



**Management Board  
Program Update  
February 17, 2021**

**CBPO Calendar**

Feb 17	Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call
Feb 18	Stream Health Workgroup February Meeting
Feb 22	Local Leadership Workgroup Meeting
Feb 23	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
Feb 24	STAR February Meeting
<b>Feb 24-25</b>	<b>Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting</b>
Feb 28	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
<b>Mar 2</b>	<b>Principals' Staff Committee Meeting</b>
Mar 2	Communications Workgroup Meeting
Mar 2	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
Mar 3	Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call
Mar 8-9	STAC Quarterly Meeting
Mar 9	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup
<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>Management Board Meeting</b>
<b>March 17-18</b>	<b>Local Government Advisory Committee</b>
March 22-23	Virtual Tribal showcase of opportunities for increased engagement
March 28	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

**Program Updates**

**Water Quality GIT Holds Meeting to Explain Model Changes and Implications**

More than 100 attendees tuned in to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) meeting on Monday, February 14, to learn about and discuss changes in the latest Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) that will have significant impacts for Bay watershed jurisdictions. The CAST 2021 model will reflect changes triggered by higher agricultural inputs and since-discovered data omissions that will require the watershed states and the District of Columbia to collectively account for an additional 6.2 million pounds of nitrogen. Over the last month, the CBPO has revisited its own internal protocols and procedures and consequently updated its internal data Quality Assurance Project Plan to ensure the issues are not repeated.

Contact: Lee McDonnell, 410-267-5731

**Draft Grant Guidance Sent to Jurisdictions**

CBPO Acting Director Michelle Price-Fay sent the draft 2022 CBPO Grant Guidance, which communicates critical updates and priorities, to jurisdictional partners on February 3. Jurisdictions have the opportunity to review the draft and provide comment by February 25, 2022. The Chesapeake Bay Program intends to issue its final guidance in March 2022.

Contact: Autumn Rose, 410-267-5765

### **ChesapeakeProgress enhanced to expand information on achieving the outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement**

ChesapeakeProgress provides accurate and accessible data and information to help our oversight groups track our progress. In addition to recent progress based on the most current data, the CBP is now presenting the outlook or forecast for achieving each outcome. This outlook is based on an assessment made by the Goal Implementation Teams to prepare for their Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting (QPM), a key component of the CBP's adaptive management system – the [Strategy Review System](#). An outcome will either be denoted as on course, off course, or uncertain. This information will be available for the most recent QPM on the [home page](#), along with additional information on each outcome page, and an [outcome status summary page](#). The user can print a pdf of all the outcomes from the summary page to provide at meetings or use in presentations.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, 410-267-5780

### **Bay Program Invited to Present at Popular Smithsonian Festival**

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) has been invited to participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival this summer – a multi-day event on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. that is expected to attract nearly a million visitors on site and online. According to promoters, the Festival, which is partnering with Earth Optimism, a global conservation movement, “will explore the possibilities and solutions that address some of our planet’s most significant challenges through new ways of living, learning, and working toward a shared sustainable future.” The Festival is scheduled for June 22–26 and June 30–July 4. It includes four thematic areas – Animals, Plants & Us, Coastal Connections, Community Solutions and Field and Forest. The Bay Program has been invited to offer interactive displays, videos, speakers, and a panel taking a “deep dive” into the partnership’s work. A Bay Program committee is exploring possibilities for participation.

Contact: Martha Shimkin, 267-846-0140

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership to Hold Showcase with Region 3 Federally-Recognized Tribes**

Representatives from the CBP partnership are holding a virtual showcase with the EPA Region 3 federally-recognized tribes on March 22-23, 2022 to initiate discussions with the tribes on opportunities for increased engagement with the CBP partnership. This two-day listening and informational session will highlight key partnership priorities and initiatives under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, discuss tribal restoration priorities and needs, and identify next steps for increased engagement. Bay Program staff presented a draft agenda for the showcase to the Regional Tribal Operations Committee on February 8, 2022.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 443-863-0657

