



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
November 12, 2020**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Nov. 16	November 2020 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Nov. 16	Habitat Goal Team Fall 2020 meeting
Nov. 17	Webinar: Advancing Watershed Restoration through Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice.
Nov. 19	Joint C/S/STAR Meeting
Nov. 19	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
Nov. 30	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call November
Dec. 2	Joint Land Use and Forestry Workgroup Meeting
Dec. 2	Data Integrity Workgroup Meeting
Dec. 2	Communications Workgroup December Meeting
Dec. 3	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting
Dec. 3-4	Local Government Advisory Committee Webinar
Dec. 3-4	Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Dec. 7	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
Dec. 8	Modeling Workgroup Meeting
Dec. 9	Quarterly GIT Chairs Meeting
Dec. 9	Joint Modeling WG/CRWG/USWG Meeting
Dec. 9	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call
Dec. 10	Management Board Meeting
Dec. 14-15	STAC quarterly meeting
Dec. 17	Principals' Staff Committee meeting

Updates

Estimate 2020 Dead Zone: Seventh Smallest in 35 Years

Strong winds from Hurricane Isais aerating Bay waters in August 2020, as well as cooler-than-normal air temperatures in May and September, created the perfect conditions for a small 2020 dead zone—the smallest in the last 35 years. Those conditions were further enhanced by pollution-reducing strategies put into place over the years by dedicated government agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals. The U.S. Geological Survey reported normal river flows entering the Bay at an average of 77,655 cubic feet per second, which is slightly below the long-term average of 79,000 cubic feet per second. These average river flows, along with cooler temperatures in May and September, provided the perfect conditions for a smaller dead zone.

More:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/thanks to the weather and efforts to reduce pollution the 2020 dead zone re](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/thanks%20to%20the%20weather%20and%20efforts%20to%20reduce%20pollution%20the%202020%20dead%20zone%20re)

CBP Principals' Staff Committee Set to Meet in December

The Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) will meet virtually on December 17 from 1-5 p.m. to consider a variety of issues, including policy related to climate change. The PSC is also expected to discuss the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice community advisory board and implementation, as well as progress on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan and related financial strategy.

Contact: Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732

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 still seeks a New York representative.

LGAC will hold its next quarterly meeting December 3-4, 2020 virtually. Topics for discussion include jurisdiction and local focus on outdoor recreation as an economic resource. Representatives from Pennsylvania, Virginia and the National Parks Service have been invited to share thoughts. In addition, the CAC and STAC Chairs have been invited to share their AC priorities and discuss support the ACs can provide to each other. CBP staff will bring restoration efforts needing local government support to discuss best means to communicate and engage.

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 will hold officer elections during their December 3-4 quarterly meeting. Current officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), Vice-Chair.

There are a number of vacancies on the CAC and 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](#).

The CAC Convened on October 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. Its last quarterly meeting was on September 16-17.

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.

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.

Presentations from the September meeting can be found on the [STAC September meeting page](#).

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. Both

meeting days will be from 1-5pm. A draft agenda will be made available in the coming weeks on the [STAC December Meeting page](#).

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](#).

FY2021 STAC Workshop RFP

STAC will release the Request for Proposals for the FY2021 STAC Workshops on December 1, 2020. The RFP will be distributed to the partnership via email on that date and will also be made available on the [STAC website](#). Any questions regarding the RFP can be directed to STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey.

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 asked for feedback from the Management Board at the October 2020 meeting. If you have any additional comments, please send them to STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey.

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.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac
Contact: Kathryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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.

CBSAC Adopts New Biological Reference Points:

- The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) convened last week, voting to adopt new biological reference points for the blue crab population. This is based on a stock assessment update conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. CBSAC and Fisheries GIT Executive Committee members voted unanimously to approve the updated reference points, citing that they are following the best available science. These new numbers are slightly less conservative than 2011's assessment. The changes can be seen below.

