



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
September 13, 2018**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Sept. 18-19	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT in person meeting (Hershey, Pa.)
Sept 20	GIT Chairs' GIT Funding Scoring meeting
Sept. 20	Agriculture Workgroup in person meeting (Georgetown, De.)
Sept 21	WCOG Water Quality Forum
Sept. 24	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference call
Sept. 24-25	STAC Workshop: Climate Change Modeling 2.0
Sept. 26	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
Sept. 26-27	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Winchester, Va.)
Sept. 27	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
Oct. 3	Forestry Workgroup conference call
Oct. 10	Status and Trends quarterly meeting
Oct. 12	Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Woodbridge, VA)
Oct. 16-17	Modeling Workgroup quarterly meeting
Oct. 18	Management Board meeting
Oct. 23-24	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership annual meeting (Shepherdstown, WV)
Oct 30	GIT Chairs quarterly meeting

Updates

Goal Implementation Team Funding Scoring Session

On September 20, the CBP Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Chairs will hold a special meeting to review, score and recommend proposals for projects that will be funded through specially designated GIT funding. Final approval of all projects is provided by the CBPO acting director.

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

CBP Issues Best Management Practice Guide

In early August, the Chesapeake Bay Program released the Quick Reference Guide for Best Management Practices. The guide distills information about the Bay Program's hundreds of approved best management practices (BMPs) into fact sheets for farmers, landowners, planners, resource managers and conservation districts. The guide gives basic information about each of the Chesapeake Bay Program-approved BMPs and also explains how the seven Bay jurisdictions can receive credit for them in the Bay Program's Watershed Model. Knowing how BMPs are credited in the model is useful for state and local officials putting together Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs).

For more information: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/BMP-Guide_Full.pdf

CBP Reports Watershed-wide Progress toward Environmental Education Goals

Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C. have made marked progress toward their environmental education goals. Since 2015, school districts within these jurisdictions have reported a slight rise in their preparedness to put environmental education programs in place, as well as an increase in the number of schools that are operating sustainably and a steady level of curriculum-embedded opportunities for students to learn outside. According to the results of a 2017 Chesapeake Bay Program survey, almost one-quarter of responding school districts in the watershed-portion of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C., consider themselves well-prepared to deliver high-quality environmental literacy programming to their students. More than one-third of responding school districts indicate their students are engaged in field experiences and outdoor learning through the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEEs). More than 600 public and charter schools in these jurisdictions are certified sustainable.

For more information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake_bay_program_reports_progress_toward_environmental_education

Bloede Dam Breached

On September 11, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources breached Bloede dam on the Patapsco River near Catonsville, Maryland. Bloede Dam was originally constructed in 1906 as a hydroelectric dam supplying power to nearby towns. However, the generators went offline in the early 1920s, despite the dam's innovative design. The structure sat out of commission for most of the last century, deteriorating and suffering damage beyond reasonable repair capabilities. Most of the interior equipment has been removed, leaving only the 26-and-a-half-foot dam wall to block the river. The unmoderated flow over this has created dangerous water conditions, causing at least nine swimming- and fall-related deaths since the 1980s. The height of the dam wall was an obstacle for migratory fish throughout the region. Multiple species of importance, including shad, herring and American eels have lifecycles that are split between freshwater in rivers of the watershed and saltier water of the Chesapeake Bay and the ocean. These migratory fish saw sharp declines in their populations when many dams were constructed around the turn of the century for use in industry. The dams block the movement of the fish from salt to freshwater and often disrupted access to spawning areas. Remnants of these dams throughout the region, most out of commission, continue to impact the populations of these species.

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 seats: Maryland Governor Hogan appointed Ron Fithian, Kent County Commissioner, to LGAC. Bob Willey, Mayor of Easton, MD, resigned after serving on LGAC for many years. This leaves LGAC with two seats still open in Maryland (one town, one county), 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.