### **Conowingo Steering Committee Hears, Reacts to Presentation of Final Conowingo WIP Evaluation**

The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee received a briefing on February 9, 2022 on EPA's evaluation of the final Conowingo WIP that was released on January 24, 2022. CPPO staff provided a high-level overview of EPA's evaluation, noting the key strengths, recommended enhancements, and continued concern with the lack of state funding commitments to support Conowingo WIP implementation. Questions were raised about the feasibility of identifying funding commitments within the 60-day period noted in the evaluation letter and whether additional funding from other federal agencies (and what EPA is receiving from the Infrastructure Law) can be used to support Conowingo WIP implementation. The jurisdictions are expected to provide a response letter to EPA's evaluation sometime soon.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 443-863-0657

### **EPA Reviews Trading and Offset Programs**

On February 1, EPA provided a [final report](#) regarding its 2021 review of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions' trading and offset programs. The report summarizes the current status of each jurisdiction's nutrient trading and offset program while highlighting unique aspects from each, such as credits for nontraditional practices like reforestation, oyster aquaculture, and stream restoration. This report represents the third review of the programs by EPA Region 3 since the Bay TMDL was signed in 2010: the first in 2012 and the second in 2016. The 30-page report fulfills the expectation identified in the Bay TMDL that EPA maintain oversight of the jurisdictions' nutrient trading and offset programs through periodic audits, reviews and evaluations. The report is posted to EPA's [Chesapeake Bay TMDL website](#).

Contacts: Pat Gleason, 215-814-5790; Suzanne Trevena, 215-814-5701

### **CBT Sponsors Behavior Change Forum**

On Thursday, February 10, the Chesapeake Bay Trust sponsored a web-forum focusing on behavioral changes that will lead to a cleaner Bay watershed. Several hundred federal, state and local government representatives, and non-profit groups attended the forum to learn more about the science of behavior change, specifically as it applies to stewardship practices in a watershed largely privately owned and dependent on the positive actions of its 18 million residents.

Contact: Amy Handen, 410-267-5793

### **Video Version of Bay Nitrogen Report Available on YouTube**

The US Geological Survey has released a narrative presentation of its recent report, *Nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: A Century of Change*. The [YouTube video](#) provides a unique, long-term perspective (1950-2050) of the major drivers of nitrogen change up to the present, and forecasts how they may affect nitrogen into the future for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. More than 20 scientists from the USGS and Chesapeake Bay Program Office are authors of the source publication, including from CBPO – Gopal Bhatt, Peter Claggett, Jennifer Keisman, Lew Linker, Gary Shenk, and Qian Zhang.

Contact: Lew Linker, 410-267-5741

### **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 will hold its upcoming quarterly meeting March 17-18 in person in Annapolis with a video hybrid option. This is the annual elections meeting for LGAC Chair and Vice-Chairs. The proposed theme for this meeting is Resources for Local Governments and will include discussions around a new CBP case study database, county tree cover status and trends fact sheets, American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding, resources and technical assistance from Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Defense as well as a discussion about meeting "Match" requirements for federal funding. Additionally, Members will provide feedback on the STAC Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures project.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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 next CAC meeting will be held virtually on Feb 24-25, 2022. Members will spend time refining their operations and begin discussion on potential bylaws revisions. The CAC will hear briefings on recent EPA letters regarding Watershed Implementation Plans. They will also host a panel discussion on science, policy and mitigation options for the Conowingo Dam.

Last month the Chairs of the Advisory Committees co-wrote a [CAC, LGAC and STAC blog](#) about common Advisory Committee themes from their 2021 recommendations to the Executive Council.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

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](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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](mailto:harveya@cheapeake.org))

Visit the STAC website at [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

### **STAC FY2022 Request for Proposals: Proposals due February 16, 2022**

**The Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is accepting proposals for STAC-sponsored workshops for the STAC fiscal year 2022 budget cycle** (beginning June 1, 2022). Workshops are convened to gather critically needed scientific or technical information related to protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Workshops funded through this RFP must be convened by May 31, 2023. The total amount allocated by STAC will not exceed \$10,000 for each workshop activity.

As an independent advisory committee to the entire Chesapeake Bay Partnership, STAC reserves funds for two categories of workshops:

1. **Programmatic Workshop:** Workshop outcomes will provide the CBP and the Partnership with actionable recommendations. Workshop participants will assess where, when, who, and how science can be implemented within the Partnership and prioritize these recommendations. Recommendations should follow the 'SPURR' format. This will provide the CBP Partnership with a clear next-step to take action on the recommendations.
2. **State of the Science Workshop:** A STAC Workshop with the focus on gathering various stakeholders to examine a topic from an interdisciplinary perspective with an aim to assess the state of the science, gaps in knowledge, and science needs. Recommendations should include research recommendations and strategies to address gaps in the science.

