



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
July 2019**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

| | |
|------------|---|
| July 15 | Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting |
| July 16-17 | Modeling Workgroup in-person meeting |
| July 18 | Agriculture Workgroup conference call |
| July 23 | Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting |
| July 25 | SRS presentations at STAR meeting |
| July 30 | Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting (GIT funding meeting) |
| July 31 | Budget and Finance workgroup quarterly meeting |
| Aug. 12 | PSC conference call |
| Aug 15 | Management Board: Healthy Watersheds SRS Quarterly Progress Meeting |
| Aug 23 | Final Phase III WIPs due to EPA; posted on Jurisdiction websites |
| Sept 5 | Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting |

Updates

Annual Request for Budget Data in Compliance with CBARA

On July 3, Chesapeake Bay Program Jurisdiction partners received an email from EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio requesting budget data submissions, in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014 (CBARA). The jurisdictions were asked to return their completed spreadsheets by August 2, 2019.

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

CBP Launches ChesapeakeDecisions Website

On July 2, the CBPO launched ChesapeakeDecisions, a new website designed to help implement adaptive management toward achieving the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals and promote transparency in the partnership's work. The website includes: an overview of the Strategy Review System (SRS), document due dates and status of SRS documents, and meeting dates and document deadlines and other important information.

Visit the site at: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/decisions>

Contact: Doreen Vetter at vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Environmental Literacy Summit

On June 27, environmental education experts, cabinet-level representatives for state government and other decision-makers from throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed gathered at the Potomac Science Center at George Mason University to highlight challenges to and explore possible solutions for ensuring environmental education resources and opportunities are distributed equitably among all students. The biennial summits provides the opportunity for state secretaries of education and natural resources from throughout the entire watershed to come together and collaborate on ways to advance

environmental literacy. In 2018, the Principals' Staff Committee committed to biennially convening high-level leaders in both education and the environment to discuss progress toward the partnership's environmental education goals. The 2019 summit featured voices from non-governmental organizations that are working to increase environmental literacy access to all students. They discussed addressing inequities in our education system and strategies for how to increase diversity in the broader environmental movement. For more information:

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

Blue crab population increases by 60%

The 2019 Blue Crab Advisory Report finds the overall Chesapeake Bay blue crab population to be not depleted or overfished. Additionally, the most recent winter blue crab dredge survey estimated that the Chesapeake Bay is home to 594 million blue crabs, a 60% increase over last year. Results of the survey, conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, show that the Bay's total adult female blue crab population has increased nearly 30% to 191 million. This is well above the abundance threshold of 70 million crabs and near the target of 215 million crabs. Experts recommend that Maryland, Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission maintain a cautious, risk-averse approach to blue crab management, put procedures in place to provide accurate accountability for all commercial and recreational harvests and explore new reporting technologies.

More information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/blue_crab_population_increases_by_60_stock_considered_sustainable

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.

- Meeting with Governor Hogan: LGAC Chair Ann Simonetti, along with CAC and STAC Chairs, met with Governor Hogan on June 11th to share Advisory Committees recommendations. LGAC recommends aligning priorities and funding strategies at all government levels to share resources and improve communication, conducting a summit to discuss dual benefits when engaging on local flooding concerns, including a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on MB, and increasing opportunities for LGAC to share local priorities with Governors/Mayor and PSC Members.
- New York representative: LGAC still seeks a New York representative. LGAC has sent a letter to Governor Cuomo with a recommendation but has not received a reply.
- Next meeting: LGAC's next meeting is September 11-12 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. The first day of the quarterly meeting, LGAC will host the Local Government Forum. This year the Forum will delve into the topic of Workforce Development by looking at current green infrastructure training programs and seeing which could possibly be replicated and expanded. A key focus will be exploring efforts to create a pipeline to viable jobs.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jestarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at 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.

- Next meeting: The next CAC meeting will be in PA on September 18-19, 2019.
- 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 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.

