



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
October 17, 2019**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

| | |
|------------|---|
| Oct. 18 | Wetland Workgroup meeting |
| Oct. 21 | Climate Resiliency in-person meeting (new coordinator starting) |
| Oct 21-22 | 10th annual Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Meeting (Shepherdstown, WV) |
| Oct. 24 | Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team meeting |
| Oct. 25 | Stream Health workgroup meeting |
| Oct. 29 | Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting |
| Oct. 30 | Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting |
| Nov. 4 | Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting |
| Nov. 6 | Local Leadership Workgroup meeting (Gettysburg, Pa.) |
| Nov. 6-7 | Habitat GIT meeting (Columbia, Pa.) |
| Nov. 7-8 | Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Maryland) |
| Nov. 12 | Water Quality GIT conference call |
| Nov. 14 | Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting: Aquatic Life Cohort |
| Nov 15 | 14 th annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, WV) |
| Nov 21 | Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting |
| Nov. 21-22 | Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Washington, DC) |

Updates

Chesapeake Bay Local Grants Announced

On October 10, EPA joined with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to announce nearly \$12.7 million in grants (\$9.7 million from EPA) to organizations and communities for restoration and conservation projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The 47 grants are generating nearly \$21 million in matching funds. The grants were awarded through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, a partnership between NFWF and EPA's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) grants program and Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program. Chesapeake Bay Program Office Director Dana Aunkst represented EPA at the press event in Essex, MD which included U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles and Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

Conowingo Grants Announced

On September 26, EPA announced the award of \$600,000 in grants to three organizations to further a joint Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to compensate for the loss of pollutant trapping capacity in the Conowingo Dam reservoir. The funds will allow the organizations to: 1) facilitate development and implementation of the WIP and associated two-year milestones of progress

(Center for Watershed Protection); 2) develop and propose a Conowingo WIP financing strategy and associated investment plan (Chesapeake Bay Trust); and 3) track, verify and report implementation of the WIP (Chesapeake Conservancy).

Contact: Dana Aunkst, 410-267-5710

Update for Rep. Wittman's Office on Independent Evaluator

On September 25, CBPO Partnerships Chief Carin Bisland provided an update to U.S. Representative Rob Wittman's (Va.) office about the Chesapeake Bay Program's efforts to initiate the nomination an independent evaluator—as called for in the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act (CBARA). The Act was originally sponsored by Rep. Wittman. Carin provided a summary of actions by the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) in 2016, concluding in a decision to defer Executive Council nominations because of budget concerns (no additional funding was authorized for this activity under CBARA). The focus of the PSC in the following years has been on the development of the Phase III WIPs.

Contact: Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732

CBP Staff Participation in Inter-American Development Bank Meetings

On October 1-2, several partnership staff participated in a two-day "study tour" meeting sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), hosted at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). The meetings, planned for about 50 IDB Central American and Caribbean specialists, focused on sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture, tourism and disaster risk management. Partnership staff from US Forest Service, EPA, USGS, the National Park Service, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay provided presentations on the history of the partnership, participated in two panel discussions about science and policy, and led a series of field trip visits to highlight on-the-ground agricultural and forestry practices used by CBP partners.

Contact: Greg Barranco, 410-267-5778

CCP Report Highlights Progress in Conserving Land in the Watershed

The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP), a coalition of more than 50 organizations and government agencies engaged in land conservation, recently undertook the most comprehensive survey of land conservation and funding throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in over a decade, resulting in a new report, *Marking Milestones: Progress in Conserving Land in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. The report offers a wealth of information, including the most recently available data from each state and a library of success stories that celebrates land conservation progress in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Thanks to partnership efforts, the watershed is now home to more than four million acres of state-owned parks, forests and wildlife management areas; over 2.1 million acres of privately-owned farm, forest and historic lands protected through conservation easements; hundreds of nature preserves and cultural sites; and over 1,300 public access sites along rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Copies of the report are available at: www.chesapeakeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CCP_publication_SD_FD-R-FINAL.pdf

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.