The current STAC membership list can be found [here](#).

Proposals are due to STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey ([harveya@chesapeake.org](mailto:harveya@chesapeake.org)) by COB February 16, 2022.

Materials linked on STAC Website:

- [STAC Workshop FY2022 Request for Proposals](#) (also attached)
- [STAC Workshop Overview](#)
- [STAC Workshop Protocol](#)
- [STAC Publications Protocol](#)

***STAC March Quarterly Meeting: March 8-9, 2022, Virtual***

The March 2022 STAC meeting will only be held remotely on Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th. You can register in advance for this meeting using the link below.

[Register Here](#)

***Approved STAC 2022 Quarterly Meeting Dates***

June 14-15, 2022

September 13-14, 2022

December 6-7, 2022

***Upcoming STAC Workshops:*** Follow links to workshop webpage for additional information

March 15, 2022 [Session 2: Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses](#)

March 22 - 23, 2022 [Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting: A STAC Programmatic Workshop](#)  
Annapolis, MD

May 17 - 18, 2022 [Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Watershed](#)

***STAC Reports***

***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.*

- **Biannual Membership Meeting:** The Sustainable Fisheries GIT hosted their two-day virtual membership meeting to kick off 2022. Day one focused on progress towards the Fisheries GIT's oyster restoration outcome. Topics covered included oyster restoration accomplishments from 2021; ongoing science efforts surrounding monitoring, restoration, and ecosystem service valuation; and a group discussion focused on the future of oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Day 2 highlighted a number of ongoing efforts linking environmental observations to living resources in the Chesapeake Bay. Beyond research updates, the Fisheries GIT heard about multiple social science/engagement projects aimed to communicate the importance of fish habitat and its impact on living resources. The day ended with a few updates from other Chesapeake Bay Program workgroups, with an emphasis on potential connections to the Fisheries GIT's work. A summary document highlighting the meeting presentations can be downloaded [HERE](#).
- **Aquatic Life Cohort SRS:** The Fisheries GIT recently completed, and submitted, updated Logic and Action Plans for the Forage, Blue Crab Abundance, and Oyster Restoration outcomes. Thanks to the hard work and engagement of the GIT's workgroup members, these updated plans provide an actionable and achievable blueprint to move these outcomes forward.
- **Blue Crab Science Needs Assessment:** In response to a request from the Management Board, the Blue Crab outcome's Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee is evaluating predicted costs and priority-level of their listed science needs. This updated estimate will be presented to the Management Board during the March meeting.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto: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.*

- **HABITAT GIT:**
  - Habitat GIT will be holding a Workgroup Co-Chairs meeting on Thursday, March 3rd from 10:00-12:00 ET. Additional meeting information will be sent out in the near future.
  - The Habitat GIT Spring Meeting is scheduled for May 4th (1:00-5:00 ET) and 5th (09:00-1:00 ET). A meeting agenda is being drafted and will be sent out closer to the meeting date. Meeting details will also be posted to the CBP website.
- **WORKGROUP UPDATES:**
  - **Wetland Workgroup:** There will be a workgroup meeting on Tuesday, February 15th from 2:00-4:00 ET. The agenda will focus on wetland BMP credit durations, a joint TNC and Ducks Unlimited project update, and a discussion on wetland enhancement.
  - **Stream Health Workgroup:** The next workgroup meeting will be held on Friday February 18 from 10:00-12:00 ET. The agenda will focus on workgroup and project updates and the Stream Restoration STAC Workshop Proposal.
- **GIT FUNDING:** The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Stream Health, and Wetlands workgroups were all approved for GIT Funding. The workgroups have received comments from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and are currently working on their final versions of the Table 2 Proposal, which will be submitted by 2/22.
- **STRATEGIC REVIEW SYSTEM:**
  - The SAV and Brook Trout Workgroups revised Logic & Action Plans have been submitted for Public & Signatory Feedback. The feedback period ends 2/25, and the final management materials will be submitted for Management Board approval on 03/08.
- **OTHER:**
  - The steering committee has been meeting weekly to plan the workshops that will address increasing the implementation of tidal and nontidal wetland restoration. The workshops will be held in Summer 2022.