Special Announcement: STAC is happy to welcome the newest member of its staff, Megan Cole with the Chesapeake Research Consortium. Megan recently received her Masters in Environmental Science from Towson University, with a thesis on effects of climate disruption on streamflow within a basin in the San Joaquin Valley, CA using GIS climate change simulation data and the USDA SWAT program. She will be a great asset to the committee and we are excited she has joined the STAC team. Please join us in welcoming her to the Bay Program Partnership! Megan's email address is colem@chesapeake.org

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY19 on September 10-11, 2019 at a location to be determined. More information will be made available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2019, 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) Targeting Non-Point Source BMP Implementation
- 2) Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program
- 3) Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Management to Soil and Watershed Health
- 4) Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

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) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 3) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program 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) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The Triblet Connection (FY2017)
- 7) Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
- 8) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers (FY2018)
- 9) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management (FY2018)
- 10) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals (FY2018)

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 June Management Board meeting:

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Statement of Status/Progress</i> | <i>Link</i> |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Blue Crab Abundance | Between 2018 and 2019, the abundance of adult (age 1+) female blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay increased 30 percent from 147 million to 191 million. This number is above the 70 million threshold, which is considered to be the minimum sustainable level for female blue crabs in the Bay, but lower than the target of 215 million. Because of natural variability in annual blue crab populations, blue crab abundance fluctuates from year to year. | https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/blue-crab-abundance |
| Blue Crab Management | According to the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), an estimated 23 percent of the female blue crab population was harvested in 2018. For the eleventh consecutive year, this number is below the 25.5 percent target and the 34 percent overfishing threshold. The | https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/blue-crab-management |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Chesapeake Bay's blue crab stock is not depleted and it is not being overfished. | |
|--|--|--|

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

- SAV – final 2017 & preliminary 2018 data
- Public access – 2018 data

Contact: Daniel Giddings, giddings.daniel@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 meeting: The Sustainable Fisheries GIT biannual meeting was held June 26-27 at Horn Point Lab oyster hatchery in Cambridge, MD. Outcomes from the meeting include endorsement of the blue crab 2019 Advisory Report and blue crab stock assessment update, approval of membership changes to Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), endorsement of Maryland's selection of Manokin River as the 10th of 10 tributaries for oyster restoration, and discussion of interim BMPs for oyster restoration.
- 2019 Advisory Report: The 2019 Advisory Report indicates a strong year for blue crab, as overwintering mortality was below average and adult female abundance increased. [Press release available.](#)
- Oyster BMPs: The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee also endorsed the inclusion of oyster denitrification and assimilation processes as interim BMPs in Watershed Implementation Plans. On recommendation of the oyster BMP Expert Panel, we now have conservative, science-based estimates needed to start crediting oyster restoration in achieving water quality goals under the TMDL.
- Fish Habitat: Fish habitat was a major theme of the biannual meeting, with presentations highlighting NOAA funded research on inshore-offshore connectivity for fish dependent on Chesapeake Bay habitat, ongoing regional efforts to develop fish habitat assessments that aid in prioritizing areas for conservation/restoration, and the role of water column habitat and environmental factors like hypoxia for driving fish distributions. Presentations and meeting materials are 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.

- Habitat GIT staffers Paige Hobough and Margot Cumming are finishing their time with CRC this month and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead! They are grateful to have gained tremendous experience from the motivated and inspiring natural resource professionals surrounding them. Interviews for two new staffers were held last week and we expect them to begin in late July – we look forward to welcoming them to the team!

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, jennifer_greiner@fws.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 June 13. A subset of topics is included below:

- Discussion of FY19 GIT Funding Project Proposals
- WQGIT recommendation on options for draft Phase III sediment targets for the Management Board and PSC.
 - Decision: The WQGIT recommends adopt Option 2a for Management Board and PSC consideration for the development of the Phase III sediment planning targets.
- WQGIT approval of the final Accounting for Growth Expectations for Phase III WIPs and land policy BMPs.
 - Decision/Action: The WQGIT approved the Land Policy BMPs and supporting document, upon incorporation of the edits recommended to the title and highlight 4 in the document. The final document will be distributed to the WQGIT and the Management Board.
- WQGIT approval of the on the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel Report, and WQGIT decision on continuance or removal of the interim BMP efficiency for cropland irrigation.
 - Decision: The WQGIT approved the continuance of the interim BMP practice for cropland irrigation in the Phase 6 modeling tools.
 - Action: The WQGIT did not reach consensus on the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel Report. The expert panel report will go to the Management Board for a decision at their July meeting.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on July 8. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Interim BMP Request: Oyster Restoration Denitrification and Oyster Restoration Nutrient Assimilation
- Watershed Data Dashboard: Build-Your-Own-Storyline
- BMP Verification Needs and Priorities
- Updating Cost Data in CAST
- Transition Plan for 2020-2021 Milestone Period Updates to CAST

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.

