



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

**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
February 2019**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Feb. 20-21	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Williamsburg, Va.)
Feb. 20-21	STAC Workshop: Microplastics (Woodbridge, Va.)
Feb. 25	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
Feb. 26	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
Feb. 28	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 6	Land Use Workgroup face-to-face meeting
March 11	Water Quality GIT call
March 13-14	Biennial SRS meeting (Richmond, Va.)

**Advisory Committee Updates**

**EPA Released Request for Applications to Support Conowingo Plan**

- On February 4, 2019, EPA released a Request for Applications (RFA) to support the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's development and implementation of a Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The purpose of the RFA is to provide the seven Bay watershed jurisdictions, through a third-party, with specialized scientific, technical, and programmatic support in the development and implementation of the Conowingo WIP, associated financing strategy, and two-year milestones. Applications are being accepted through March 20, 2019. The RFA is posted on the Grants.gov website at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=312599>

**CBP Principals' Staff Committee Meeting**

- On Thursday, January 31, the CBP Principals' Staff Committee met via conference immediately following the partial federal government shutdown. The meeting agenda included: discussion of possible impacts related to Phase III WIPs due to the government shutdown; an overview of key Chesapeake Bay-related funding programs and the Chesapeake Bay Commission's federal appropriations efforts (including partnership funding needs); and an overview of proposed revisions to the Conowingo WIP framework and RFA advertisement. Additional information: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/principals\\_staff\\_committee\\_meeting\\_january\\_2019](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/principals_staff_committee_meeting_january_2019)  
Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, [barranco.greg@epa.gov](mailto:barranco.greg@epa.gov)

**Bay Foundation grades health of the Chesapeake Bay a D+**

- In the biennial "State of the Bay" report, issued by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), the health of the Bay dropped one point, lowering its score from a C- in 2016 to a D+ in 2018. CBF assigns the Bay's grade based upon the best available information in three categories: pollution, habitat and

fisheries. Only three of the 13 indicators (in the 13 categories) showed improvement over the past two years: dissolved oxygen, underwater grasses and resource lands. While underwater grasses and dissolved oxygen show promising signs of resiliency, nutrients and water clarity contribute heavily to the lower score. The foundation of this information primarily comes from monitoring data, supported by in-the-field observations.

Over the past few months, scientists and other experts have cautioned what the impact would be on the health of the Bay from the record rainfall observed throughout the watershed in 2018. This report confirms that the extreme weather did play a significant role in the decline of the Bay's health, and it remains to be seen what the longer-lasting effects will be.

For more information:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bay\\_foundation\\_grades\\_health\\_of\\_the\\_chesapeake\\_bay\\_a\\_d](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bay_foundation_grades_health_of_the_chesapeake_bay_a_d)

### **Understanding the Threat of Invasive Catfish**

- Two new reports look into the biology and management of blue and flathead catfish. To help understand what is currently known about these fish and how to manage their spread, the Chesapeake Bay Program convened an Invasive Catfish Task Force of state and federal agencies, academic institutions and other stakeholders to discuss the best coordinated management options for controlling the spread and population growth of these species. The task force recently released two reports synthesizing what is known about invasive catfish and offering recommendations for managing their spread.

Preventing the spread of these invasive fish is the single most effective way to avoid harmful impacts on invasive native species since once a species is established, controlling it requires significant and sustained resources.

For more information:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/understanding\\_the\\_threat\\_of\\_invasive\\_catfish](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/understanding_the_threat_of_invasive_catfish)

### **Advisory Committees**

#### **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.*

- Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference: LGAC Chair, Bruce Williams, shared preliminary recommendations for filling local staffing gaps at the Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference (January 2nd, 2019). Members of MACo provided feedback on the proposed approach and confirmed the needs identified by LGAC. LGAC staff is continuing to work with members and other stakeholders to refine the committee's recommendations, which will be shared with the jurisdiction Phase III WIP leads. Once finalized the recommendations will be presented to the Management Board and Principals Staff Committee.
- Roundtables and co-benefit priorities: LGAC Pennsylvania Vice Chair, Ann Simonetti, hosted the last of a series of 15 roundtables for Pennsylvania local government officials on December 7, 2018. Through this Pennsylvania Growing Greener grant funded initiative, started in 2014, LGAC engaged more than 200 local government officials in meaningful dialogue about watershed

protection and restoration. The final series of 7 roundtables, held in 2018, were coordinated with PA DEP and focused more specifically on informing local officials about their role in developing and implementing the Phase III WIP and identifying challenges local officials face complying with regulatory requirements and implementing voluntary programs. Some of the most significant challenges identified were lack of sufficient guidance about stream restoration techniques, time required to obtain permits for watershed restoration activities, and issues around grant funding including who gets credits, length of time for reimbursement, and grant administration/reporting. Participants at each of the last 7 roundtables were asked to rank co-benefit priorities. Priorities from most important/relevant to least were: Healthy Watersheds, Stream Health, Wetlands, Protected Lands, Toxic Contaminants, Climate Resiliency, Fish Habitat, Forest Buffers, Tree Canopy, Public Access, Brook Trout, Underwater Grasses.