- New members: LGAC welcomes Virginia member Robin Rich-Coates, Board Chair for the Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District. LGAC still seeks a New York representative.
- Local Government Forum on Workforce Development: LGAC's held a very engaging one-day NFWF-funded Local Government Forum on Workforce Development to develop recommendations to support local government needs to help a community develop the best process to efficiently and effectively maintain municipal BMPs and develop a robust green collar workforce. Based upon the recommendations developed during the Forum a report is being prepared and will be shared by January 2020.
- Peer-to-peer learning: October 24-25, Virginia LGAC members are hosting a peer-to-peer learning exchange of non-tidal local elected officials to meet with tidal local elected officials. This two-day bus tour is a pilot effort to expand knowledge and capacity of local officials on water resource priorities.
- Next meeting: LGAC's next quarterly meeting is December 4-5 in Adamstown, Maryland.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jstarr@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.

- CAC's Chair, Matt Ehrhart, hosted the committee at the Stroud Water Research Center on September 18. The CAC heard updates from the Chesapeake Bay Program Office and PA DEP. They hosted a panel discussion on the Delaware River Watershed Initiative to learn about their goal setting, monitoring progress and accountability. They also toured the lab facility and campus to learn about Center's research on riparian buffers. On Sept 19 the CAC learned about the Chesapeake Conservancy's work to support the partnerships BMP mapping and tracking.
- CAC set their 2020 meeting dates: Feb 20-21; May 21-22; Sept 17-18 and Dec 3-4 which will be partly held with LGAC.
- Next meeting: CAC's final meeting of 2019 is Nov 21-22 in DC.
- 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, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC will held its second quarterly meeting of FY19 on September 10-11, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, MD. STAC received presentations on themes from restoration efforts from other regions of the world to help focus the STAC Scientific Gap Analysis effort. Members also heard from Emily Trentacoste and Scott Phillips on the science needs from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System. More information and presentations are available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

The third quarterly meeting of FY19 will be on December 18-19, 2019, location to be determined. More information will be made available on the [December meeting webpage](#).

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2019, 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](#).

1. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program: **Session 1: October 15-16, 2019 (VIMS)**
2. Targeting Non-Point Source BMP Implementation: **November 12-13, 2019 (Fairfax, VA)**
3. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Management to Soil and Watershed Health: **January 23-24, 2020 (WVU)**
4. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership: **March 5-4, 2020 (CBF Merrill Center, Annapolis, MD)**

STAC Science Synthesis

STAC released an RFP for a Climate Change Science Synthesis (SS) in March of this year. In May, STAC received 10 proposals and a subcommittee of STAC members approved funding for one proposal under the STAC/CRC budget (\$125,000). The STAC SS subcommittee selected the proposal entitled "Quantifying the impacts of past and future climate and eutrophication on the dynamics of dissolved oxygen in the shallow waters of Chesapeake Bay" (Testa, UMCES). The proposal addresses DO, a key issue/water quality criteria, living resources habitat, and the simulated distribution, timing and severity of hypoxia, which was highlighted as a priority by the STAC 2018 Climate Change 2.0 workshop. This project is to be completed in a two year period, with lead PIs providing updates to STAC, CRC and the Bay Program upon request.

Recently Released Reports:

STAC reports can be found on the [STAC Publication Database](#).

1. **Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters**
On September 23, 2019 STAC released a report titled *Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters* that summarizes the May 2018 STAC Workshop.
2. **Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals (FY2018)**

On October 9, 2019 STAC released the report titled *Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals* that summarizes an April 2019 STAC Workshop.

Upcoming Reports:

STAC has recently released the following report. STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#).

