



**Management Board
Program Update**
August 12, 2021

CBPO Calendar

Aug 13	BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call
Aug 13	Animal Mortality Management BMP webinar
Aug 16	Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) Meeting
Aug 17	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Conference Call
Aug 18	Nontidal Network Workgroup Meeting
Aug 19	Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call
Aug 20	Stream Health Workgroup Meeting
Aug 23	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Aug 24	Local Leadership Workgroup Meeting
Aug 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting
Aug 31	Hypoxia Collaborative Meeting
Sept 1	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
Sept 1	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership Meeting
Sept 1	Communications Workgroup Meeting
Sept 1	Land Use Workgroup Conference Call
Sept 2	Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call
Sept 23	Management Board Meeting

Program Updates

FY21 CBARA Jurisdiction Funding Data Submitted to OMB

As required by the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act (CBARA), all seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions submitted financial data on Chesapeake Bay restoration activities to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by the FY21 deadline of August 2. EPA and other federal agencies submitted their financial information to OMB for FY21 several weeks earlier. CBARA requires OMB to submit an annual report on federal and state funding toward environmental restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; in the years 2018 and beyond, the report must include all Chesapeake Bay activities that cost at least \$100,000. The Chesapeake Bay Program Office reviewed each jurisdiction submission against its grants budget to resolve any discrepancies and finalize submission to OMB. Once OMB compiles all the data, it will issue a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending Crosscut, detailing the annual expenditures and activities. This information will then be published on the funding section of Chesapeake Progress.

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

EPA Releases NY WIP Evaluation

On August 5, EPA Regions 2 and 3 released the agency's evaluation of New York State's final amended Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The evaluation found that New York's plan, if fully implemented, will meet the state's pollutant reduction goals agreed to by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. EPA had evaluated a previous version of the Phase III WIP and found areas for improvement. New York submitted its amended WIP on May 25.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

Underwater Grass Abundance Declines for Second Consecutive Year

In 2020, the preliminary figure of 62,169 acres of underwater grasses was mapped in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, achieving 48% of the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2025 restoration target of 130,000 acres and 34% of the ultimate restoration goal of 185,000 acres. Although the 62,169 acres of underwater grasses observed in 2020 have increased from the 38,958 acres noted during the first survey in 1984, it is a 20% decrease from the current 10-year average of 78,168 acres. The preliminary acreage observed in 2020 is a 42% decline from 2018 when it was estimated that the Bay may have supported up to 108,078 acres of underwater grasses. While this is a significant decrease, the loss from 2019 to 2020 was only 7%, suggesting that overall, underwater grass beds are beginning to stabilize after a few difficult years. More information:

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

Contact: Rachel Felver, 410-267-5740

Webinar on Home-Based Green Infrastructure

The Chesapeake Bay Program is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, August 18 to show how homeowners can reduce stormwater runoff and protect their local streams and rivers. The webinar will feature five home landscaping projects and will include presentations from two Washington, D.C. homeowners who installed rain barrels, rain gardens, shade trees and other infrastructure with the help of River Smart Homes. The webinar will also cover programs and resources available to homeowners across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Registration is at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qogb-iK4TYyz1-7RULHmqg.

Stormwater Planning Tool Featured in Bay Program Webinar

The Chesapeake Bay Program's county-based stormwater planning tool developed for current and future hydrology in the Chesapeake watershed is featured in a webinar set for Thursday, August 12. The webinar showcases the work of a team of researchers from RAND, Cornell, and Carnegie Mellon and presents their methods and findings, as well a demonstration of the web-based tool designed to help stormwater professionals understand future precipitation and plan for stormwater design that is more resilient to the changing climate conditions. Registration can be found here:

<https://chesapeakestormwater.net/events/projected-chesapeake-idf-curves/> The webinar notes that the current practice of designing infrastructure using precipitation history from the last half century underestimates current and future precipitation under climate change, leading to a loss of stormwater BMP efficiency and increased risk of flooding and infrastructure failure.

