



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
October 15, 2020**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

| | |
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| Oct. 15 | Agriculture Workgroup meeting |
| Oct. 15 | Management Board meeting |
| Oct. 26 | WQGIT conference call |
| Oct. 27 | Chesapeake Stock Assessment Committee meeting |
| Nov. 3 | Wastewater Treatment WG Conference Call |
| Nov. 4 | Forestry Workgroup Conference Call |
| Nov. 4 | Communications Workgroup November Meeting |
| Nov. 4 | Land Use Workgroup Conference Call |
| Nov. 5 | Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call |
| Nov. 5 | November 2020 Modeling Workgroup Conference Call |
| Nov. 5-6 | Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting |
| Nov. 9 | CBP Plastic Pollution Action Team Meeting #3 |
| Nov. 10 | Federal Facilities Workgroup Meeting |
| Nov. 11 | Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call |
| Nov. 12 | Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting |

Updates

Conowingo WIP Released for Public Comment

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners, on October 14, released a draft Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan for a 60-day public review and comment period. The draft narrative, a pre-recorded webcast and a fact sheet were all posted on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

The Conowingo WIP is separate from the WIPs that each watershed jurisdiction has put into place under the Bay TMDL. It is intended to address the approximately six million pounds of nitrogen and 0.26 million pounds of phosphorus that is uniquely coming as a result of the reservoir behind the Conowingo Dam no longer trapping sediment.

The public review and comment period will close on Monday, December 21, 2020. For a copy of the draft, please visit:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41689/draft_conowingo_watershed_implementation_plan_10_14_20.pdf. Comments may be submitted to CWIP@chesapeakebay.net.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 410-267-5722

America's Conservation Enhancement Act Awaiting Signature

On October 1, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation reauthorizing wetlands conservation and officially establishing the National Fish Habitat program that addresses threats from invasive species and chronic disease. The "America's Conservation Enhancement Act", already passed by the Senate

provides support for two dozen conservation initiatives around the nation including continued support for several key Chesapeake Bay initiatives.

The final bill included language from the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act which authorizes \$90 million in fiscal year 2020 with a \$500,000 increase for the next five years. It also included the Chesapeake WILD Act which will give U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a direct role in the restoration and protection of living resources in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It directs the USFWS to establish a grants program to enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats. The final bill is expected to be signed by President Trump.

Contact: Greg Barranco, barranco.greg@epa.gov

LGAC Sponsors Climate Forum

The CBP Local Government Advisory Committee sponsored a well-attended forum on *Building Local Community Resilience Against Climate-Related Flooding* on September 24. LGAC also elected Andrea McClellan as its VA Vice Chair, set its 2021 calendar of meetings, and made a motion in support of an independent Community Advisory Board in response to the Principals' Staff Committee Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Action Statement. **Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732**

CBPO-ORD Project Recognized by Federal News Network

The Federal News Network interviewed EPA's Dr. Emily Trentacoste for an upcoming segment highlighting a partnership between EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) and Office of Research and Development (ORD) to develop an online tool that will help local officials determine the best areas for restoration projects. The two EPA offices are working on a science-based "decision support system" to help municipalities, counties and others pinpoint sites for priority restoration and conservation projects. The segment will air in the coming days on the Network's [Federal Drive with Tom Temin](#) show.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

LGAC held its quarterly meeting virtually on September 24-25. On September 24th LGAC co-hosted the annual Local Government Forum with the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup on building local community resilience against climate-related flooding. This day-long Forum brought together local decision makers, climate experts, researchers, and state and federal officials to develop recommendations addressing this problem statement:

Joint LGAC-Climate Resiliency Forum on Climate-Related Flooding

The Local Government Advisory Committee and the Climate Resiliency Workgroup partnered in co-hosting the, "[Building Local Community Resilience Against Climate-Related Flooding](#)," forum on September 24, 2020. This was a successful virtual one-day forum that brought climate experts and local government decision makers together to discuss and draft recommendations on strategies around community capacity building, regional collaboration, financing, local ordinances, climate environmental justice, and innovative approaches to harness additional support and resources necessary to effectively

prepare for and manage local flooding impacts. A report is currently being drafted and will be shared with the PSC and Management Board.