Technical assistance delivery: On September 26, 2018 LGAC will host an invitation-only Local Government Forum on "Filling Gaps to Advance WIP Implementation" in conjunction with the Fall

quarterly LGAC meeting (September 26-27, 2018 in Winchester, VA). The problem statement for this Forum is *Despite the vast array of technical assistance services being delivered in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, many local governments are unable to secure the services needed to plan, design, implement, and maintain watershed restoration projects and programs.* The desired outcome is State specific recommendations for improving technical assistance delivery that can be used to inform the state's Phase III WIPs. Upon approval by LGAC, recommendations will be delivered to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals' Staff Committee. 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.

- September meeting: The Citizens Advisory Committee met in Richmond, VA on Sept 5-6. The theme of the meeting was innovative approaches to urban stormwater, combined sewage overflow systems and watershed restoration partnerships. The members heard presentations from the James River Association, the Mayor of Richmond, and the Richmond Department of Public Utilities' RVA H2O initiative. They toured the Waste Water Treatment and Collection Plant, a restored riverfront park, and a city middle school with a Green School Initiative. The members also discussed environmental priorities for Virginia, heard updates on the development of VA's local area planning goals in the WIPs, and learned about a local example of mitigation banking.
- Next meeting: The next CAC meeting will in on November 29-30 in Washington, DC.
- 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 or STAC Staff Annabelle Harvey harveya@chesapeake.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2018 on September 11-12, 2018 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. More information will be made available on the [September meeting webpage](#). The next STAC meeting will be held on December 4-5, 2018 at a location to be determined.

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 (Annapolis, MD)**
- 2) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Barriers: How do we accelerate the path to 95,000+ acres with the greatest economic, social, and environmental impact? – **November 31-14, 2018 (Harrisburg, PA)**
- 3) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management – **January 15-16, 2019 (Annapolis, MD)**
- 4) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals – **TBD February 2019**
- 5) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings

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](#). STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 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 August Management Board meeting:

- Environmental Literacy Planning – new Delaware data and corrected DC data
- Student MWEE – new Delaware data and corrected DC data

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

- Wetlands – 2016 and 2017 data (summer)
- Forest Buffers – 2017 data (summer)

- Protected Lands (summer)
- Climate Resiliency indicators* (multiple TBD)

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.

- Executive Committee: The Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee had a conversation about the value of developing male-specific reference points for the blue crab stock. This issue has been brought up recently since males exceeded the 2017 conservation trigger with a 34% exploitation rate. The Fish GIT will work with fishery managers and stock assessment scientists to continue the discussion with a goal to settle the decision at a separate meeting in September-October (meeting details TBD), and aim to plan for the next benchmark stock assessment.
- Invasive catfish: The Invasive Catfish Task Force held a call to discuss progress made towards completing the final report from the November 2017 Invasive Catfish Symposium. The team made suggestions for management recommendations to include in the report, which will be complete in late September.
- Shoreline development: The Fish GIT brought together researchers from Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and representatives from MD Department of Natural Resources and VA Marine Resources Commission to hear updates on a Chesapeake Bay Trust-funded project. The research will quantify critical thresholds of shoreline development that impact forage fish species at a Bay-wide and sub-estuary level. The project report is expected by end of April 2019.

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.

- Fall meeting: The Habitat GIT will hold its annual fall meeting this November in West Virginia (date and location TBD). Discussion will focus on our outcomes' SRS successes and experiences as the first cycle of biennial meetings comes to an end. An agenda and other materials will be distributed as they become available.
- STAC report: The final report of 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* will be available for the October Management Board meeting. The workshop was held this past April in Richmond, Virginia. Comments on the draft report

have been received from workshop participants and a revised draft will be going to STAC later this month. A brief presentation on the report, recommendations and next steps will be given at the October Management Board meeting.

- Bloede Dam: Demolition of Bloede Dam near Catonsville, Md. started this week after more than a year of preparations. Bloede has been a safety hazard for many years and its removal is being celebrated as a success for humans and wildlife. Bloede is the third dam to be removed from the Patapsco since 2010 and will open over 65 miles of habitat to fish and provide enhanced recreation. The stream miles opened will count towards the Fish Passage outcome.