- Quarterly Meeting: The HWGIT met on June 6 to discuss completed and ongoing GIT funded projects, prepare for the second round of the SRS and assess progress on the logic and action plan. Tetra Tech's Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) - renamed Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment, developed a framework of quantitative indicators to assess current watershed condition, track future condition and assess vulnerability of these watersheds to future degradation. MDE is looking to utilize the findings from the PHWA to assess the vulnerability of Maryland's Tier II watersheds and incorporate it into the Tier II workplan (a GIT funding project is being developed).
- Quarterly Meeting: Chesapeake Conservancy continues to complete contractual work related to hydrography, land cover and land use change and other stream corridor characteristics. These "diagnostic" measures of streams, flow, incision, nutrients etc. along with other "risk" factors related to land use and population change for example, combined can inform multiple outcomes such as Land Use Methods and Metrics Outcome, which calls for quantifying the impacts of land conversion on water quality, healthy watersheds, and communities. This information can also be applied to overall watershed health and inform vulnerability and resilience in healthy watersheds. HWGIT members are moving forward with developing a strategy for communicating with and engaging local government by consolidating CBP workplan actions that require local government engagement to find common messages. The FY 18 GIT funding project, Phase III results of the Healthy Watersheds Forest Project which fosters high quality forest and agricultural land retention through a pilot carbon market in Virginia is well underway. The HWGIT is hoping to integrate some of this work into the Local Engagement Strategy. Additional information on these topics can be found here: [:https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/maintain_healthy_watersheds_git_meeting_june_2019](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/maintain_healthy_watersheds_git_meeting_june_2019)
- GIT Funding: HWGIT leaders have developed 2 proposals for GIT funding projects, one aimed at Improved technical service delivery to landowners through technical workshops. This project was developed in partnership with the Habitat GIT. The other project developed is to carry the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment project forward in MD to meet Tier II outreach and communications needs for MDE and healthy watersheds in Maryland.

Contact: Renee Thompson; rthomps@chesapeakebay.net

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

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

- Environmental Literacy Summit: The Environmental Literacy Summit was held on Thursday, June 27 in Woodbridge, VA where we heard from the First Lady Pam Northam, a panel of teachers, middle school students, and selected state and federal leads about their experience implementing MWEEs and addressing gaps/opportunities. There were breakout sessions among the states and regional

partners to dig deeper into these issues and held separate panels on current efforts integrating DEI and increasing the number of sustainable schools across the watershed. This event raised how essential MWEs are to children's learning and development and why we are pushing to increase MWEs across districts.

- **Public access sites:** The Public Access Workgroup convened on Tuesday, June 25 to check in on progress towards meeting the 300 site goal by 2025. Members reviewed the 2018-2019 workplan to ensure actions are being completed and what additional support is needed by the states to be successful in meeting the Public Access Goal and Outcome.
- **Stewardship online tool:** The Stewardship GIT will be meeting with contractor Green Fin Studios and CBP's Creative Team on Monday, July 15 to check on the status of the Stewardship Online Tool, see what mockups have been completed to date, and identify what next steps will be for each team.
- **Land Conservation:** Land Conservation is working to revise their workplan for 2020-2021 and will be presenting to the Management Board in August.

Diversity Workgroup

- **In-person meeting:** The Diversity Workgroup had an in-person meeting with 25 attendees on May 20th in Baltimore, MD. The agenda included an overview of the 2018-19 workplan, covering what we have achieved so far and where the focus will be for the remainder of 2019. The workgroup heard from partners in Baltimore who are engaged in workforce development efforts, were given an update on the DEI Strategy GIT Funded project that is currently underway with Skeo Solutions and participated in an exercise to engage workgroup members with specific actions in the workplan. The Diversity Workgroup is currently developing a plan for greater jurisdiction and member engagement and will meet again in September.
- **Internships:** The Chesapeake-StREAM intern program is underway and 11 interns have been placed. This year will include a series of lunch & learn sessions designed to provide interns with added support and mentorship.
- **Tuana Phillips, Coordinator,** voluntarily reviewed three Environmental Justice Small Grant proposals submitted to the EPA Region III office.
- **Jim Edward, Chair,** visited Virginia State University to participate in the signing of an MOU between VSU and the EPA designed to formalize and strengthen their relationship and to enhance research, teaching, outreach, career development and stewardship in environmental sciences.
- Several members of the steering committee met with members of the other workgroups in the stewardship GIT to collaborate on shared goals and outcomes. Plans are underway for a larger workshop this fall.