Stock Assessment	Female Abundance (Age 1+) (millions)		Female Exploitation Rate (Age 0+)	
	Target	Threshold	Target	Threshold
2011	215	70	25.5%	34%
2017	196	72	28%	37%

Invasive Catfish Management - NOAA Article

- NOAA recently published an article highlighting the Invasive Catfish Workgroup’s strategy to market blue catfish as a viable and nutritious seafood option in the bay. The article covers background on the species, its nutritional value, and even mentions the dangers of toxic accumulation in larger individuals. The article can be accessed [here](#).

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 will be virtually hosting their bi-annual Goal Team Meeting on November 16th and 17th. The first day of the meeting will focus on presentations from outside partners while the second day will consist of a discussion between goal team members about possible overlap and conflicts. .*
- *The Stream Health Workgroup met virtually on October 16 2020. The Group heard a presentation by Dr. Grace Chiu (VIMS) and focused their discussion on the potential development of additional indicators.*
- *The Wetland Workgroup met virtually on October 20th 2020. The group heard presentations related to wetland classification in land use/land cover updates, FEMA’s BRIC grant program, and a dry-run of the SRS presentation to the Management Board on November 12th.*
- *The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species will meet virtually on November 18th, 2020.*
- *On October 29, 2020 a staffer from the Habitat GIT presented at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum on a GIT 2019 GIT funded project Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure in Vulnerable Areas. This project is being led by the Habitat GIT with participation from members across the Chesapeake Bay Program network.*
- *The Fish Passage Workgroup is currently focusing their efforts on updating the web content on Chesapeakebay.net. The group is working with the web content team as well as the indicators coordinator to ensure that all online information is up to date.*
- *The Brook Trout Workgroup is excited to welcome a new co-chair, Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting). Katie will serve alongside the current co-chair of the workgroup, Steve Faulkner (USGS).*
- *The Wetland and Black Duck Outcomes are up for SRS review as part of the Climate Resiliency Cohort, and will present to the Management Board at 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 October 26, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- The WQGIT approved the Group 4 Memo: *Consensus Recommendations to Improve Protocols 2 and 3 for Defining Stream Restoration Pollutant Removal Credits* as long as clarifying language is provided that specifies it applies to urban and non-urban practices.
- WQGIT approved releasing the revised 2025 WIP Outcome Logic and Action Plan and Management Strategy for partnership/public review and comment in November.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on November 30, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Factors Driving Nutrient and Sediment Trends in Streams in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Watershed Implementation Plan Air Credits for Air Quality Actions
- CAST Optimization Progress
- STAC Workshop Proposal for Water Temperature Increases and its Implications
- NAWQA Circular
- Estimating the Nitrogen Reaching the Chesapeake Bay from 1950 through 2050

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.

A beta version of the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) visualization application was released to a selected audience for comment and review. We are incorporating the feedback for the final publication coming out in the next couple weeks, stay tuned! Other projects related to the CHWA are nearing completion, including a story map, video tutorial for the CHWA and will be demonstrated at the next goal team [meeting](#) on **Monday, December 7**. In addition, the Maryland specific healthy watersheds assessment is well underway under a GIT funding contract with Tetra Tech. The HWGIT is also preparing to review the Land Use Methods and Metrics (in partnership with the Land Use Workgroup) and Land Use Options Evaluation outcomes through the SRS process beginning in December, as part of the Local Action cohort.

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 Chesapeake Conservation Partnership will host the final session of the 2020 Annual Meeting on November 17th from 9:30am -- 12pm. This is a culminating event after a series of virtual working sessions, held over the last month, which were 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.
- The CCP has received feedback from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on its 2020 GIT Funded Project titled "Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of 'Green Spaces' in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities".

Citizen Stewardship Team

- The Citizen Stewardship workgroup has received feedback from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on its 2020 GIT Funded Project titled "Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development" 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

- Since its Quarterly Progress Meeting in May, the Education Workgroup has been updating the Logic and Action Plans for the Student, Sustainable Schools, and Planning Outcomes of the 2014 Watershed Agreement. They will be available to the Management Board at the November 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 MWEs 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

- The Public Access Workgroup has received feedback from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on its 2020 GIT Funded Project titled “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” 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.