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 August 13. A subset of topics discussed included:

- 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.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on September 10 and 24. A subset of planned topics includes:

- The WQGIT will be briefed on final results of 2025 forecasted land use conditions
- The WQGIT will be briefed on new approaches and tools for targeting sediment sources and management actions
- The WQGIT will be briefed on climate resiliency narratives for the Phase III WIPs
- The WQGIT will be briefed on final materials for the Biennial Strategy Review System, including management strategies and workplans for the following outcomes: 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs, Water Quality Monitoring, Standards and Attainment, Riparian Forest Buffers, Toxic Contaminants Research, and Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention. Review of the draft workplan for the combined 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs, and Water Quality Monitoring, Standards and Attainment will be extended through October 2018 to allow for full WQGIT and Partnership review and feedback.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on jurisdictions' development of local planning goals in preparation for presentation of local planning goals to the PSC in late fall 2018

- The WQGIT will be briefed on a new data dashboard developed to support Phase III WIP planning, implementation, and local decision-making.

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.

- Preliminary watershed health assessment: The Healthy Watersheds Goal Team is busy working with Tetra Tech to finalize the data collection phase of the [Preliminary Watershed Health Assessment](#) for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They have compiled dozens of regional and bay specific datasets to help inform watershed health and vulnerability characteristics. The core planning team will be meeting with a larger advisory team later in October to review preliminary results and obtain feedback.
- Conserved lands project: Phase III of the Healthy Watersheds TMDL Forest/Conserved Lands project is well underway. Key project leads are meeting with CBP staff in early October to review the project timeline and assure the process and deliverables related to Task 1 (Working with Essex County VA to develop and implement plans policies and ordinances intended to foster high quality forest and agricultural and retention) and Task 2 (developing long term funding mechanisms to incentivize private capital to invest in land conservation) are well aligned with current CBP modeling efforts related to "conservation plus" land change forecasting scenarios.
- SRS prep: The GIT has begun facilitating the SRS review preparations for the Land Use Methods and Metric Outcome (in partnership with the Land Use Work Group) and the Land Use Options Evaluation outcome set to come before the MB in November.

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.

GIT 6 in-person meeting

GIT 6 will have its annual in-person meeting September 18-19 in Hershey, PA. Agenda topics include evaluation and adaptive management and enhancing/improving the partnership's functionality.

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 Status and Trends workgroup met on August 15 to discuss this year's process for providing and reviewing content for the Bay Barometer, the partnership's annual publication of progress towards the Outcomes in the 2014 Watershed Agreement. Final data and analysis & methods documents are due to Laura Drescher by COB October 12, 2018. Initial ideas for stories for all Outcomes are also requested by that time, to be sent to Rachel Felver. Review more details about data requirements and story ideas [here](#).

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 presented SRS materials to the MB meeting on August 9th. The climate narrative is being reviewed by MB and WQ GIT. Next Workgroup meeting will be on September 17.

STAR

STAR and its workgroups have been involved in collaborating sampling efforts and synthesizing information on the recent high flow events to the bay. Peter Tango presented initial findings and STAR discussed the potential impacts on SAV, living resources and wildlife habitats in the Chesapeake Bay. The August 23th STAR meeting focused on gathering SUGGESTIONS on activities from GIT leaders on the Management Strategies and Workplan of Water Quality Strategy and monitoring attainment, Toxic Contaminant Research Strategy, and Toxic Contaminant Policy and Prevention Strategy. Suggestions and revisions were provided on co-benefits and cross goal team outcomes. STAR also provided support on reviewing Status and Trends WG's document *Questions to Consider When Creating an Indicator*, which was created with information that was used to create other indicators. The goal is for STAR to become familiar with this document and then eventually provide approval when STAR is ready to do so.