- Next meeting: LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be held on March 20-21, 2019 in Laurel, DE. For more information or to be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact Ola-Imani Davis at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative or requests to be added to the Interested Parties list should be directed to Ola-Imani Davis at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@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.*

- Previous meeting: CAC held a meeting on November 29-30 in Washington, DC.
- Next meeting: The next quarterly meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be on Feb 20-21 in Williamsburg, VA. The goals of the meeting are (1) to gain a broader and deeper understanding of what is working well and potential solutions to challenges with conservation practices on agricultural lands, and (2) refresh and renew CAC priorities for 2019. The members will hear updates from the Chesapeake Bay Program, have a discussion with VA Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, host a panel discussion with Sustainable Chesapeake, Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS and VA DEQ. Additionally, they will learn about the Water Reporter tool by Chesapeake Commons and how their program FieldDoc can help with BMP verification.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), 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) or STAC Staff Annabelle Harvey [harveya@chesapeake.org](mailto:harveya@chesapeake.org).

**Upcoming Meetings:**

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2018 on March 26-27, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. More information will be made available on the March meeting webpage.

**Workshops:**

**Reminder:** The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY2019 STAC workshops is currently open. The RFP announcement is available on STAC's [webpage](#). Proposals are now due **February 22, 2019**.

Planning is underway for the following three workshops, listed here in order of anticipated date. Information regarding recent workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#). *\*Please note revised dates below\**

- 1) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals – **February 20-21, 2019 (previously Feb 4-5) (Woodbridge, VA)**
- 2) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management – **March 20-21, 2019 (previously Jan 16-17) (Annapolis, MD)**
- 3) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Urban Settings – **Tentative Dates – May 22-23, 2019**

**New Reports:**

STAC will be releasing the following two reports within the next two weeks. Final reports will be posted on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- 2) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling in 2025 and Beyond

**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) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers
- 2) CBP Climate Change Modeling 2.0
- 3) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triplet' Connection (FY2017)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning CBP Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 5) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 6) Linking Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 7) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 8) 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**

No indicators were updated since the December Management Board meeting.

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

- Wetlands – 2016 and 2017 data
- Forest Buffers – 2017 data
- Protected Lands – preliminary 2018 data
- Stream Health – revised baseline
- Diversity – addition of Partnership-approved target
- Toxic Contaminants Policy & Prevention– 2016 data

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.*

- Biannual Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting: Meeting materials from the Fisheries GIT's December 2018 Biannual Meeting went out to GIT members and interested parties and are available on ChesapeakeBay.net.
- Upcoming meetings: The Fish Habitat Action Team biannual meeting is scheduled for February 12. Executive Committee monthly meetings will resume February 25.
- Current work: The Fish GIT is checking in with PIs for ongoing funded projects aiming to resolve final project reports, and recently reviewed the Fisheries GIT's science needs listed for the Bay Program science needs prioritization process.

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.*

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 November 13, December 10, and January 14 (2019). A subset of topics is included below:**

- The WQGIT approved maintaining climate change guidance targets that were presented and approved by the PSC in March 2018, with the understanding that these targets may undergo minor changes as final planning targets are refined through fall 2019.
- The WQGIT reviewed the draft Data Input Deadlines schedule and solicited comments. The WQGIT will be asked to approve the final schedule following review and discussion at the upcoming Milestones Workgroup conference call.
- **Action:** The WQGIT will request an additional extension on the biennial 2018 revisions to the Water Quality workplan and management strategy. The WQGIT will develop final materials for submission to the Management Board in April 2019.
- The WQGIT provided feedback on the draft WIP Data Dashboard content and features for refinement and further development.

**The WQGIT held a conference call on February 11, 2019. A subset of topics discussed includes:**

- Announcements to the WQGIT on updated deadlines and schedules for several priorities, including the Conowingo WIP RFP, deadlines for final 2018 BMP implementation progress submission and verification, deadline for STAC workshop funding, Science Prioritization, and review and approval of the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel Recommendations.
- Discussion and decision on application of load reduction credits and land uses from combined sewer separation in Phase 6 CAST, in both federal and non-federal land applications in DC, and in regulated and non-regulated stormwater applications in VA.
- Update on 2018 Progress verification protocols and updated schedule
- Discussion and decision on AgWG and WTWG-approved Mortality Freezers Interim BMP
- Update on BMP cost profiles in CAST.

