open water designated use for tidal waters of the James River. Options for improving the CHLA monitoring protocols were discussed and remain under evaluation and review. VADEQ is determining the final timeline involved in completing the review and adoption of the proposed criteria and protocols.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Findings and recommendations from A STAC workshop on integrating research to explain water-quality trends have been submitted to the CBP Management Board.
 - Briefing materials are currently being developed and presented to communicate key findings from 2016-2018 ITAT and partner synthesis efforts.
 - The tidal trends team has released a publicly available statistical software package for analyzing trends in tidal water quality.
 - Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. A selection of these will be scheduled for future WQGIT presentations. Recent topics include:
 - New approaches to target sediment sources and monitor management actions
 - Strategies to Address Endocrine Disruption in Fish and Wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
 - Predicting Biological Conditions for Headwater Streams in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: A Fine-Scaled (1:24,000) Analysis Using the Chessie BIBI
- Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information

STAR 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.

Communications Office and Web Team:

- Press releases: The Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office created a press release for the Reducing Pollution Indicator and the 2018 Blue Crab Advisory Report.
- Caitlyn Johnstone, our Outreach Specialist, led the third webinar in conjunction with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Businesses for the Bay on Climate Change Resiliency on July 11th.

Communications Workgroup:

Updates from our biannual retreat held on July 25:

Our second in-person retreat of the year was held in Harrisburg, Pa. on July 25th. Our agenda focused on social marketing and behavior change. In the morning, Kacey Wetzel, Jen Didinger and Amanda Rockler provided a training on social marketing and the ten steps of creating a social marketing campaign for behavior change. In the afternoon, representatives from the Ocean Foundation and ShoreRivers (Alyssa Hildt, Alexis Valauri-Orton and Rebecca Murphy) gave a presentation on the social marketing campaign they created focused on getting boaters to protect SAV. Finally, Kasey, Jen and Amanda walked us through several example case studies so we could get a sense of how to approach a social marketing campaign.

We had 33 people at our retreat, including representatives from Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, D.C. and four GITs, as well as federal agencies, NGOs and academic institutions. The response to the training was very positive, with many attendees expressing a desire to learn more. We will devote some time at our September call to discussing how we can apply the training in our work.

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

July 9	Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Washington, D.C.)
July 16	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
July 18	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup in-person meeting (Baltimore)
July 23	Water Quality GIT conference call
July 25	Communications Workgroup retreat (Harrisburg)
July 25	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
July 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) team meeting
July 30	Education Workgroup summer meeting
July 31	Quarterly Goal Team Chairs and Leadership meeting
July 31	Stewardship Online Tool Kickoff Meeting
August 7	Executive Council meeting (Baltimore)