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann ([ossman.megan@epa.gov](mailto:ossman.megan@epa.gov)) and Katlyn Fuentes ([fuentesk@chesapeake.org](mailto: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 January 24, 2021. A subset of topics discussed includes:**

- The WQGIT approved three new at-large members (*Kevin DuBois - DoD, Mike LaSala - LandStudies, and Jeffrey Cornwell - UMCES*). The WQGIT also appointed a new Chair (*Ed Dunne - DOEE*) and Vice Chair (*Suzanne Trevena - EPA*), pending Management Board (MB) approval.
- John Clune briefed the WQGIT on a recent [USGS publication](#) that looks at nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- The WQGIT approved making a recommendation to the MB to elongate the current Phase 7 model development schedule to add two full years to the development timeline. Considerations about the content of the timeline and overall model development are still being discussed, as

there were concerns raised by the group about how tasks will be prioritized and the process by which they will be completed in the given timeframe. During the discussion, the WQGIT requested the following:

- **Add time for prioritizing and organizing tasks** to the beginning of the proposed timeline (i.e. dedicate the first two quarters of 2022 to figuring out who is working on what tasks, when they need to be completed, etc.) and include time to adapt the plan as necessary
- **Build the timeline around the prioritization of tasks** to focus on completing the highest priority tasks first
- Specify the process to **accommodate conflicting input and priorities** of stakeholders, noting what discussions need to happen and when consensus needs to be reached

**The WQGIT will hold a special webinar on February 14, 2022 to discuss CAST 2021:**

- Presentation of changes between CAST 2019 and CAST 2021
- Q&A and Group Discussion

**The WQGIT will hold a meeting on February 28, 2022. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed are below:**

- Phase 7 Update
- STAR Monitoring review and recommendations
- Tidal Water Quality Change update
- Nutrient Improvements in Chesapeake Bay

Water Quality GIT Contact: Hilary Swartwood ([swartwood.hilary@epa.gov](mailto:swartwood.hilary@epa.gov)), Jackie Pickford ([pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:pickford.jacqueline@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 Watersheds Goal Implantation Team has a couple program updates. Our two GIT funding projects are currently in their Table 2 development phase. The first project is *Updating the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) Priority Habitat dataset of the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas: Scoping project* with John Wolf, Bill Jenkins, and Renee Thompson as technical leads. The second project is the *Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment 2.0* with Renee Thompson as the technical lead. We are currently incorporating input received from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and expert reviewers into our Table 2 for each of the projects.

Our next HWGIT meeting will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm. We are excited to hear from folks at the PA Department of Environmental Protection about Legacy Sediment Projects in Harrisburg, PA and Susquehanna River.

In addition, the Healthy Watersheds GIT staff will be working with each of the signatory jurisdictions to update their baseline 2017 State Identified Healthy Waters and Watersheds for 2022.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net); [swaterman@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:swaterman@chesapeakebay.net)



## **Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists residents, communities, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase 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 workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform [success.chesapeakeconservation.org](https://success.chesapeakeconservation.org). Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner ([wisnero@chesapeake.org](mailto:wisnero@chesapeake.org)) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they’d like to be developed.

### Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship Workgroup held a meeting January 25th, 2022. The group discussed three preliminary ways of organizing our work going forward: Network Development, Building Stewards, and Gaining Champions. The next workgroup meeting will be held on April 5th, July 13th, and October 6th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup is excited to share the Chesapeake Behavior Change web-tool which houses and promotes the use of the stewardship index data. Check it out for yourself here: <https://www.chesapeakebehaviorchange.org/> This project was generously supported by GIT funding and will serve as a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Stewardship Workgroup has identified two new Co-Chairs - Michael Weyand, Watershed Restoration Specialist with the City of Gaithersburg and Ashley Traut, Senior Advisor for the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition.
- 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.

