



**Joint Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Meeting/
Coordinator & Staffer Strategy Review System
Quarterly Progress Meeting
April 23rd, 2020
9:30AM – 12:30PM**

Event webpage:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/scientific_technical_assessment_and_reporting_star_team_meeting_april_2020

Minutes

9:30 Welcome, Introductions & Announcements – Bill Dennison (UMCES) and Scott Phillips (USGS)- STAR Co-Chairs, Peter Tango (USGS) and Emily Trentacoste (EPA), STAR Co-Coordinators

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops, & Webinars-

- [Chesapeake Research Symposium \(ChesR20\)](#), June 8 – 10, 2020. Annapolis, MD. Remote only Conference. Free registration.
- [Chesapeake Studies Conference](#), June 11 – 12, 2020. Salisbury, MD. **Canceled!**
- [Fishable Swimmable Summit](#), September 23, 2020. Baltimore, Md.
- [The National Coastal and Estuarine Summit](#), October 4 – 8, 2020. Providence, RI.
- [Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#), October 30 - November 1, 2020 Shepherdstown, WV
- [CitiesAlive Conference](#), November 15-18, 2020. Philadelphia, Pa.
- [Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference](#), December 6-9, 2020, Washington, D.C.
- [A Community on Ecosystem Services](#) (ACES), December 14-17, 2020. Bonita Springs, FL.
- [Choose Clean Water Conference](#), ~~May 19 – 21, 2020~~. Richmond, VA. **Postponed to May 2021**
- [World Seagrass Conference & International Seagrass Biology Workshop](#), ~~August 9 – 14, 2020~~. Annapolis, MD. **Postponed to Summer 2021**
- More seminars at OneNOAA Science Seminars: [Link](#)

9:35 Chesapeake Bay Report Cards – Caroline Donovan (UMCES-IAN)

UMCES IAN is producing the 2019 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card, including new indicators that evaluate the health of the watershed. This presentation will summarize each watershed indicator including the analyses and scoring for those indicators.

Action Requested: We are looking for feedback from STAR on the included indicators, the analyses, and suggestions for future potential indicators.

- Scott asked about the watershed indicators. what are the thresholds for N. P, and sediment based on? Aquatic life standards?
- Denise commented that they need to discuss (briefly) why an indicator of response to disaster is applicable to restoration of a watershed.
 - Carin agreed.

Next Generation Stewards SRS Group Dry Run

Action Requested: STAR will provide constructive input for draft presentations.

9:50

[Student Environmental Literacy – Tom Ackerman \(CBF\)](#)

- Student Environmental Literacy Time = 20:22.
- Sally Claggett commented that you could review the reasons given for not setting a numeric target
- Loretta Collins asked if Tom have thought about schools with International Baccalaureate/Middle Years Program should embrace your cross-curricular aspirations.
- Emily Trentacoste recommended moving your slide at the beginning on MWEEs to before the slide on Management Approaches. It gives a great intro to MWEEs that will set up the rest of the presentation
- Scott Phillips asked if Tom has any idea of the total number of districts you need to reach
- Carin Bisland likes that Tom used a similar bar graph to the one Shannon used. It is easier for people to pick up the categories.
- Emily Trentacoste asked if the state graphs only the portion of the state in the Bay watershed
- Emily Trentacoste asked if LEA the same thing as a school district
 - Tom confirmed.
- Carin Bisland asked the reason why NY is missing is because they are not participating.
 - Shannon responded that New York has not provided any data for ELIT. We don't even have a contact at the Dept of Education to aid in distribution. We are hoping to do some additional work in New York portion of the watershed next year.
 - Carin corrected that she meant WV, and both WV and DE don't have data. Shannon responded that DE is participating the MWEE program whereas WV does not participate.
- Sally Claggett commented that since teachers aren't in classrooms, it may be beneficial to hear directly from a few at the virtual MB.
- Emily commented that the recommendations could be more tailored to what the MB members are able to do. For example, you mentioned you need to get the natural resource leaders in the same room as the education leaders. Maybe some of the MB requests be tied into the requests from the Env Literacy presentation - for example identifying a point of contact at the leadership level that can help facilitate conversations between natural resource leaders and education leaders.
 - Dave agreed and commented that they should connect MB to their education counterparts in their jurisdiction would be helpful
- Dave Goshorn commented that good presentation but would be helpful to cut about 5 minutes. Suggest reducing some of the time spent on the data slides.
- Renee Thompson commented there has been great progress on the protected lands indicator. I see it as good news and something positive for a change. Kristin added that Don't give up the protected lands, let's find another way to show it!
 - Caroline responded that there is a timing issue - we have only a few weeks left for this round.
 - Kristin mentioned that she can pull together Renee, Jonathan Doherty to quickly work on this indicator.