Contact: Lew Linker, 443-875-8070

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.

During the July 15 MB meeting LGAC Chair Jasmine Gore shared staff plans to organize a webinar for local decision makers on the opportunity to use federal funds under the American Rescue Plan for stormwater infrastructure projects. This webinar is tentatively planned for September 14th. More details will be provided shortly.

On August 3rd LGAC PA Member [Donna Iannone](#) (Sullivan County) moderated an outdoor recreation economy session at the County Commissioners Association of PA. The session was part of the summer CCAP conference in Hershey.

LGAC plans to hold its next quarterly meeting September 29-30 at NCTC in West Virginia. Topics for discussion are proposed to include development of annual recommendations to the EC, draft recommendations review from the June Local Government Forum on regional partnerships, environmental impacts bond case studies, additional opportunities for federal financing of local watershed efforts and others. If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during the quarterly meeting please contact the LGAC Coordinator.

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.

CAC will join for an in-person quarterly meeting on September 16-17 in Warrenton, VA. In the next month members will work to reconstitute their CAC Subcommittees focused on three main topics: 2025 Water Quality Goals; Outreach and Engagement; and Emerging Issues. CAC Members continue to serve on the DEIJ Action Team and the BMP Verification ad hoc Action Team.

Maryland Governor Hogan recently appointed Abel Olivo, the co-founder and Executive Director of Defensores de la Cuenca.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies, 2 MD gubernatorial vacancies and 2 DC mayoral vacancies.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), Vice-Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

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

STAC September Quarterly Meeting: September 13-14, 2021

STAC is planning to host an in-person September Meeting in Havre de Grace, Maryland, with a virtual attendance option. CRC Staff is monitoring COVID infection rates and institutional travel restrictions to ensure our members can safely meet in-person. If you are interested in attending the meeting, either in-person or virtually, please fill out this [RSVP form](#).

STAC members will spend the first day of the meeting reviewing ongoing business including STAC membership vacancies, science needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program, and approval of 2022 meeting dates. In the afternoon, STAC will hear presentations on the recent trends from the Conowingo Dam and engage in a discussion. On day two, STAC will focus on the ongoing Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR). This in-person meeting will also provide the opportunity for STAC members to kayak on the Susquehanna and take a tour of the Conowingo facilities.

An agenda and additional materials will be made available on the STAC September Meeting Page.

Upcoming STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

December 7-8, 2021

STAC's 2022 meeting dates will be announced after approval at the September Quarterly Meeting.

FY2021 STAC Workshop Approved Proposals

1. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (State of the Science Workshop)
2. Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting (Programmatic Workshop)
3. Improving modeling and mitigation strategies for poultry ammonia emissions across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop)
4. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (Programmatic Workshop)
5. Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (Programmatic)

STAC-Sponsored Workshops

STAC has held one workshop since the last program update

1. **Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens**
(Virtual; July 13, 14, and 20, 2021)

This workshop brought together a broad swath of expertise from the social science, policy, and practical (“boots-on-the-ground”) realms to provide actionable recommendations to the CBP partnership that address the underlying socio-economic characteristics and engagement approaches that will result in farm management modifications necessary to achieve nutrient and sediment load reduction goals, while also fostering viability within the agriculture sector. Agenda and materials from this workshop can be found on the [STAC Workshop Webpage](#) and a workshop report is currently being drafted.

The following workshops are in the process of planning. They extensions due to the challenges of COVID and must now hold workshop by December 2021, at the latest.

2. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (September 28-29, 2021)

3. **Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap** (September 15-16, 2021)

STAC Reports

Recently Released (links to reports)

1. [Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 \(FY2018\)](#)
2. [Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health \(FY2019\)](#)
3. [Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership \(FY2019\)](#)

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership. **Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.**

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)

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the [STAC past workshop webpage](#).

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Sustainable 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.