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. Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The Triblet Connection (FY2017)
6. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
7. Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers (FY2018)
8. Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management (FY2018)
9. Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings (FY2018)

**Please note that the STAC Website is undergoing a major update and some links may not be accessible during this time. If you are unable to access a page, please contact STAC Staff.*

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Indicators

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

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Statement of Status/Progress</i> | <i>Link</i> |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Reducing Pollution Indicator | As of 2018, nutrient pollution-reducing practices are in place to achieve 39 percent of the nitrogen reductions and 77 percent of the phosphorus reductions necessary to attain applicable water quality standards as compared to the 2009 baseline established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the Bay TMDL. | https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans |
| CAST | According to CAST, pollution controls put in place in the Chesapeake Bay watershed between 2009 and 2018 lowered nitrogen loads 10 percent and phosphorus loads 13 percent. According to BMP and wastewater data from jurisdictions as well as watershed conditions in the model established by the partnership, this drop in estimated pollution | https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans |

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|--|---|--|
| | loads between 2009 and 2018 is mostly due to upgrades to waste treatment facilities. For the short term, between 2017 and 2018, 55 percent of the nitrogen load reductions came from the agricultural sector. | |
|--|---|--|

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: Doreen Vetter, 410-267-5780, vetter.doreen@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.

- SRS: Outcomes for Aquatic Life Cohort - forage, blue crab, and oysters - are working to develop SRS materials for the November 14 SRS review.
- Fish Habitat Action Team meeting: Fish Habitat Action Team held an in-person meeting on September 16, bringing together team members to discuss updates and actions for the next 2-year workplan. The meeting started with a webinar presentation from Michigan Department of Natural Resources sharing lessons learned from a regional Great Lakes fish habitat assessment. Scott Philips then shared an update on the USGS Chesapeake Bay Plan, and AK Leight shared progress made in the Chesapeake Bay regional fish habitat assessment metadata collection and stakeholder engagement. The focus going forward will be on communications and developing interim products with pilot assessments.
- Joint meeting: The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee will hold a joint meeting with Fisheries GIT Executive Committee leadership October 15 at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. Meeting outcomes will include a prioritized list of blue crab science needs.

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.

- GIT meeting: The Fall 2019 Habitat Goal Implementation Team meeting will be held on November 6th at the Columbia Crossing River Trails Center in Columbia, PA. The meeting will then be followed by a field trip on the morning of November 7th to the Big Spring Run Legacy Sediment Removal and Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration project site in Lancaster (see: <http://www.bsr-project.org/>). We will be dedicating part of the November 6th meeting to an

update on the management strategies and actions of the Healthy Watersheds cohort. Ideally, each group will get full GIT approval before the final materials are due to the management board on November 8th.

- Seagrass conference: The 14th International Seagrass Biology Workshop and World Seagrass Conference (ISBW14) will take place in Annapolis, MD, USA on August 9th - 14th, 2020 at [The Graduate Annapolis](#). The theme of ISBW14: Chesapeake Bay is "Signs of Success." This year's theme was inspired by the SAV recovery we're witnessing throughout Chesapeake Bay in response to decades of sustained management actions and the vision that the actions taken here can be emulated elsewhere. The week will include two days of organized sessions and talks, two days of workshops, and a day of field trips to some of the most iconic places the Chesapeake Bay has to offer.
- Wetlands: On October 18, 2019, the Wetlands Workgroup will be having a full Work Group meeting in Suite 305 at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD, from 10 am - 12 pm. The group will continue their discussion on updates to the Management Strategy and Workplan, focusing on current efforts, gaps, and action items to be added or removed from the Logic & Action Table.
- Stream Health: On October 25, 2019 the Stream Health Work Group will be having a full Work Group Meeting in Suite 305 at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD. The meeting will take place from 10am-12pm. At this meeting the group will seek approval of changes to the work plan and discuss upcoming collaborations with USGS. Meeting materials will be sent out by October 18, 2019 to Work Group members and interested parties.
- Decision support tools: On Monday, October 28, members of the Habitat GIT have scheduled a follow-up discussion about reinstating the position of Living Resource Data Analyst. The position would be responsible for coordinating and analyzing data related to living resource outcomes, like brook trout or black duck.

Habitat GIT 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 a conference call on September 30. A subset of topics is included below:

- An overview of the history and forecast of animals and crops that incorporated the latest data from the Census of Agriculture
- A presentation of new revisions to the data updates in 2019 CAST, specifically regarding nitrogen fixation rate, over-winter crops, stream sediment relation to impervious load, and the Volkswagen settlement.