As communities face the increasing challenge of climate-related flooding, there is a growing need for local decision makers to harness public support and resources necessary to effectively prepare for, manage, and ultimately reduce/mitigate local flooding impacts. Making the case to state and federal partners for funding actions tied to improving community resilience is paramount. Climate-related inequities need to be addressed as well as protection of social, economic, and natural infrastructure assets. Managing water quantity challenges caused by flooding must be prioritized along with meeting water quality requirements. There is a cost to no action compared to securing resources to prepare for and better respond to flooding impacts.

A report will be prepared this Fall with the recommendations and shared with Bay Program partners.

During the October 8 Principals' Staff Committee meeting LGAC Chair Ann Simonetti shared the LGAC annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council for discussion.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities 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.

The CAC held their quarterly meeting virtually on September 16-17. The agenda included: discussion on the DEIJ Strategy, Statement, PSC Action Plan, and the proposed creation of a Community Advisory Board; a panel with health experts on how to bridge the gaps between environmental quality and public health (here is the [link to the recorded video](#)); a presentation on tracking COVID-19 in wastewater; and Chesapeake Bay Program updates. The CAC will hold officer elections during their December 3-4 quarterly meeting.

The CAC will convene on Oct 22nd for a one-hour session focusing on CBP Monitoring. This is the beginning of deeper dive sessions that will take place once a month in between the CAC quarterly meetings.

There are a number of vacancies on the CAC. The Alliance has posted a form for those who are interested in becoming a candidate to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Here is the link to the [CAC Interest Form](#).

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 and or 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@chesapeake.org)

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC held its second quarterly meeting of FY20 on September 15-16, 2020 over Zoom. STAC received updates on many ongoing efforts including the Plastic Pollution Action Team (PPAT), the Soil Health and Hydrology STAC Workshop (FY19), and the STAC effort *Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Assessment of System Response*. The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) introduced the membership to their missions and current priorities, in an effort to increase collaboration between the three CBP advisory committees. Caitlyn Johnstone (Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay) from the CBP Communications Workgroup provided STAC with tips on communicating STAC technical recommendations with non-technical audiences including policy makers, decision-makers, and the public. STAC continues to work with Johnstone on the communication of report findings and increasing the readership of our publications. Denice Wardrop (CRC, STAC Executive Secretary) provided an overview of new CRC projects including the updated CRC newsletter format, webinar 'roundtables', C-StREAM, and Chesapeake U.

STAC hosted three panelists to discuss diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) as related to environmental management and science. STAC aims to integrate principles of DEIJ into our membership recruitment and workshop participation, as well as to consider environmental justice in all ongoing and future efforts. There will be extensive follow-up on the recommendations from the panel, including increased outreach to the many regional Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for inclusion in STAC efforts. STAC Staff will continue inviting speakers to facilitate these important discussions and STAC will begin formulating actions to improve DEIJ in our membership and efforts.

Governor Ralph Northam (VA) was appointed Chair of the CBP Executive Council (EC) in August of this year and is beginning his term by meeting with the advisory committees to discuss priorities and expectations. He joined the STAC meeting for a 30-minute discussion and expressed his priority concerns including climate change impacts, environmental education, budget limitations, and DEIJ. Governor Northam requested that STAC share their expectations of the EC and members expressed that ongoing communication and collaboration between STAC and jurisdictions is a priority.

Lara Fowler (PSU) facilitated a discussion with the membership on the potential STAC COVID workshop. A subset of members has been working to develop a STAC effort that would explore the impacts of COVID on water quality goal attainment in the watershed. This would include both the short-term data collection and monitoring needs, as COVID has impacted behavior of watershed populations and to understand how those changes impact goal attainment. It would also include discussions on the long-

term impacts on the implementation of goals and outcomes, mainly BMPs. Fowler provided STAC members with directed questions to brainstorm specific data that should be collected, key topics for deeper dives, and key impacts that should be discussed at this potential workshop. The committee of STAC members leading this planning will continue to meet and seeking input from STAC, LGAC, CAC, and key CBP groups.

The next quarterly meeting for STAC will take place virtually on December 14-15, 2020. STAC will meet for an altered schedule on these days to accommodate the challenges of meeting virtually. Times will likely be from 1-5pm on both days of the meeting.

STAC 2020 Remaining Quarterly Meeting Dates

December 14-15, 2020

STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2021 Quarterly Meetings.