Diversity Workgroup

- Approximately 70 members of the CBP partnership participated in Cultural Humility trainings throughout the months of September and October.
- **New Diversity Staffer:** On November 2, Ivan Hernandez joined the Chesapeake Research Consortium as the new Diversity Workgroup Staffer. He is a native Marylander and graduated from the St. Mary's College of Maryland where he studied Biology and Environmental Science. While studying at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Ivan worked closely with the Dean of Students to collectively develop a diversity action plan to address the concerns of students of color on campus. He served as an outspoken senior member of the Dean's advisory board where he advocated for the establishment of an Office of Diversity and Inclusion on campus. He was appointed by the President of the College to assist in the search and hiring process for a Chief Diversity Officer. Before beginning his graduate study, Ivan served as the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator at St. Mary's College. Ivan recently completed his Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy degree from Johns Hopkins University. During graduate school, Ivan worked with the US Department of the Interior and the US Government Accountability Office. We very much look forward to Ivan applying his academic background, experience working with and within government agencies and his passion for advancing DEI initiatives to the work of the Diversity Workgroup, and to the Chesapeake Bay Program at large.

On November 6th, the CBP DEI Action team met for the first time to discuss the goal and purpose of the team as well as key issues such as meeting frequency and leadership. The CBP Management Board recommended the formation of this Action Team to the PSC to oversee development of the implementation plan for the CBP DEI Strategy. A draft implementation plan is due to the PSC by February 18.

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; phillips.tuana@epa.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 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). The SRS Planning Team is in the process of planning for the Biennial Meeting (Spring 2021) and 3rd SRS cycle. Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Winter 2020

The GIT 6 Winter Quarterly Meeting will take place on December 16, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include: Organizational Analysis updates, 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

Twelve projects have been approved for FY20. GIT Funding project groups submitted their Table 2's to the Chesapeake Bay Trust's online portal on/by October 30, 2020. Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Fall Quarterly Meeting took place on October 28, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19), Finance Forum consulting hours wrap-up, and a presentation for discussion on CWSRF. 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.

STAR

There are four Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) outcomes, organized under the Climate Change and Resiliency Cohort, that will be reviewed by the Management Board (MB) on November 12, 2020: Black Duck, Wetlands, Climate Monitoring and Assessment, and Climate Adaptation. The October STAR meeting served as an opportunity for each outcome to run through and practice the presentation that they will give to the MB. Participants at the STAR meeting provided constructive feedback on each presentation. STAR also provided an update on the GIT Funding Project for a vertical profile to track

hypoxia. The array collects data at a 10 – minute intervals at different depths. With this type of technology, the monthly mean of dissolved oxygen no longer needs to be estimated from two sample collections a month but rather known at real time. Peter Tango showed results for the first deployment of the profile in June and the second deployment in September.

Data Integrity Workgroup

DIWG plans to meet on December 2, 2020.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The CAP WG is meeting on November 18th. Potential agenda items include a discussion on Deep Channel designation in CB6 and CB7, report out on the STAC Workshop on SAV assessment via satellite imagery, issues and directions on short duration criteria assessment, and temperature-climate change-potential considerations for accommodation with criteria in the future. At the October MB meeting, the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Assessment Outcome presented a one-page document explaining the needs related to supporting the outcome. One of the needs stated, “We request that the MB provide a list of essential jurisdictional participants for the CAP WG.” At the October meeting, MB members confirmed to send contact information of appropriate participants to the CAP WG staffer Breck Sullivan, bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net, or CAP WG Coordinator Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net. If there are interested parties, please send their contact information to the above emails before the November 18th CAP WG meeting.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup had a focused meeting on November 5th outlining the development and approaches of sediment simulation in the Regional Hydrology Model. The meeting showcased presentations on the generation and transport of sediment on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and sediment fate and transport in the rivers and streams. The Modeling Workgroup will host a joint meeting with the Urban Stormwater Workgroup and Climate Resiliency Workgroup on December 9th with a focus on Chesapeake Bay climate change response and IDF curve development.