- Carin Bisland commented that This move toward regional information is what the Local government advisory committee has been asking for a long time.

10:15 [Environmental Literacy Planning – Shannon Sprauge \(NOAA\)](#)

- Environmental Literacy Time = 15:38!!
- Carin Bisland commented that the slide describing roles of different levels of govt in the school system works really well.
- Saunders, Kristin commented that the context slide works well because it shows all the complex pieces you have to work within for education change.
- Greg Barranco commented that Covid-19 may need to be a factor influencing for all outcomes for this 2-year period.
 - Kristin added that she talked to several MWEE providers who have lost their class visits this year, and many are concerned they won't be around in the fall or next year to provide the outdoor education experiences. She added that we need to think about how to sustain those programs until children can return in person. Those provider networks are very fragile in terms of funding.
 - Scott Philips asks if assessment of COVID19 impact can be done sometime in the future.
- Denice Waldrop commented that the institutions that comprise the Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) have had to develop a large amount of virtual reality field experiences, and those could be accessed and revised for your purposes.
- Kristin Sanders suggested polling the local organization how many organizations in our network are in the stage of lack of funding to support virtually learning/exploration and how many can convert their business to go virtual online. Shannon responded that COVID19 can have long lasting impact in Environmental Education. Scott mentioned that lay out the consequences of COVID19 directly and ask for help to address them.
- Scott Philips commented that slide on preparedness nicely shows progress.
- Dave Goshorn asked who specifically each Management Board member should reach out to in their jurisdiction to get better participation in ELIT survey. Specific names and contact info would be helpful. He added that the name the VA rep (Ann Jennings) and their title to provide other jurisdictions an example of what is working in VA and help them identify similar person in their jurisdiction. Dave commented that be specific as much as possible and put yourself in the shoes of Management Board, and provide contexts for people pulled in from broader side of education. Tom commented they currently already looped in relevant contacts in the discussion.
- Renee Thompson commented that Anacostia watershed society is already transitioning online. They did a great presentation on watersheds, stormwater, and pollution to my 4th grade DC kid's class yesterday. It would be great to edit these live streams and protect kids privacy and get them all up online like a library.

10:40 [Sustainable Schools – Olivia Wisner \(CRC\)](#)

- Sustainable Schools Presentation (including Erin's comment at end) = 10:45!
- Dave Goshorn commented that he really likes the standardized "What Worked" and "What Didn't" slides in all three presentation!

- Carin Bisland commented that if the workgroup wants to promote a measure for this outcome, this would be a good time to do it. Diversity Workgroup ended up doing that in the last cycle and are looking to refine it in this cycle.
- Dave commented that the “Policy”, “Scientific”, and “Fiscal” developments slide is wonderful! That is exactly the analysis that we are hoping all Outcomes are going through as part of this process.
 - Carin agreed as well.
- Erin added that she would ask for Chesapeake bay epa contact who have better on the ground.
 - Wendy Sullivan responded that need for Erin to have an Annapolis EPA contact would not be an ask of the MB
- Sally Claggett asked where we can find the tool developed by Stroud.
- Sally Claggett asked if annual reporting needed to continue to be a Sustainable Schools?
- Dave asked if the sustainable school action team is a recreation of action team. Olivia responded that the
 - Be clear with the use of the action team defined by governance document.
- Dave asked if the “common ask” with Increase conversation across all three outcomes and summit would be great to increase the conversation. If so, Dave would set up time at the end of the SRS presentations to start a conversation with MB.
 - Laurel added that there's 20 minutes reserved to discuss any common challenges. I think discussing the summit is a great idea. I'll look forward to any language on that.
- Greg mentioned that Toxic Contaminant found out that PCBs is still in use in schools and Greg would like to work with Sustainable Schools to eliminate that.
- Dave summarized that Possible “Common Management Challenge” for the record = something along the lines of a next step from the Summit. Keep the momentum going. Keep the conversations between the Management Board members and Education counterparts.
- Tom A will follow up with Dave to have the leader of the MB meeting to orient the Education invitees to the MB as to what to expect.
 - Dave asked the outcome leads to provide him with the names and email addresses of the invitees and who will participate, he will be glad to email them about 1 week out, explain what we are doing, and direct them to the materials.
 - Greg responded that many of them will call in. He followed up with each of them, sent them a copy of the draft agenda and the link for the materials. Greg will send Dave with the list in a moment.
- Carin mentioned Dana, who chairs the MB, is getting very positive feedback from those education SMEs that he invited to the meeting.