March 23-24, 2021

June 15-16, 2021

September 13-14, 2021

December 7-8, 2021

FY2020 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2020, listed below. Planning is underway for all of these activities and details will be released as planning continues.

1. *Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations*
2. *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption*
3. *Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens*
4. *Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap*

Information regarding past workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

STAC COVID- 19 Review and Potential Workshop

A subcommittee of STAC members is in the process of planning a STAC-led effort to examine the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Chesapeake Bay. COVID-19 has created impacts and changed dynamics for the Bay and its watershed. The purpose of this review and workshop is to identify impacts, changing dynamics, and novel insights that may have come from COVID-19 to inform current and future efforts to reach management targets for the Chesapeake Bay.

This effort is focused on both short term and longer-term dynamics. For the short term (months), we are looking for whether there is scientific data to gather now while the impacts of COVID-19 are currently being felt across the watershed and estuary. In addition, there may be management actions that can be taken now. For the longer-term (years), we seek to better understand the impacts, changing dynamics, and novel insights that may come from COVID-19.

STAC is seeking feedback from Management Board. STAC Chair, Andy Miller (UMBC) will present at this meeting.

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following six 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. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
6. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)
7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)
8. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program (FY2019)

STAC Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Assessment of System Response and Science Needs

STAC members are continually working to produce a report to outline system response and science needs, sectioned into three focus areas—living resources, estuarine, and watershed. Each workgroup for these sections is in the process of producing drafts, collecting comments and revisions, and presenting products to the entire membership. The subcommittee leading this effort are considering utilizing a facilitator in the process of connecting each of the three sections into one, cohesive report. The effective communication of the report findings and recommendations is an ongoing priority and STAC will work with the Communications Workgroup to achieve successful outreach.

The Abstract: STAC Newsletter

STAC Staff has revived the STAC Newsletter, which was originally released monthly from 2013-2017. The updated newsletter format includes a monthly update for STAC members and a quarterly extended newsletter for STAC members and STAC interested parties. The monthly editions will include upcoming meeting dates for CBP groups and partner organizations, reminders for tasks to be completed by members, and timely updates on STAC efforts. The more extensive quarterly newsletter will include those updates, along with articles featuring STAC member research, in-depth information following up from quarterly meeting presentations, and other work from around the watershed. The first monthly newsletter was released on September 1st and the first quarterly newsletter will be released in October. STAC Staff will continually collect feedback from STAC members on the utility of the newsletter and continue to develop content that increases engagement between quarterly meetings.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Indicators

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

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Statement of Status/Progress</i> | <i>Link</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Environmental Literacy Planning | In 2019, local education agencies—55% of the total (when combined with a small subset of 2017 data)—responded to the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Environmental | https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/environmental-literacy-planning |

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| | <p>Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) that measures the degree of environmental literacy preparedness among school districts across the watershed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27% of respondents self-identified as “well-prepared” to put a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy in place. • 52% of respondents self-identified as “somewhat prepared” to put a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy in place. • 22% of respondents self-identified as “not prepared” to put a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy in place. | |
| <p>Student</p> | <p>In 2019, local education agencies —55% of the total (when combined with a small subset of 2017 data)—responded to a Chesapeake Bay Program survey that measured the extent of Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) among schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary School Level: 35% reported providing system-wide MWEEs to at least one grade level while 32% reported providing some MWEEs to at least one grade level. • Middle School Level: 39% reported providing system-wide MWEEs to at least one grade level while 38% reported providing some MWEEs to at least one grade level. • High School Level: 35% reported providing system-wide MWEEs in at least one required course while 43% reported providing some MWEEs in at least one required course. | <p>https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/student</p> |

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

- *Forest Buffers – update with 2019 data*
- *Fish Passage – update with 2019 data*

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@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.

Full GIT Meeting:

- The Sustainable Fisheries GIT is planning a fully-virtual meeting on January 12-14th (1:00-4:00 PM). Over three days, the team will present and discuss updates and emerging science from our oyster, forage, fish habitat, blue crab, and invasive catfish workgroups. Our staff will be working on a schedule and strategy for maximum engagement from our full membership. Please feel free to send out this [RSVP form](#) to interested parties.