- Demographic profile: The workgroup has been continuing to collect information for the Chesapeake Bay Program Demographic Profile. This will close on June 10th, 2019. The results will be analyzed and compared to the 2016 profile over the course of the summer.

Diversity workgroup contact: Francesca King; king.francesca@epa.gov

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.

Quarterly GIT 6 meeting – summer 2019

The GIT 6 summer quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, July 23 at the CBPO Fish Shack. Agenda topics will include completing the decision framework and updates from the GIT 6 workgroups.

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

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The ChesapeakeStat team is working on final details prior to launch of ChesapeakeDecisions in support of the Strategy Review System. A walkthrough demonstration is planned for the July Management Board meeting. Pertinent updates to the Management Board will be shared as development continues.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

FY2019 GIT Funding

The EPA will continue the GIT Funding program in FY2019 at a level of \$923,231. GITs and their respective workgroups submitted Table 1 proposals to GIT 6 and Chesapeake Bay Trust staff in mid-June 2019. After a peer review and revision period, GIT and program leadership, coordinators and staffers will meet on July 30 to review and score final project proposals. A final list of projects will be submitted to the Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office for review and approval in August 2019.

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

Local Leadership Workgroup

The next workgroup meeting will be held on July 10, 2019 in Frederick, MD.

Contact: Jennifer Starr, jstarr@allianceforthebay.org

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The next workgroup meeting will be July 31, 2019.

Contacts: Jim Edward, edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell, elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

GIT 6 Contact: Laurel Abowd, abowd.laurel@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.

CAP Workgroup

The most recent CAP WG meeting was held on 3/8/2019. Topics were:

- **James River chlorophyll *a* criteria updates.** The proposed updates to the James River chlorophyll-*a* criteria summarizing work from a seven year study have been published to the Virginia register of regulations <http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss11/v35i11.pdf> . Tish Robertson (VADEQ) reviewed the proposal highlighting the remaining time for input as the public review and comment period was closing on 3/22/19.
- **Status of restoration variances – dissolved oxygen.** Gary Shenk (USGS) provides a summary of the process underway documenting the most recent variances that will be needed for 303d listing assessments and therefore also updating in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards Indicator score assessments.
- **K_d Regression Updates** – In 2018, the CAP WG highlighted a desire to revisit the K_d regressions used for water clarity acres assessments. The workgroup action item is documenting the updated technique on local calibration over regional calibration.
- for producing water quality acres assessments. **Assessing possible advances in SAV acreage assessment: a STAC workshop proposal** – Brooke Landry (MD DNR, Chair of SAV Workgroup) highlighted directions for advancing new protocols and procedures through workshop support. We anticipate some members on the workgroup will be participating in those workshop meetings if the proposal is funded.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on March 19, 2019 at the Fish and Wildlife Services in Annapolis. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found here. The meeting was presided by the co-chairs; Bruce Michael, DNR and Cindy Johnson, VADEQ. Bruce provided an update on new funding and leadership changes at DNR, and renewed commitment for working towards WIP goals and the Conowingo RFP. Monitoring updates were provided by all jurisdictions. A greener approach being implemented by VADEQ for field sheets was discussed and approved by the workgroup. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager). The final audit report for SRBC was submitted and important study highlights were presented by Durga Ghosh (CBP QA Coordinator). A discussion on guidelines for incorporating non-traditional labs as a part of Citizen Monitoring was initiated by Durga with all members providing input. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

Previously awarded CRWG GIT funding project Data and Mapping Repository was completed on June 30th. The goal of this GIT funding project was to include a “one-stop shopping” solution for internal and external users who seek data to answer questions about climate change in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Program GIS team will use the information collected from this project to store mapping layers and geospatial metadata in cases where these items do not already exist along with points to datasets that are already hosted elsewhere. [The next CRWG conference call](#) is on July 15th.

STAR

During [June STAR Meeting](#), STAR received updates from STAC on the State of Science effort and discussed the next steps of collaborating with the Strategic Science and Research Framework.