ITAT

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT) met on October 28th to present the 2019 Tidal Trends results. For the 2019 Generalized Additive Model (GAM) runs, they ran the long-term (1980s – 2019) and short-term (2010 – 2019) change of the observed data and flow-adjusted data for the parameters total nitrogen, total phosphorous, water temperature, salinity, secchi, chlorophyll-a and dissolved oxygen. For the time period of 1999 – 2019, they also computed the change for total suspended solids, dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and phosphate. In summary, 2018 and 2019 were very wet years for the watershed and influenced observed changes, but can be mostly accounted for with flow adjustment.

Once flow is accounted for, the majority of nitrogen concentration trends are still consistently improving, although lately at a more slower rate of improvement. Long term phosphorus concentration trends are mostly improving, but much of that is driven by improvements early in the record with less improvement in recent years. There is also some promise in a reduction of degrading trends over the short-term for secchi, chlorophyll-a, and dissolved oxygen. The 2019 results are available on the R Shiny dashboard [Baytrendsmap](#), [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard \(Beta\)](#), and the [ITAT webpage](#).

STAR Contact: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org

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 November 2, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around Native American Heritage Month and Thanksgiving. Additional shared messaging content can be found at:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40546/chesapeake_bay_program_november_shared_messaging.pdf

Ola Davis from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay led a facilitated discussion regarding last month's inclusionary messaging and outreach training. She was followed by John Wolf from USGS at the Bay Program, who demoed the Chesapeake Bay DEI Dashboard.

Communications Office

The Communications Office issued two press releases in recent weeks. The first was the announcement of the availability of the draft Conowingo WIP.

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

The second presented a summary of the annual Chesapeake Bay dead zone, which received a good amount of media coverage, thanks to being picked up by the Associated Press and U.S. News and World Report.

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

The following blogs were published in October:

- A Maryland farm turned writer's muse:

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

- Hunting an insidious disease that preys on bats:

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

- What habitats are found in the Chesapeake Bay watershed?

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

- Finding a better way to track nutrients in the Bay

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

- Uncovering a major landmark once used by Virginia's indigenous tribes

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

- Who speaks for the trees?

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

- Feedback welcomed on draft Conowingo plan

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

- Elk thrive once again in Pennsylvania
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/elk once again thrive in pennsylvania](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/elk_once_again_thrive_in_pennsylvania)
- Local government and climate experts convene to problem solve on community flooding
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/local government and climate experts problem solve on flooding](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/local_government_and_climate_experts_problem_solve_on_flooding)
- Showing love for Maryland's favorite reptile
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/showing love for marylands favorite reptile](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/showing_love_for_marylands_favorite_reptile)
- Walking through old-growth forest in Pennsylvania
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/walking through old growth forest in pennsylvania](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/walking_through_old_growth_forest_in_pennsylvania)
- The health of the Potomac River plateaus after decades of progress
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the health of the potomac river plateaus after decades of progress](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_health_of_the_potomac_river_plateaus_after_decades_of_progress)
- Tracing the "Forever Chemical" in the Chesapeake Bay
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/tracing the forever chemical in the chesapeake bay](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/tracing_the_forever_chemical_in_the_chesapeake_bay)
- Thanks to the weather and efforts to reduce pollution, the 2020 dead zone remains small
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/thanks to the weather and efforts to reduce pollution the 2020 dead zone re](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/thanks_to_the_weather_and_efforts_to_reduce_pollution_the_2020_dead_zone_re)
- For these rural retirees, stewardship is a pastime
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/for rural retirees stewardship is a pastime](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/for_rural_retirees_stewardship_is_a_pastime)
- Add a spooky twist to your hike
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/add a spooky twist to your hike](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/add_a_spooky_twist_to_your_hike)

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