Forage Indicator Plan:

- The Fish GIT's Forage Action Team has finalized and published its [2020 Indicator Development Plan](#), highlighting an initial suite of indicators focused on prey abundance, environmental factors, and predator-prey relationships. This proposed plan highlights seven initial indicators, and will advocate for the development of necessary data surrounding these focus areas. This will be beneficial for quantifying the bay's forage base and subsequent effects from a changing environment, and better understanding the connection between prey abundance and the health of iconic predator species in the Chesapeake Bay.

October Executive Committee Meeting:

- The Fish GIT has re-scheduled its monthly meeting from October 19th to October 26th. This change has been reflected on the CBP calendar page.

Inquiry for Improved Ocean Color Satellite Imagery:

- The Fisheries Goal Team responded to a NOAA inquiry on the use of geostationary satellite ocean color data, and its benefit for Chesapeake Bay management. Geostationary satellites provide frequent imagery that can capture hourly changes in coastal conditions. This request is part of planning underway for the next generation of observing satellites. After collaborating with fisheries managers and scientists, we highlight ocean color applications for the tracking of extreme events, harmful algal blooms, aquaculture, SAV, and fish habitat.

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.

- The Habitat Goal Team has begun planning for its fall 2020 meeting which will take place on November 16th and 17th on Cisco Webex.
- Two projects put forward by the Habitat Goal Team were funded during the 2020 round of Goal Implementation Team funding: *Management Approaches to Reduce Stressors of Stream Health and Synthesis of Shoreline, Sea Level Rise, and Marsh Migration Data for Wetland Restoration Targeting.*
- The Habitat Goal Team has resumed discussions about the need for a Living Resource Analyst within the Chesapeake Bay Program Office to support multiple Goal Teams and Workgroups. The GIT is investigating, and would like to discuss with other Goal Teams and the CBPO, the additional support such a position would bring to help fill existing gaps in analytical capabilities and thereby helping us meet the Program's goals, as well as the resources that would be required to create and sustain that position.
- The Stream Health Workgroup will be meeting on October 16th for their bi-monthly workgroup meeting. At this meeting there will be a presentation by Dr. Grace Chiu (VIMS) on her work modeling stream health.
- The Brook Trout Workgroup held their annual meeting on September 28th. At this meeting there was a discussion of better aligning the workgroup's work plan with the needs of member states as well as the need for a tool to track the conservation and restoration activities of partners.
- The Fish Passage workgroup is engaged in an active discussion of updating their outcome's text and diagrams on Chesapeake Decisions. The current information on the page does not reflect the updates to the outcome language that took place in January 2020.
- The Wetland Workgroup is meeting on October 20th for their bi-monthly workgroup meeting. This meeting will include an update on land use classification changes for wetlands from Peter Claggett, a presentation on FEMA's BRIC program, and a dry-run presentation from Pam Mason to prepare and seek feedback from workgroup members on the Quarterly Progress Meeting presentation to the Management Board.
- Both the Wetland Workgroup and Black Duck Action Team are part of the Climate Resiliency cohort and will give a dry-run SRS presentation to STAR on October 22nd and a presentation to the Management Board during the November 12th Quarterly Progress Meeting.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann
(greenberg.julianna@epa.gov; ossman.megan@epa.gov)

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held a meeting on September 28, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- WQGIT November call will be Monday, November 30th and the December Call will be revisited to reschedule or cancel given that it falls between two major holidays
- WQGIT approved the BMP Verification Ad- Hoc Action Team Task Statement.
- The WQGIT approved the CAST 2021 workplan pending additions anticipated from the AgWG by November and subject to the addition of other issues as they arise.
- WQGIT approved allocation option Number 6 (below) pending approval of a narrative, which will be distributed to the WQGIT within a week.
 - *“Modify previous decision regarding having a 2035 estimates in a narrative, instead opting for a generic narrative to the effect that “Preliminary estimates for the climate impact through 2035 suggest a doubling of the 2025 load effect, suggesting that the effect of climate change on our ability to meet the Bay’s water quality standards is an ongoing concern.”*

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on October 26, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Clean Water Cohort Logic and Action Plans
- Factors Driving Nutrient and Sediment Trends in Streams
- Group 4 Stream Restoration Memo

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.