- **Sustainable Fisheries GIT:** As mentioned in last month's update, the Fisheries GIT hosted a successful summer membership meeting. A full summary can be found [HERE](#). The Fisheries GIT team also plans to host a follow-up discussion centered around opportunities in the DEIJ space. Insights and interest can be expressed [HERE](#).
- **Fish Habitat (FHAT):** As the search continues for a new Action Team chair, the Fisheries GIT would like to give Gina Hunt a huge thank you for all of her hard work shepherding this diverse team over the last several years. Under Gina's leadership, the FHAT has made immense progress developing assessment tools, characterizing and quantifying fish habitat, and better communicating the benefits/importance of nearshore and offshore habitat. The search for a new chair continues as the team prepares for its SRS update next week. We look forward to continuing our work with Gina as she takes over as chair of the Habitat Goal Team!
- **Rising Bay Water Temperatures STAC Workshop:** As part of this upcoming STAC workshop focused on rising water temperature trends and impacts, the Fisheries GIT has provided

synthesis on expected impacts on tidal bay species. Our team has highlighted existing temperature/vulnerability information on key bay species, habitats, and management responses. Further synthesis and exploration will continue leading up to the workshop in early 2022. A draft of the current species impacts synthesis 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.

- Chris Guy officially started his new role as the permanent HGIT Coordinator.
- The Fish Passage WG is still searching for a new co-chair.
- The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, and Stream Health workgroups (all part of the Healthy Watersheds Cohort) are well underway in the SRS review processes.
- An HGIT Workgroup Chairs Meeting has been scheduled for 08/27. Agenda and other details forthcoming.
- HGIT is creating an abbreviated Management Strategy for our GIT; once complete, this document will be used as a reference by teams when creating their own action plans. The document is currently undergoing revisions, and a draft will be provided to HGIT Workgroup Chairs at a meeting on 08/27 for comments/edits, before being finalized for internal use.

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann (ossman.megan@epa.gov); Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

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 July 26, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.

- Peter Claggett presented data on land use change from CAST for versions 17d, 19, and 21.
- Olivia Devereux presented on the updates states can make to data for the upcoming progress year assessment.
- Gary Shenk and Lew Linker presented the standard operating procedure for generating sediment targets for WIPs and the reasons the approaches for sediment target development were adopted by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership in previous WIPs.
- Matt Rowe updated the WQGIT on the approach for evaluating Conowingo dredging as a potential BMP.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on August 23, 2021. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed includes:

- CAST 2021
- Land Use Change Product
- October In- Person WQGIT Meeting
- Forest Buffer Credit Duration

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.

The Maintain Healthy Watershed Goal Team met on August 9th to discuss the 3rd cycle SRS review, progress since our last cycle, new considerations, lessons learned, monitoring needs, interim indicators potentially updating the state identified healthy watersheds base map. The goal team is actively recruiting for a Chair (unpaid) and a Staffer (paid) positions.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: 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 / Protected Lands Workgroup

- The CCP is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled "Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of 'Green Spaces' in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities."
- The Protected Lands Workgroup will be developing it's new Logic and Action Plan after the Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board on Thursday August 12th.
- 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.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently seeking a chair to lead the workgroup alongside current chair Suzanne Etgen, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. Details for the voluntary position can be found on the [Stewardship Workgroup webpage](#). Please distribute this opportunity to appropriate candidates. The deadline is extended until the position is filled.
- The workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 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 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. It's expected to go live this fall (2021).

Education Workgroup

- 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 hosted the biennial Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit on July 15th, 2021. The Summit provided federal, state, and regional partners with a forum for policy-level

discussions and strategic planning to support efforts to ensure that students in the region graduate environmentally literate. Recordings from the Summit can be viewed on the [CBP YouTube channel](#).