### Education Workgroup

- The next Education Workgroup Full Membership meeting will be held February 16th from 9:00 - 12:00 pm. Join info and agenda can be found here: [Environmental Literacy Update](#).
- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September, 2019 to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks included (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The second local networks are in their early stages and include Baltimore City, MD and Hampton Roads, VA. OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals.
- 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 has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of [baybackpack.com](http://baybackpack.com), an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

#### Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup is currently collecting data on Public Access sites opened in 2021.
- 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 is coordinating with the Protected Lands Workgroup to determine appropriate connections between their GIT Funded Projects (FY20 Scope #1 and Scope #10), to find efficiencies and avoid duplication. Both projects address equity at community levels and involve identifying under-resourced communities, to help with decision-making on future project priorities for practitioners.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; [wisnero@chesapeake.org](mailto:wisnero@chesapeake.org)

#### Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup looks forward to our SRS presentation to the Management Board on February 17 and submitting Table 2 for the FY22 GIT-Funding project titled *Equitable Grants and Funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*.

The Diversity Workgroup plans to initiate a series of educational webinars in partnership with the CBP Communications Team. The first webinar will be on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the topic is Green Re-Entry. Finally, the Diversity Workgroup staffer and chair, Briana Yancy and Kevin Newman respectively, will be panelists for NASA’s Organizations of Black Scientists Career Lunch Chat on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy; [yancy.briana@epa.gov](mailto:yancy.briana@epa.gov) (Staffer)

#### **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.*

**2021 GIT Funding Program** – An EPA GIT Table 2 Training was held on December 14, 2021 to review the GIT Funding Manual for Phase 2: Refinement of Project Ideas into Scopes of Work (Table 2). Chesapeake Bay Trust provided reviews and comments on Table 2 drafts and Final Phase 2 Scopes of Work will be due February 21, 2022. The 2022 GIT Funding Program Manual is currently being drafted and will follow an extensive review by a volunteer team of stakeholders.

**Governance Document Action Team (GDAT)** – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GIT 6 approved the recent proposed edits regarding roles of staff and grammatical edits to EC Leadership language. A draft of the revised document and proposed language will be presented to GIT 6 for concurrence at the March 16, 2022 meeting and later presented to Management Board. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making.

**Organizational Analysis** – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. 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 Spring 2022.

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

**Budget and Finance Workgroup** - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting took place on July 28, 2021 as a conference call. BFWG will hold its next quarterly meeting February 23, 2022. Meeting topics will focus on infrastructure spending following the recent Infrastructure Bill, the 2022 BFWG Workplan, a National Center for Environmental Economics Environmental Justice Proposal, and the Conowingo Finance Strategy Update.

*Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), [shimkin.martha@epa.gov](mailto:shimkin.martha@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)*

**Local Leadership Workgroup** - The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its quarterly meeting on November 9, 2021 themed around Land Use. The LLWG will hold its spring quarterly meeting on February 22, 2022 themed around Agriculture. The meeting will explore case studies on how local officials are supporting their local agricultural community, identify tools and resources about agriculture, and determine what local elected officials need to know about agriculture. Efforts to roll out A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay 2.0 continue in partnership with state agencies and local government associations.

*Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Heidi Bonnaffon (Chair), [hbonnaffon@mwcoq.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwcoq.org); Michelle Edwards (Vice Chair), [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org)*

*GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@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.*

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)**

The [January](#) STAR meeting began with a brainstorming session for STAC workshop proposals. Breck Sullivan and Peter Tango then provided an outline of the PSC Monitoring Report, gave an overview of the monitoring needs received from Goal Teams, and led a discussion to gain feedback from Goal Teams on what next steps they want reflected in the report to help them implement their monitoring needs. The rest of the STAR meeting focused on Strategy Review System Dry Run Presentations of the Stewardship Cohort. STAR members made suggestions for improvements to the presentation prior to their Management Board meeting. STAR will hold its first STAR Coordination Quarterly meeting on February 10th, 2022 to enhance collaboration and understanding of all the different workgroups and action teams under STAR. The next STAR meeting is on February 24th, 2022 and will focus on co-benefits.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup completed its [January Quarterly Review](#) of CBP Modeling and Analysis. The January 4-5, 2022 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review introduced the new Phase 7 suite of models to the CBP. Within the suite of models, the state-of-the-science Phase 7 Main Bay Model (MBM) will replace the national award-winning Bay Model that has been successfully used by the CBP for three decades. Along with the MBM will be new and updated models of the watershed, airshed, and future land use, all directed as an integrated model suite to assess challenges to the Chesapeake watershed and Bay beyond 2025. In particular, the Phase 7 Models will assess the 2035 climate risk to the Chesapeake TMDL and its restoration goals. The tasks and timelines of the various models were shared and discussed as part of the process to ensure CBP decision-maker's direction and guidance were included in the Phase 7 Model workplans. Specifically, the 13 presentations ranged from optimization efforts, to the initial set up of the James and Patuxent Multiple Tributary Models (MTMs), to an outline of the initial the Phase 7 Watershed Model workplan and the progress on Phase 7 development thus far. Throughout the two-day meeting, the feedback from the WQGIT, STAC, and other GITs was incorporated into the planning discussions for Phase 7. Going forward, the Modeling Ad Hoc team will meet weekly to continue working on improving the workplans and coordination among the Phase 7 suite of models. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly is a two-day meeting on April 5th and 6th, 2022.