- A recommendation from the MSWG to eliminate the expectation for states and federal agencies to develop numeric 2-year milestones under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Accountability Framework.
 - **Decision:** WQGIT approved raising the recommendation to eliminate state and federal numeric milestones to the Management Board for decision at their October 17th meeting.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on October 15. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Final Phase III WIP sediment targets
- Outfall and Gully Stabilization Memo
- MSWG updates
- Process to determine emerging technologies
- Land use updates in 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.

- SRS: HWGIT Chair Angel Valdez presented to the Management board for the Quarterly Progress Meeting on our accomplishments as well as the individual contributions from jurisdictions as a part of the SRS process. We have reached out to the jurisdictional representatives in the HWGIT to renew their engagement with the team and let them know of our upcoming meeting (October 3rd). HWGIT staff met with the Local Leadership and Diversity Coordinators to discuss opportunities and strategies for communicating with and engaging local governments.
- Quarterly Meeting: During the HWGIT on Thursday, October 3 discussed updates to the logic and action table as well as amendments to our management strategy as part of the adaptive management process. We developed on a presentation for the HWGIT members to review the State Identified Healthy Watershed definitions and underlying data and comparing them with the indicators and key data inputs from the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (as per the August SRS MB discussion).
- 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 better understand how to update data for a specific jurisdiction or update regional data as needed and to meet Tier II outreach and communications needs for MDE and healthy watersheds in Maryland. Both projects were approved. The teams are working to add detail and refine the projects for the RFP.
- Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment Report: Tetra Tech is working to finalize the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment Report and meeting with staff to review data and deliverables next week. The report will be released this Fall with a plan to roll out data visualization

and display in the coming months. Due to the cross-GIT nature of the CHWA, the GIT chairs will be spending a portion of their next meeting at the end of October focusing on how this assessment may help to inform other science, information and data needs across various GITs and workgroups.

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.

- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
 - [The Marking Milestones Report](#) was released in early September. This report presents a wide range of information from many Chesapeake partners to illustrate the progress, status, and needs of land conservation in the watershed.
 - The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Annual Meeting is scheduled for Oct 21st and 22nd at NCTC and will result in direction setting for the coming year.

- Citizen Stewardship Team
 - The Stewardship workgroup continues to advance the development of a web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) has made significant progress recently and has positively evolved to ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The evolution of this effort will ensure existing and future social science tools developed (such as the existing Behavior Change Case Study database or the under development Outreach Program Audit tool) are better integrated into one easy to access location.

- Education Workgroup
 - The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative was launched in September to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks will be convened in (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The OLNi project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals.
 - The Education Workgroup is collecting data for the biennial ELIT survey. This data is crucial for assessing the needs and directing resources for planning, student environmental literacy activities and sustainable schools. Education partners are urged to prioritize this essential data collection (provided by LEAs).

- Public Access Planning Team
 - The fall meeting of the Public Access workgroup will be held in mid-November where members will discuss the status of the public access outcome, 2019 data collection

schedule, NPS updates on Gateways Program, and refinements to the GIT funding project - surveying the public on access usage.

Diversity Workgroup

- In-person meeting: The Diversity Workgroup held a conference call on September 17 and is currently preparing for an in-person meeting in November, during which we will begin the Strategy Review System process to review the 2018-2019 Logic and Action Table. The workgroup will work with Sherry Witt, Senior Project Manager and Facilitator of General Dynamics Information Technology to plan and facilitate this meeting.
- DEI in the Coastal Sector: Several workgroup members and others in the partnership participated in a workshop on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Coastal Sector held by Restore America's Estuaries. This workshop focused on individual and institutional bias in the environmental field and provided tools and resources to account for it.
- Virginia State University: Coordinator, Tuana Phillips, and Staffer, Francesca King attended a career fair at Virginia State University, along with workgroup member Hana Jones of EPA Region 3. Virginia State has a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Program. While attending the career fair they also met with Dr. Marcus Comer and Cynthia Martin of the Harding Street Agricultural Center to identify priority actions to carry out the MOU.
- GIT Funding: The Diversity Workgroup submitted Table 2 for the FY2019 Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Funding Project. The Request for Proposal will be released this month.
- Connecting workgroups: One of the actions in the 2018-19 Logic and Action Table is to connect the Diversity workgroup with other workgroups, GITS, and members of the partnership. To facilitate this, Diversity Workgroup staff organized a Chesapeake Bay Program office happy hour to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Ruby Stemmler of ecoLatinos and a member of the steering committee was a special guest at this event where she had the opportunity to meet others in the partnership and discuss her work with the Latinx community.