**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.*

- SRS: The Land Use Options Evaluations and the Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes were presented to the Management Board in November as part of the SRS process. The HWGIT will now start working on the next iterations of the Land Use Options Evaluations Workplan and Management Strategy, and will assist the Land Use Workgroup on the next iterations of the Land Use Methods and Metrics Workplan and Management Strategy.

**Contact:** Renee Thompson; [rthomps@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthomps@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.*

- C-StREAM Program Summer Internship: Applications are open for the Chesapeake Student Recruitment, Early Advisement and Mentoring (C-StREAM) program. C-StREAM is a program focused on Recruiting, Advising, and Mentoring college students from typically under-represented groups to prepare them for careers in environmental protection and restoration. Application deadline is March 1, 2019. More information and application available here: <http://chesapeake.org/c-stream/>

Contact: Drew Pizzala; [drew\\_pizzala@partner.nps.gov](mailto: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 planning the 2019 Biennial SRS meeting. This meeting will be March 13-14 2019; the location for this meeting is the Omni Richmond Hotel.

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)

GIT 6 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.*

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

- Current work: The workgroup is updating the climate resiliency monitoring and adaption workplan, logic table and management strategy based on a revised timeline. The workgroup is also working with STAC and STAR on our prioritized list of Climate Research Needs and have had conversations with them regarding a path forward.
- Upcoming meetings: For the workgroup's in person meetings, we will be focusing on bringing in speakers to discuss a particular topic. For our February in person meeting, we will focus on sea level rise and have invited a number of experts to join us. We are finalizing the agenda and will share with everyone shortly.

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; [cwu@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:cwu@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 February 6. We were joined by our new vice-chair, Gregg Bortz from Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We coordinated shared messaging around Black History Month and Valentine's Day. We heard updates on our three action teams: forest buffers, fish consumption advisory and Phase III WIP engagement. We will be convening a new action team shortly to plan this year's Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (please reach out to Rebecca Chillrud, [rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net), if interested in joining). We also heard a presentation from Joan Smedinghoff on the Bay Program's 2018 Analytics for the website, newsletters and social media.

Biannual meeting: On January 23, we held one of our biannual in-person meetings in Washington, D.C. At this meeting, we heard presentations on communications efforts and successes/lessons learned from a few D.C. organizations—Julie Lawson from the Mayor's Office of the Clean City spoke about behavior change campaigns, Maureen Farrington and Jorge Bogantes Montero from Anacostia Watershed Society spoke about their mussel restoration efforts, and Megan Goodman and Heidi Bonnaffon from Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments spoke about their local engagement efforts. We also had a discussion of 2019 priorities for members' individual organizations and discussed potential updates to our workplan.

### **Communications Office and Web Team:**

The scheduled release date for the Bay Barometer has been tentatively scheduled for March 26.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in January:

- [Putting some mussel into river restoration](#): Scientists hope the eastern elliptio can help clean up the Patapsco
- [Going under cover to reduce pollution](#): Cover crops are one of the many ways farmers are reducing pollution
- [Bay Foundation grades health of the Chesapeake Bay a D+](#): Record rainfall in 2018 contributes to first decline in 10 years
- [On a wing and wobble](#): A unique flight style helps turkey vultures soar
- [Understanding the threat of invasive catfish](#): Two new reports look into the biology and management of blue and flathead catfish
- [New website provides support and tools for citizen scientists](#): Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative offers services and free resources for water monitoring groups

- [Making a home for wood ducks](#): After declining in the 1900s, the wood duck is on the rise thanks to the help of manmade nesting boxes
- [At the far reaches of our watershed, the National Park System shines](#): Despite colder temps and shorter days, this is the perfect time to opt outside
- [Nature Rx](#): The science behind nature's effect on the human body
- [Helping farmers help our waterways](#): The new federal Farm Bill supports Chesapeake farmers and conservation
- [Dredging up a debate](#): A controversial oystering practice is still making headline

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

### **Recent Meetings and Events**

Dec. 7	STAC quarterly meeting (Annapolis)
Dec 8-13	RAE National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management
Dec. 10	Water Quality GIT conference call
Dec. 11	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting (Annapolis)
Dec. 11	Federal Facilities Workgroup conference call
Dec. 17-18	Sustainable Fisheries Biannual Full GIT meeting (Newport News, Va.)
Jan. 14	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference call
Jan. 31	PSC conference call
Feb. 11	Water Quality GIT conference call