### **Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT)**

The [January](#) Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT) meeting focused on the tributary summaries. Mike Lane began with an update on the progress of the Rappahannock Tributary Summary and inquired interest in incorporating Elgin Perry's cluster analysis to help better explain trends. Breck Sullivan shared feedback on the [tributary summaries](#) and [Tidal Water Quality Change](#) document gathered from the Modeling Quarterly meeting, Modeling *Ad Hoc* meeting, STAC, Communications Team, and Lee McDonnell. Vanessa Van Note led a discussion on the steps needed to develop and update the tributary summaries, including recommendations on how to improve the process. The next ITAT meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, 2022.

In efforts to disseminate the tributary summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, and Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact Breck Sullivan ([bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net)) and Vanessa Van Note ([VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov](mailto:VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov)).

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)**

The CRWG supported the tidal portion of the Rising Water Temperature STAC Workshop on [January 12th, 2022](#) in partnership with the workgroups under the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team and the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Workgroup. The workshop explored key factors to inform decision-making, scientific findings on sensitivities and research gaps, and management implications related to increasing water temperatures and effects on tidal habitats, SAV, and fisheries (i.e., oysters, blue crab, finfish, and forage). The [February 14, 2022](#) CRWG meeting will focus on sharing research on marine heat waves in Chesapeake Bay and debrief the workgroup on key watershed and tidal findings from the January 12th STAC workshop.

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup does not have any new updates since last month. The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly virtual meeting on September 30, 2021. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by Cindy Johnson from VADEQ. All jurisdictions provided an update on monitoring efforts during the pandemic and plans moving forward. Peter Tango provided an overview of the presentation given to PSC on funding for the water quality monitoring program. The response to PSC comments, coordinated by STAR will address questions about the core monitoring networks for tidal water quality, nontidal nutrient and sediment, submerged aquatic vegetation, tidal benthic organisms, and citizen monitoring efforts. The final product delivered to PSC is expected to include a summary of the extended network portfolios and long-term budget needs. Caroline Donovan provided updates for the citizen science groups working with CMC as well as current progress on QAPPs, data uploads, and audits. Potential uses for Chlorophyll A data collected by groups were also discussed. Caroline requested workgroup members to provide input on prioritization areas that CMC could address over the term of their second EPA-funded award. Durga Ghosh provided an update on the status of audits and other QA considerations for the water quality monitoring program. Mike Mallonee presented the coordinated split sample results for the Chesapeake Bay mainstem and tributaries. CBL performance testing blind audit program schedules were provided by Jerry Frank. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for February 22nd, 2022.

### **Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator**

The Leadership Team met on January 14th, 2022 to 1) review progress on the case study, 2) revisit the interpolator development timeline, 3) revisit capacity to support interpolator development based on any changes regarding the development timeline, and 4) discuss a plan, outline an agenda, and propose a date for the next full BORG meeting in 2022. The full BORG meeting on the case study showcase and 4D developments will be coordinated as the 3<sup>rd</sup> event in the STAC Advanced Monitoring Workshop event underway this year. Tentative plans are targeting April/early May 2022. The next development update will only involve a subset of members and take place in February.

## **Nontidal Network Workgroup**

The [January 2022 NTN meeting](#) included a summary of the status of the PSC report as well as NTN specific items in the report for sustaining the existing network. The meeting also covered proposals for expanding continuous monitoring of RIM sites and a discussion on BMP monitoring and the connection to citizen science. The next Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting is scheduled for February 16th, 2022.