HWGIT is wrapping up Scope 5, an FY18 GIT funded project, Development of an improved methodology for data collection of a Chesapeake Bay Protected Lands indicator. CHWA visualization application will be ready for user testing and review in the coming weeks and we expect to share a final product in early November. The CHWA Storymap is also expected to be released, and both products will be demonstrated at the next goal team meeting (date TBD). In addition, the MD Pilot healthy watershed assessment project with Tetra Tech is underway. The team is finalizing the Quality Assurance Project Plan for the MD pilot and are already working toward refinements to metrics and identifying key datasets that can aid in a refined assessment for all jurisdictions. GIT staff are gearing up for the Local Action cohort for the Land Use outcomes SRS review (draft materials due in December).

Contact: Renee Thompson; rthompso@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 Chesapeake Conservation Partnership is planning the Annual Meeting. The 2020 Annual Meeting will consist of a series of virtual sessions spaced out over several weeks and organized around the theme of conserving land for public health, racial equity, and access to nature. Details about the Annual Meeting can be [found here](#).
- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform success.chesapeakeconservation.org. Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner (wisnero@chesapeake.org) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed.
- Through the 2020 GIT Funding Process the CCP was awarded funds to pursue the “Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of ‘Green Spaces’ in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities” project.

Citizen Stewardship Team

- Through the 2020 GIT Funding Process the Citizen Stewardship workgroup was awarded funds to pursue the “Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development” project which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Stewardship workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in May, the Education workgroup is updating its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plans for the Student, Planning, and Sustainable Schools outcomes. An extension was requested for the near final materials to be due at the November Management Board meeting.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- The Education Workgroup is working to finalize the Stroud Tool. The tool is meant to bring environmental literacy and environmental protection/restoration priorities closer together while highlighting disparities and encouraging equity. It will provide data at both the school district and school building level.
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

Public Access

- Through the 2020 GIT Funding Process the Public Access Workgroup was awarded funds to pursue the “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” project which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites.

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 Climate Change & Resiliency cohort is currently going through the SRS process. Their Quarterly Progress Meeting will take place on November 12, 2020. The Local Action cohort will be the next cohort to undergo the process—starting in December 2020. The Next-Gen. Stewards cohort has been granted an extension on their final materials and is now on the same schedule as the Clean Water cohort (November 2020). Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Spring 2020

The GIT 6 Fall Quarterly Meeting took place on September 16, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: A review of the draft Organizational Analysis survey questions and data collection plan, Strategy Review System (SRS) process and facilitation updates, Governance Document Log of Revision updates, Agreement outcome modification mock-up updates, and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; or Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov.

FY 2020 GIT Funding

GITs recorded 5-minute project overview videos for each project submitted as a Table 1 in September. Videos were reviewed and used to inform initial project scores in advance of the September 29 Review and Scoring Meeting, where GIT Funding Program participants had an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments, suggest areas for improvement, and finalize scores for funding. Greg Allen and Carin Bisland will brief CBP Director, Dana Aunkst, on the outcome of the September 29 meeting. Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Fall Quarterly Meeting will take place on October 28, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19), Finance Forum consulting hours wrap-up, and a presentation for discussion on SRF. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), guck.michelle@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Fall Quarterly Meeting will take place on November 18, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include: a review of the draft materials for the Local Action cohort Check-In meeting in December. Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com; or Shannon Moore (Vice Chair), SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The CAP workgroup last met August 19, 2020. This meeting focused on the stresses, challenges, and paths forward with the CBP Water Quality Monitoring Program to address assessment of all applicable criteria. To address these issues, there was a presentation on climate change and the challenge of meeting Open Water Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Water Quality Standards Attainment. The Chesapeake Bay Open Water DO water quality standard of 5 mg/l (5.5 mg/l in tidal fresh waters) was established to protect the growth of larval, juvenile, and adult fish and shellfish. Under climate change conditions, the average annual temperature is estimated to increase by 1 °C over the three-decade period between the hydrology used for the Chesapeake TMDL (1991 -2000) and the year 2025 and by 2 °C by 2055. Challenges in maintaining achievement of an Open Water DO water quality criteria of 5 mg/l in all open water designated uses at all times will inevitably increase throughout the next half century. Other presentations included analysis on the influence of temperature on DO resources in the Open and Shallow waters of the Chesapeake Bay and exploration of the buffer that might exist for segments in attainment of criteria and how resilient a segment may be in sustaining its attainment status. These discussions on challenges and paths forward for criteria and water quality attainment will continue at future CAP meetings.

Data Integrity Workgroup

DIWG plans to meet on December 2, 2020.