Additionally, STAR has also move forward with the Strategic Science and Research Framework. Scott provided an example of how USGS is using Goal Team science needs and other information to evolve their Chesapeake science activities. Emily provided update on progress for the resource assessment regarding CBP grants and agreements. Lastly, STAR received latest information on freshwater flow and hypoxia condition of 2019. Monthly flows continue to be above normal for most months in 2019, leading to a forecast for poor dissolved oxygen conditions this summer.

Modeling Workgroup

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. A draft documentation on CBP 2019 Climate Change Assessment has transmitted to the Modeling Workgroup and Climate Resiliency Workgroup to review in preparation for the July Quarterly Review meeting, which is held on [July 16th and 17th](#).

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Between April and June 2019, ITAT organizers will work with STAR to establish future priorities and activities based on outcomes from the SRS process.
- Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. The purpose of these webinars is to communicate management-relevant research findings to the CBP Partnership's natural resource managers. December 2018 – March 2019 presentation topics included:
 - Agricultural Conservation Practice Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Dean Hively, USGS)
 - A pilot implementation of high frequency nutrient monitoring to assess effects of large storms (Lora Harris, UMCES)
 - Assessing urban BMP function, performance, and delivery of co-benefits to stream ecosystems (Rosemary Fanelli, USGS)

Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

Integrated Monitoring Network

The Integrated Monitoring Network Workgroup (IMN) met on June 19th to discuss updates on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative and MD Integrated Monitoring Networks. During the meeting, it was decided to reboot the Non-tidal Network Workgroup and have the first meeting on [Tuesday, July 16th](#). The IMN WG's main goal over the next three months is to complete a draft business plan stating what the program is, its mission, its vision, and how it meets challenges for maintaining its operation for the Tidal and Non-Tidal Networks. This is in response to a request from the Water Quality GIT.

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; 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:

In-person retreat: The Communications Workgroup will hold its second in-person meeting of the year on July 9. This meeting will offer a training on climate change communications from Coreen Weilminster (Maryland DNR) and will have a speaker from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (Jim Bass) to talk about how they communicate climate change to elected officials and more conservative communities. We will also have time for discussion among members of climate change communication best practices and lessons learned. This meeting will be held at the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center on Kent Island, Md.

The two GIT-funded projects that the Communications Workgroup is involved in held their kickoff meetings at the end of June. The projects, “Social Marketing for Shoreline Management” and “Behavior Change Training and SAV Pilot,” are both contracted to Action Research.

Communications Office and Web Team:

On June 27, the Communications Office issued a [press release](#) on the environmental literacy summit held at the George Mason University Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, Virginia. On July 2, we issued a [press release](#) on the Blue Crab Advisory Report. We will be issuing a press releases later this month on SAV abundance.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in June:

- [A Pride founder finds environmental purpose](#): Jeremy Browning highlights the intersection of environmentalism and LGBTQ+ representation
- [Watershed leaders call for environmental education for all](#): Diversity, equity and inclusion major theme at biennial environmental literacy summit
- [A country boy from East Baltimore](#): Vincent O. Leggett discusses his early connection to the environment
- [Annual Anacostia report card finds river not immune to record rainfall](#): Despite falling to an F grade, experts remain optimistic
- [‘Sneaker index’ of 47 inches measured at Bernie Fowler Wade-In](#): Annual event measures clarity of Patuxent River
- [Experts predict largest dead zone in decades](#): Chesapeake Bay continues to be impacted from extreme rain and increased river flows
- [Alexandrium monilatum sheds light on a Bay issue](#): Glowing harmful algal blooms illuminate the problem of nutrient pollution
- [A tirelessly fighting son of the Patuxent](#): Riverkeeper Fred Tutman empowers communities and takes on polluters
- [Planning for a changing climate](#): Bay Program partners build resiliency into their pollution reduction plans

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

| | |
|------------|---|
| May 20 | Climate Resiliency Workgroup in-person meeting |
| May 20 | Diversity Workgroup in-person (Baltimore, Md.) |
| May 20-22 | Choose Clean Water Conference (Baltimore, Md.) |
| May 21-22 | Habitat GIT Meeting (Havre de Grace Maritime Museum) |
| May 22-23 | Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Baltimore, Md.) |
| May 29 | Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting |
| June 5 | Land Use Workgroup in-person meeting |
| June 5-6 | Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Selinsgrove, Pa.) |
| June 6 | Healthy Watersheds GIT in-person meeting |
| June 7 | EPA Evaluation of Phase III WIPs released |
| June 11-12 | Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting (Blacksburg, Va.) |