- 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.
- The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Education Workgroup are supporting the inaugural Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative hosted by the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 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. A small subset of the workgroup has agreed to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward.
- The Public Access workgroup leadership is in contact with the Protected Lands Workgroup about the connections between the two GIT Funded Projects that they’re both pursuing.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; wisnero@chesapeake.org

Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup is in the process of evaluating our processes to include: a) a reorganization of the Diversity Workgroup Steering Committee; b) increasing member participation, and, c) providing a platform for all jurisdictions to highlight their DEIJ work. Our current GIT funded project Cultivating and Strengthening Partnerships is moving forward as our contractor hosted the first two internal focus groups and is now planning the external ones. Lastly, we are working with the DEIJ action team to prepare for the public comment period of the implementation plan.

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy (Staffer) yancy.briana@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

All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on [ChesapeakeDecisions](#).

The Healthy Watershed’s cohort is the first cohort to go through the current SRS cycle (3rd cycle). The SRS Planning Team has resumed its regular meeting schedule as it works to compile the recommendations that came out of the Biennial Meeting in May. Those recommendations that were approved by the Management Board at the July MB meeting will be implemented throughout the third cycle.

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

Goal Team 6

Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov; or Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

2021 GIT Funding Program- Following an extensive review of the GIT Funding Program by a volunteer team of stakeholders, GIT 6 has finalized the 2021 GIT Funding Program Manual. Changes for the coming round of funding include allowance for one project request per Outcome in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and an expanded set of project evaluation criteria. The manual was released by mid-July 2021 and project ideas will be due in the Trust portal September 27, 2021. A training session on submitting ideas to the Chesapeake Bay Trust on-line portal will be conducted on August 16, 2021. Funding decisions will be made in Fall 2021 and project awards will be during the first quarter of 2022.

Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. A draft of the revised document will be presented to the Management Board for concurrence in early Fall 2021. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ Directive, clarified responsibilities with regard to the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making. GIT6 will be meeting to discuss the proposed revisions on August 24, 2021.

Organizational Analysis – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. The data collection plan is currently being reviewed by several STAC social scientists. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in Fall 2021.

Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov; and Kristin Saunders (ksaunders@umces.edu)

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting will take place on July 28, 2021 as a conference call. During the meeting, Maggie Cunningham from Region 03 will present on a new EPA Grant program and provide an update from the STAC/Local government mini workshop that took place in May.

Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), shimkin.martha@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), guck.michelle@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The next Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2021 and will be themed around Climate Resilience. The meeting aims to identify tools that local governments can use to increase resilience to climate-related flooding and receive LLWG workgroup feedback on ongoing efforts, including preliminary results of stakeholder interviews with local government planners. Building off of the [2020 Local Government Forum](#) on climate-related flooding, speakers are being compiled to discuss funding, local ordinances, collaboration, and equity in regard to climate resilience. Efforts to roll out *A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay* continue in partnership with state agencies and local government associations.

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) johnsonc@chesapeake.org

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

At the July STAR meeting, a representative from each outcome in the Healthy Watershed Cohort: Brook Trout, Stream Health, Fish Habitat, Fish Passage, Healthy Watersheds, and Protected Lands presented their Dry-Run SRS Biennial Review presentation which will be reviewed by the Management Board on August 12, 2021. Participants at the STAR meeting provided constructive feedback on each presentation. STAR also provided an update on the

Principal Staff Committee request on how to improve the Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Networks. During the summer, this effort is working to compile information on innovative technologies and budget information on existing CBP networks, and summarize monitoring needs of some additional CBP outcomes. The all of the monitoring newsletters are available on the [CBP STAR webpage](#), and the July newsletter is available [here](#).

Modeling Workgroup

Over the past year, a team of researchers from RAND, Cornell, and Carnegie Mellon have worked to [develop projected IDF curves for the entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#). They are hosting a webinar on Thursday, August 12th from 12 – 1:30 PM. Registration is free, and here is a [link](#) to register. The meeting will be recorded for those who cannot attend. In this webinar, the research team will present their methods and findings, as well as provide a demonstration of a [web-based tool](#) designed to help stormwater professionals understand future precipitation and plan for stormwater design that is more resilient to the changing climate conditions. Changing hydrologic conditions, coupled with ongoing development, already pose a risk to stormwater infrastructure and public safety. To date, state and local governments have used a series of precipitation volume-based engineering design criteria to manage risks to public health as well as the performance of their stormwater infrastructure. However, multiple studies demonstrate that the current practice of designing infrastructure using intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves based on historic precipitation analysis are likely to underestimate future precipitation, leading to increased risk of infrastructure failure.