STAR

In follow-up to the Clean Water Cohort's quarterly progress review with the Management Board (MB), STAR discussed the updated science needs of the cohort at the September 24, 2020 STAR meeting. A representative from each outcome: Forest Buffers, Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring, Toxic Contaminants Research, and Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention provided the status of each current science needs and ideas for moving forward with each need. The 2025 WIP Outcome requested an extension and will be discussed at a later date. STAR provided input on potential opportunities to address the needs and collaboration with other Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) workgroups. STAR also discussed a potential STAC Workshop on the evaluation of water temperature increases in Bay tidal waters and the watershed, which has the potential to impact multiple outcomes. Peter Tango provided an update on a GIT-Funding project on a newly deployed vertical profile for hypoxia monitoring.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup held their Quarterly Meeting on October 6 – 7, 2020. On the first day, the new Optimization Team from Michigan State University gave a presentation to introduce themselves and describe some of their recent optimization work for CAST Phase 6 applications. There were also presentations on the Fine-scale Chesapeake Regional Hydrology Model development and comparison and analysis of WRTDS and the Phase 6 Dynamic Watershed Model trends. The first day ended with a lightning round of presentations on IDF curves and BMP design under a changing climate. These presentations were in anticipation of more in depth discussions at a joint meeting of the Urban Stormwater Workgroup, Modeling Workgroup and the Climate Resiliency Workgroup on December 9,

2020. The second day of the Quarterly meeting started with an overview of an upcoming report from USGS that aims to provide an understanding of how human activities and environmental change in the watershed in the past, present, and future influence the export of nitrogen to the Chesapeake Bay. For the first time, this report provides estimates of nitrogen loads over a century, from 1950 to 2050, from major sources. The following presentations focused more on the estuary with topics such as synthesis on shallow tidal water dissolved oxygen dynamics and drivers of Patuxent chlorophyll trends. The Modeling Workgroup will be hosting their next meeting on November 5, 2020 focusing on the CBP Regional Hydrology Model.

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:

On October 14, the Communications Workgroup held its biannual retreat in lieu of its monthly meeting. We coordinated shared messaging around National Seafood Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. Additional shared messaging content can be found at https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40277/chesapeake_bay_program_october_shared_messaging.pdf.

Erica Atwood, from First Degree Consulting, LLC, led a training on inclusionary messaging and outreach. The goals of the training were to discuss the historical context of people of color in messaging and media, introduce a framework for developing an inclusive communications strategy containing messaging with clear action steps and facilitate activities that illustrate the impact of culturally responsive storytelling and messaging.

Communications Office:

Two members of the Communications Office, Will Parson and Caitlyn Johnstone, presented at the virtual Restoring America's Estuaries conference on September 29. Both appeared on the *Connecting with People* panel to speak about learning to confront fear and bias when communicating controversial topics and the basics of visual storytelling. Rachel Felver, Communications Director, served on a team of experts from the U.S. Geological Survey and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Integration and Application Network to draft *Nutrient Trends and Drivers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*.

The following blogs were published in September:

- A key bee in Chesapeake orchards: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_key_bee_at_chesapeake_orchards
- Over \$18 million awarded to advance restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/over_18_million_awarded_to_advance_restoration_in_the_chesapeake_bay_watershed
- A living shoreline welcomes wildlife and wanderers https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_living_shoreline_welcomes_wildlife_and_wanderers
- Having a beer? Thank clean water!

- https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/having_a_beer_thank_clean_water
- Chesapeake litter meets its maker
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake_litter_meets_its_maker
- When family heritage inspires a career in environmentalism
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/when_family_heritage_inspires_a_career_in_environmentalism
- The first farm on the left
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_first_farm_on_the_left
- Why is the Chesapeake Bay so important?
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/why_is_the_chesapeake_bay_so_important
- A boardwalk brings wetlands closer to Virginia residents
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_boardwalk_brings_wetlands_closer_to_virginia_residents
- Experts seek to bridge the gap between environmental quality and public health
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/experts_seek_to_bridge_gap_between_environment_and_public_health
- Baltimore's Inner Harbor shows a decade's worth of water quality improvements
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/baltimores_inner_harbor_shows_a_decades_worth_of_water_quality_improvements
- Taking a deeper dive on oxygen in the Chesapeake Bay
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/taking_a_deeper_dive_on_oxygen_in_the_chesapeake_bay

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