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 considers 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 Workgroup:

- Monthly meeting: The Communications Workgroup held our monthly meeting on September 5. We coordinated shared messaging around three events in September: National Estuaries Week (Sept. 15-22); Pollution Prevention Week (Sept. 17-23); and National Public Lands Day (Sept. 22). During our member updates, several partners expressed interest in communications around the Bloede

Dam removal – the Communications Office will be publishing a blog on the topic and amplifying on social media.

- Action teams: The workgroup recently decided to form several action teams to address various projects and communications needs. We introduced three action teams at our meeting: Phase III WIP local engagement; forest buffers; and the fish consumption advisory. Two more action teams may be created depending on the potential selection of our GIT funded project proposals.
- July retreat: We also provided a recap of our July retreat, which focused on social marketing for behavior change. Members responded positively to the topic and indicated an interest in learning more. We also discussed how CBPO and workgroup members can use what we learned from the training in some of our work. For example, DEP and PennDOT are pursuing an anti-litter project that incorporates many aspects of social marketing principles.
- GIT funding proposal: The Communications Workgroup has also submitted a GIT-funding proposal with the support of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and the Habitat GIT. The project, “Social Marketing to Improve Shoreline Management,” endeavors to better understand the barriers and benefits to environmentally-sensitive shoreline management and to develop a social marketing strategy for a target audience whose actions could significantly impact the adoption of environmentally-sensitive shoreline management techniques in the Chesapeake Bay.

Communications Office and Web Team:

The Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office released the following press releases in August:

- [Chesapeake Executive Council calls for increased support for farmers across the watershed:](#) At the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council, representatives from the six Bay watershed states, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency signed a directive in support of increasing technical assistance to the farmers of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- [Chesapeake Bay Program reports watershed-wide progress toward environmental education goals:](#) The Chesapeake Bay Program is pleased to announce its partners are making progress toward the environmental education goals of the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Sixteen years after the Chesapeake Executive Council formally recognized the importance of environmental education to the partnership, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia agreed to help their students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to protect and restore their local watersheds.
- The CBP Communications Office is working with the Stewardship GIT to submit a GIT-funding proposal to provide behavior change training to the entire partnership, along with the opportunity for an expert to meet with up to four workgroups about their needs and create a pilot campaign for the SAV workgroup to encourage private landowners not to rip out underwater grasses.
- Will Parson, our Multimedia Specialist, released a new video called “Signs of Resilience in the Chesapeake.” Watch it [here](#).

- The next Chesapeake Bay Program/Businesses for the Bay webinar will be held on **Tuesday, September 25** at noon. For more information on how to register for the Engaged Communities webinar: <https://businesses.allianceforthebay.org/event/free-cbpb4b-engaged-communities-webinar-9-2018/>

The Communications Office published the following blogs in August:

- [Baltimore is feelin' the churn](#): Captain Trash Wheel is the latest in the quirky family of machines that keeps Baltimore's Inner Harbor litter-free
- [Chesapeake Executive Council signs directive supporting increased funding for watershed farmers](#): New diversity targets announced at annual meeting
- [A new environmental organization offers women support](#): HerChesapeake serves to connect professionals and address unique challenges
- [Why should you care about a Watershed Implementation Plan?](#) Bottom line: it will impact your community, not just the Chesapeake Bay
- [The lanternfly effect](#): Invasive spotted lanternflies are sipping their way through vineyards
- [Cleaning up the "Forgotten River"](#): An innovative trash trap in Washington, D.C., aims to highlight the Anacostia River's litter problem
- [Chesapeake Bay Program reports watershed-wide progress toward environmental education goals](#): Collaboration among leaders in education and environment will be critical to continued growth
- [Green the sky](#): Installing a green roof is good for your business, well-being and water quality
- [Remembering Civil War battles on a summer day](#): The Chesapeake Bay watershed is the stage for significant periods in our country's history
- [Take a geologic history tour at these eight sites](#): Interesting geology is just a stone's throw away
- [Chesapeake Bay Program releases best management practice guide](#): New guide explains conservation practices and how they impact modeling water quality in the Bay

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

August 7	Executive Council meeting (Baltimore)
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)