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

Contact: Amy Handen; amy_handen@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.

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS).

[ChesapeakeDecisions](#) is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Goal Implementation Teams \(GITs\) and Management Board members](#) through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward

the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The [Management Decisions](#) page, within ChesapeakeDecisions, has been updated with the requests and decisions from the August 15 Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Healthy Watersheds cohort. Further details on follow-up actions will be provided at the September 19 Management Board meeting. Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

The Aquatic Life cohort will be the second cohort to participate in the second cycle of the SRS. The cohort consists of the following five outcomes: Blue Crab Abundance, Blue Crab Management, Forage Fish, Oyster and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV). The cohort will present at the November 14 Quarterly Progress Meeting and provide further details on any follow-up actions at the December 12 Management Board meeting. Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Fall 2019

The GIT 6 Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting took place on Tuesday, October 8 at the UMCES-IAN Office in Annapolis, MD. Agenda topics included: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System process and facilitation updates and workgroup updates. The GIT 6 Winter 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on December 3 at the CBPO's Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room [also known as the "Fish Shack"] in Annapolis, MD. Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY 2019 GIT Funding

Goal Implementation Teams, and their respective workgroups, submitted Table 2 final drafts on September 24. This month, the Chesapeake Bay Trust will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek bidders. Bids from contractors are due to the Trust on November 15, 2019. Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting is rescheduled for November 4. Agenda topics will include feedback on the EFAB Webinar, the SAV Finance Report and Investment Forum planning. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on November 6 at the Harrisburg Area Community College in Gettysburg, PA. Agenda topics will include feedback on tree canopy resources, consolidating CBP outcomes requiring local engagement and workgroup membership. In 2020, the workgroup plans to create cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a new GIT-funded project and is excited to start sharing these and other vetted resources via workshops, panels and roundtable discussions in collaboration with trusted sources. Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@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 July 18 at the Chesapeake Bay Laboratories in Solomons. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by the co-chair Bruce Michael, DNR. A summary of the Summer Hypoxia results was presented to the group by Bruce with specific details from the June monitoring cruise results. Also discussed was the Mid-Bay Hypoxia study. A brief update on the status of Tier III water quality monitoring program was provided by Caroline Donovan (UMCES). Two new groups, Arundel Rivers Federation and MDE are already collecting Tier III data, with Shore Rivers being targeted as a likely candidate in the near future. An assessment of Data Quality Indicators as a performance measuring tool for watershed-wide data was presented by Durga Ghosh, Chesapeake Bay Program QA Coordinator. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) presented data from historical pH trends and posed the question of method/lab changes affecting these trends. Jerry Frank (CBL) discussed the Spring 2019 Blind Audit Results. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager), and USGS Reference Sample results Breck Sullivan (STAR staffer). The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

During the September CRWG meeting, the WG members discussed LGAC's recommendation to the Chesapeake Executive Council on connecting FEMA, CBP Partners and local government. The WG members also learned about USGS work on coastal habitats in the Chesapeake Bay region. The WG

members commented on the CBT Table 2 revisions. The next Climate Resiliency in person meeting will be held on October 21st with the theme of State Climate Action Plans. Julie Reichert, has accepted a position with NCBO/EPA the Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Coordinator. Julie will start on October 15 and will attend the next climate resiliency workgroup meeting on October 21st in the Fish Shack. Julie is coming from the Oyster Recovery Partnership, where she played a key role in the oyster best management practice expert panel. Julie also spent 4 years at the Office of Water at EPA's headquarters focused on climate change and ocean acidification issues, where she worked collaboratively with the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program. Prior to that Julie spent time at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab working on transboundary fisheries and eutrophication issues between the US and Canada.