11:05

[Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Evaluation of System Response \(STAC Internal Effort\) --Kurt Stephenson, Brian Benham, and Zach Easton \(VT\)](#)

With the 2025 TMDL WIP implementation deadline approaching, STAC believes that now is an appropriate time to identify key uncertainties in the relationship between nutrient and sediment reduction efforts and attainment of WQS. The goal is to identify where water quality programs and policies may not be yielding anticipated system responses, and to better understand possible reasons for these disparities. Recognizing and actively responding to uncertainty enables more informed and effective decision-making. STAC members continue

to participate in drafting this report and Benham, Stephenson, and Easton will provide an update on progress.

Action Requested: none, just update for STAR

- Scott asked about time lags and if the recommendation include trajectory or scoping. Zach said it would be covered by watershed group and he believes it should include that.
- Julie asked if BMPs performance under changing climate will be included. Zach responded this is a separate effort but can provide information to this effort.
- Denise asked about how to combine if STAC long term identification and STAR science needs framework as a group of science needs.
 - Scott mentioned that STAR science needs also bring in the science needs from the STAC report which would be longer term recommendation.
 - Emily added that STAC can also potentially provide factors influencing success which can drive the science needs list.
- Kurt mentioned that they have a soft timeline. They are hoping to have draft section this Fall.
- Greg commented that PCBs follow exact same diagram and he requested support from STAC.

11:25 [Initial Discussion on GIT funding ideas](#)

GITs may have an open discussion on ideas for proposals and brainstorming possible cross-GIT collaboration.

Action requested: This discussion will also provide an opportunity to narrow in on proposals focusing on science and connecting it with the Science Needs list.

- Toxics contaminant: guidance document tracking down PCBs; cobenefits of sediment reduction; work with CAST to get BMP efficiency for selected group of PCBs co-benefit into CAST.
- Healthy Watershed: work with Johnathan on protected lands, see wetland through forest cover.
- Stewardship: research mapping on public access, convert individual points on the map to a numeric acreage target; Environmental literacy is financial fragile and their recovery mode or project mode due to COVID19 to keep the network flow, but the timeline don't match up so suggest GIT chair to work on this.
- Diversity WG: increase participation from underrepresented wg.
- Habitat GIT: has been proposed is to look at barriers to wetland migration Bay-wide. This would connect wetland, fish habitat and climate resiliency, as it would assess the percent of hardened shoreline and the impacts of that.
- CRWG: work with citizen stewardship wg, motivate community to adapt to climate change; develop consistent communication messaging on SLR; climate indicator development on bay water temperature; citizen science monitoring plan on stream temperature; barriers to wetland migration.

- Emily will follow up with the individual workgroup with the science needs pull up possible for GIT funding project.

Next Meeting Dates: May 28th

Meeting Participants:

Scott Phillips, Peter Tango, Emily Trentacoste, Tom Ackerman, Caroline Donovan, Shannon Sprague, Olivia Wisner, Kurt Stephenson, Brian Benham, and Zach Easton, Breck Sullivan, Cuiyin Wu, Kristin Sanders, Amy

Handen, Dave Goshorn, Doug Austin, Katherine Brownson, Laurel Abowd, Loretta Collins, Mandy Bromilow, Julianna Greenberg, Wendy O Sullivan, Renee Thompson, Nora Jackson, Megan Ossmann, Mark Nardi, Katheryn Barnhart, John Wolf, Emily Bialowas, Carin Bisland, Bill Jenkins, Doreen Vetter, Tuana Philips, Bruce Michael, Alex Fries, Drew Budelis, Gary Shenk, Annabelle Harvey, Hilary Swartwood, Erin Sullivan, Denice Waldrop, Greg Allen, Chantal Madray, Greg Barranco, Jeff Sweeney, Francesca King, Lee McDonell, Qian Zhang, Rebecca Chillrud, Vanessa Van Note