Nontidal Network Workgroup

The [July meeting](#) included a presentation on network optimization due to frequent level funding on NTN operations. There was also a discussion on groundwater monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and available groundwater temperature data for the upcoming STAC Rising Water Temperature workshop.

Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG)

There was no July meeting while case studies are underway by the analysts. Exploratory tests of methods will be conducted to inform a decision in autumn on the development path forward. Development of a requirements document will be underway over the next 3 months.

Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup (CAP WG)

The [July meeting](#) included topics on spring sampling for the Bay benthic macros and exploring SAV satellite-based assessment for future bay assessments which will be included in the deliverables for the PSC on how to improve the monitoring networks.

Status and Trends Workgroup

The Status and Trends Workgroup had a meeting on [August 2nd](#) that continued the group’s focus on the theme of indicator development. We reviewed plans for establishing a set of interim indicators for the Healthy Watersheds outcome and touched base on several ongoing action items from our workplan. The group will meet again in early October.

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org and Tom Butler; butlert@chesapeake.org

Indicators

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Status/Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
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Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	<p>According to preliminary data from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), 62,169 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in the Chesapeake Bay in 2020. This is 48% of the Chesapeake Bay Program’s 2025 restoration target of 130,000 acres and 34% of the partnership’s 185,000-acre goal.</p> <p>Although the 62,169 acres mapped in 2020 is a 60% increase from the 38,958 acres observed during the first survey in 1984, it is a 20% decrease from the current 10-year average of 78,168 acres and a 7% decrease from 2019 when 66,684 acres of underwater grasses were mapped.</p>	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sav
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In addition, we anticipate finalizing the following indicator updates in advance of the September MB meeting:

- *Oysters – update with 2020*
- *Public Access – update with 2020 data*
- *Reducing Pollution Indicator - update with 2019 data*
- *Water Quality Standards Attainment – update with 2019 data*
- *Water Quality Loads and Flow – update with 2019 data*
- *Sustainable Schools – 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

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 August 4, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around National Oyster Day and Honey Bee Appreciation Day. Additional shared messaging content can be found at:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41865/08_august_comwg_shared_messaging.pdf

Benjamin Bober, New York Department of Environmental Conservation presented best practices for social media content creation and engagement. The workgroup had a discussion focused on successful social media campaigns.

Meeting materials can be found here:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications_workgroup_august_meeting1

Communications Office:

On July 28, the Communications Office published a press release for the 2020 Submerged Aquatic Grass Monitoring Report.

- Access the press release here:

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

The Communications Office hosted a virtual public webinar on July 22 focusing on blue crabs. Speakers addressed audience questions about the disconnect between good crab survey numbers and the crab shortage on the feast table.

- View previous webinars:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTXyiO2P_wP2vO4R2v

Published blogs:

The following blogs were published in July:

- Growing a passion for an unusual native species

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

- Is it safe to swim in Chesapeake Bay waters?

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

- As an Anacostia tributary is restored, D.C. residents reap the benefits

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/as_an_anacostia_tributary_is_restored_d.c._residents_reap_the_benefits

- Environmental education experts from across the Mid-Atlantic convene for a biennial summit

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/environmental_literacy_summit_2021

- Trailblazing local leader advocates for clean water in Virginia

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/5_questions_for_hopewell_virginia_councilmember_jasmine_gore

- Gwynnda the Good Wheel works her magic on West Baltimore

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

- A heritage trail effort aims to preserve both land and legacy

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

- Acreage of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay decline for second straight year

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