STAR

STAR Aug meeting was held on Sep 26. STAR had a discussion on the updated science needs of the Healthy Watersheds cohort, planned actions moving forward, and potential opportunities to address needs. STAC provided a summary of the discussions held at the STAC Quarterly Meeting on September 10 – 11. STAR discussed how to utilize 3D Landscape Visualization as a science communication tool and identified potential study area. Next STAR meeting will be held on October 24.

Modeling Workgroup

The CBP Modeling Team is 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. During the September conference call, held on [September 12th](#), modeling team provided an overview of the decisions to be made during October Quarterly Review. In addition, a Technology Transfer Workshop on the CBP's water quality model code was held on July 21-24. The Technology Transfer Workshop provided the Bay Program's scientific and technical community operational hands-on training of how to use Bay Water Quality Model in a cloud environment. The [next Modeling WG meeting](#) will be held on October 8th and 9th.

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 kicked off this month with their first Non-Tidal Network Team meeting of 2019. The team discussed topics they would like to discuss over the year including data management, extreme event sampling and coordination, and special studies such as pesticides, hormones, microplastics, and more. The team also reviewed the resources in place for the standardization of protocols and training among the networks because defensible analyses rely on the consistency and integrity of data collections.

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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:

The Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting on October 2. We coordinated shared messaging around National Seafood Month, National Farmer's Day (October 12), the anniversary of the Clean Water Act (October 18) and Halloween (October 31). We also had Liv Kittell from Spitfire Strategies present on the toolkit created for the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership around communicating land conservation. Our November meeting will be held Wednesday, November 6.

Communications Office and Web Team:

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grant Awardees:

On October 10, the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) held a press event at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and School in Essex, Maryland to announce the annual Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grant awards. The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund is a partnership between NFWF and the Environmental Protection Agency's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program and Small Watershed Grants Program. This year, 47 projects received grants totaling almost \$13 million dollars. Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder and EPA Chesapeake Bay Office Director Dana Aunkst spoke at the press event. The Bay Program issued regional press releases amplifying individual projects.

Rachel Felver, Director of Communications, wrote an [article](#) for the Bay Journal covering the September 5 Executive Council meeting, which was held at Oxon Hill Manor. The article appeared in the October edition of Bay Journal and online.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in September:

- [Non-native fish a welcome sight in Chesapeake waterways](#): The walleye provides a tasty treat for anglers
- [Chesapeake Executive Council looks to the future](#): Annual meeting focuses on challenges, successes in meeting pollutant reduction goals

- [Poplar Island restoration gives Chesapeake new life](#): A restoration project transforms dredged material into valuable wildlife habitat
- [Healthy land means healthy water](#): A Chesapeake Conservation Partnership report details land conservation throughout the watershed
- [Public art tells the story of a community](#): An Annapolis neighborhood unveils a mural honoring 150 years of history
- [The dirt on soil](#): We're digging deep into this foundational resource for both our farms and our cities
- [Seven recipes using invasive species](#): Bring balance to the Chesapeake Bay while introducing a new flavor to your plate
- [The scoop on poop](#): How pet waste pollutes the watershed and how you can help prevent it
- [Creating incentives for conservation and land use](#): Future land preservation and sustainable growth plans can benefit watershed jurisdictions

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Recent Meetings and Events

| | |
|------------|---|
| Sept 5 | Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting (Oxon Hill, Md.) |
| Sept 10-11 | Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) quarterly meeting (Annapolis, Md.) |
| Sept 11-12 | Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) quarterly meeting (Shepherdstown, Wv.) |
| Sept 12-13 | Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Pennsylvania) |
| Sept 18-19 | Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) quarterly meeting (Baltimore, Md.) |
| Sept 23 | Conowingo WIP Steering Committee in-person meeting |
| Sept 26 | Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team meeting |
| Oct 3 | Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT meeting (Annapolis) |
| Oct 8 | Enhance Partnership, Leadership and Management GIT meeting (Annapolis) |
| Oct 8-9 | Modeling Workgroup in-person meeting |
| Oct 15 | Water Quality GIT conference call |