## **Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup**

The CAP WG participated in the first event of the STAC workshop on Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment focused on advances in estuarine SAV assessment. This is a STAC workshop with invited technical and management personnel convened to review and determine the gaps and cost challenges limiting habitat assessments as outlined by the water quality standards under the TMDL for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll a. The objective is to develop actionable recommendations on adaptive monitoring and assessment for the next generation Chesapeake Bay Program tidal monitoring program. Plans for the second STAC workshop session for late winter/early spring 2022 are being targeted at the state of research for satellite-based assessment of chlorophyll and water clarity. CAP WG members will be asked to provide foundation perspectives on the existing protocols for reference to compare to new opportunities evolving with aerial/satellite-based sensors. If interested in participating in the workshop, please reach out to Peter Tango ([ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net)) or Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org).) The next Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup meeting is being scheduled for March. Topics are anticipated to include a brief recap of the STAC Advanced Monitoring workshop event and input on plans for the remaining 2 workshop sessions as well as DO and CHLA criteria considerations for the future.

## **Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)**

The workgroup had a meeting on [January 10th](#) that focused on identifying current metrics, potential new metrics, and influencing factors for each outcome. Outcome representatives shared information via Jamboard and discussed connections to other outcomes and barriers to new indicator development. The most updated workplan was presented and once the final comment is incorporated, the workplan will be posted to the workgroup page on [chesapeakebay.net](https://chesapeakebay.net). There was also discussion on how to best organize the workgroup page and the existing documents it houses that are of use to members such as the [indicators framework](#), [indicator update process](#), and [guiding questions for GITS when developing new indicators](#). The workgroup will not meet in February to focus on acting on the information gathered in January and will next meet on March 14th, 2022.

**STAR Contacts:** Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) (Coordinator), Amy Goldfisher (Staffer); [agoldfisher@chesapeake.org](mailto:agoldfisher@chesapeake.org), Alex Gunnerson (Staffer); [gunnersona@chesapeake.org](mailto:gunnersona@chesapeake.org)

## **February 2022 Management Board Indicators Update**

### February MB Indicators Update

Since the January MB meeting, we have updated the following indicator on ChesapeakeProgress:

- Forest Buffers (updated with 2020 data)

We do not anticipate finalizing any additional indicator updates in advance of the March MB meeting.

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov](mailto: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**

The Communications Workgroup is taking a short break while we reassess its direction.

### **Communications Office**

On February 9, the Communications Office published the press release discussing the completion of all projects funded under the “Equity and Environmental Education in the time of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to Support Environmental Education Providers” grant program.

- Read the press release:  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake\\_bay\\_program\\_office\\_funding\\_helps\\_watershed\\_non\\_profits\\_weather\\_p](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake_bay_program_office_funding_helps_watershed_non_profits_weather_p)
- Read the blog:  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/emergency\\_funding\\_allows\\_environmental\\_education\\_to\\_continue\\_outside\\_and\\_on](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/emergency_funding_allows_environmental_education_to_continue_outside_and_on)

The following blogs were published in January:

- Are Maryland’s coastal communities prepared for climate change?  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/are-marylands-coastal-communities-prepared-for-climate-change>
- Removing fish blockages goes hand-in-hand with sediment reduction  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/removing\\_fish\\_blockages\\_goes\\_hand\\_in\\_hand\\_with\\_sediment\\_reduction](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/removing_fish_blockages_goes_hand_in_hand_with_sediment_reduction)
- New EPA Regional Administrator is ready to advance restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/interview-with-epa-regional-administrator-adam-ortiz>
- Photo Essay: Home to rare wildlife and small towns, a rural region plans for the future  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/photo\\_essay\\_butternut\\_valley\\_new\\_york](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/photo_essay_butternut_valley_new_york)
- 5 reasons bald eagles are wild about the Chesapeake Bay watershed  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/5\\_reasons\\_bald\\_eagles\\_are\\_wild\\_about\\_the\\_chesapeake\\_bay\\_watershed](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/5_reasons_bald_eagles_are_wild_about_the_chesapeake_bay_watershed)
- Adapted for forest living  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/adapted\\_for\\_forest\\_living](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/adapted_for_forest_living)