



**Principals' Staff Committee  
Program Update  
June 2, 2021**

**CBPO Calendar**

June 3	Virtual Event with NFWF – INSR Awards
June 3	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting
June 3-4	Local Government Advisory Committee
June 10	Management Board
June 11	BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call
June 14	Maintain Healthy Watershed GIT Meeting
June 15	2021 Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit
June 15-16	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
June 16	GIT6 Summer Meeting
June 17	Bay Oxygen Research Group June Meeting
June 22-23	Sustainable Fisheries Goal Team Summer Meeting
June 24	STAR Team Meeting
June 30	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership Meeting

**Program Updates**

**Martha Shimkin Named CBPO Deputy Director** – Martha Shimkin of EPA’s Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW), was selected as Deputy Director for the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO). Martha replaces Bill Jenkins, who has served as CBPO Acting Deputy Director since the retirement of Jim Edward in December 2020. Martha brings a diverse and varied background to the CBPO through her roles at EPA. She has had several leadership roles within the Office of Water, including serving as an acting Deputy Office Director in OWOW, acting Director for the Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division, and the Deputy Office Director for the Office of Wastewater Management. Working in the OW Immediate Office, she led preparation for the Presidential transition last Fall and served as acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for two months during the transition.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

**Sixth Annual Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week**

The sixth annual Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week will take place June 5-13, 2021. While this week has been officially designated in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, events will take place throughout the entire watershed to raise awareness about this valuable economic and environmental resource—a national treasure that directly connects over 18 million residents. This year’s activities—which can be found on the Chesapeake Bay Program’s [Attend an Events calendar](#)—include educational webinars, socially-distanced events and volunteer opportunities that celebrate the nation’s largest estuary.

### **CBP Partners Hold Biennial Strategy Review System Meeting**

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners met on May 12-13 for a two-day Biennial Strategy Review System (SRS) Meeting following the conclusion of the second SRS two-year cycle and preceding the start of the next cycle. The Biennial meeting provides an opportunity for the partnership to assess progress toward meeting the 31 outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and consider new approaches and updated policy shifts that could be applied to future programmatic actions.

The agenda and meeting materials are available at:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/management\\_board\\_biennial\\_srs\\_meeting\\_may\\_2021\\_day\\_one\\_tentative](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/management_board_biennial_srs_meeting_may_2021_day_one_tentative).

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

### **Executive Council Meeting Planned for October 1**

A fall Chesapeake Executive Council meeting is being planned for October 1, 2021 at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Executive Council – consisting of the governors of the six watershed states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – establishes the policy direction for the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay.

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

### **EPA, NFWF to Announce Pollutant Reduction Grants**

EPA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will hold a virtual press conference on June 3 to announce nearly \$10 million for 11 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grants to aid restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and local rivers and streams in the Bay watershed. The grants will leverage three times as much in local matching funds.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

### **EPA Provides \$7.5 Million for Actions in ‘Most Effective Basins’**

On Thursday, May 27, EPA announced that six states and the District of Columbia will share \$7.25 million for actions to improve local rivers and streams in locations most beneficial to the downstream Chesapeake Bay. The funds include a second year appropriation of \$6 million for cleanup actions in the most effective basins of the Bay watershed – areas where projects to reduce runoff from farm operations will yield the greatest progress toward achieving water quality standards in the Bay. The additional \$1.25 million is being designated for environmental justice areas within those most effective basins.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

### **Addendum to Grants Guidance Shared with States, D.C.**

Acting Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) Director Michelle Price-Fay on Tuesday, May 25, sent to the Bay states and the District of Columbia an addendum to the CBPO Grant and Cooperative Agreement Guidance, providing details on their new Most Effective Basins funding and other updates.

Contact: Michelle Price-Fay, 215-814-3397

### **2021 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey**

On May 20, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, released the results of the 2021 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey. The results estimate that there are 282 million blue crabs in the bay, down from 405 million in 2020. And although the juvenile crab

population is at its lowest level since the survey began in 1990, the spawning age female abundance increased from 141 million in 2020 to 158 million spawning age female crabs in 2021. This year's survey estimate is above the long-term average of 126 million spawning age female crabs.

For more information: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/blue-crab/dredge.aspx>

### **EPA Releases Evaluation of Draft Conowingo WIP**

On May 5, EPA released its evaluation of a draft plan to compensate for more than 6 million pounds of Chesapeake Bay pollutants no longer being trapped in a reservoir behind the Conowingo Dam. EPA's evaluation of the draft Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) is available on the Bay TMDL website, [www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl](http://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl). The evaluation commends the drafters of the CWIP, while raising concerns over distinguishing CWIP restoration actions from others already pledged, as well as the need for a dedicated funding mechanisms and public sector financial commitments for the additional work. The evaluation also recognizes that the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has not yet decided on the target end date for implementation of the CWIP.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

### **Advisory Committee Updates**

#### **Local Government Advisory Committee**

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

LGAC's next Quarterly Meeting is June 3-4. During this virtual meeting, LGAC will host the annual Local Government Forum. The Forum is a problem-solving-strategic planning event hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in collaboration with LGAC and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Through facilitated group discussion, participants identify issues that hinder or help advance local implementation of watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Findings and recommendations, developed during the forum, are documented and next steps are identified. This year's focus is on developing collaborative regional partnerships.

LGAC Chair Jasmine Gore is now representing local governments on the Virginia Stakeholder Advisory Group which met on April 29 virtually. Also on April 29th, LGAC members Leo Lutz, Ann Simonetti and James Wheeler facilitated a Stormwater 101 discussion during the PA State Association of Township Supervisors annual conference.

On May 24th LGAC and STAC co-sponsored a workshop on COVID-19 Impacts to Local Government to discuss watershed-related impacts and propose lessons learned for future planning.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to 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.*

CAC held their spring quarterly meeting on May 19-20, 2021. The goal of the meeting was to explore ways the Committee can best advise on outreach and engagement. The members also heard updates on key issues for the PSC meeting, plans for the EC meeting, and meet and greet with Region 3 Acting Administrator Diana Esher.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies, 3 MD 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)**

*The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.*

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

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

### ***STAC March Quarterly Meeting***

STAC held its first meeting of 2021 virtually on March 23-24<sup>th</sup>. Materials from the meeting can be found on the [STAC March Meeting Webpage](#).

STAC approved 5 proposals for the FY21 workshop cycle and provided suggestions to proposers for workshop planning. The membership reviewed upcoming vacancies and were notified of changes to membership nomination and approval processes. STAC Staff and the Executive Board will focus on applying principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice throughout guidance documents, which includes membership processes. Following, STAC heard from the DEIJ Action Team for updates on the draft implementation plan and working options for the Community Advisory Board. STAC members were asked to provide comments on the plan and consider applications of these plans for STAC. Steering Committee co-chairs of the SAV Satellite Monitoring workshop gave an overview of the findings and next steps out of the recently released STAC report. STAC was asked for feedback on the Climate Change and Resiliency Cohort science needs and were reminded of the use of the Science Needs Database.

### ***CESR***

The meeting's second day was dedicated to reviewing the STAC effort titled Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR). Through facilitated discussions, workgroup breakouts, and cross-workgroup breakouts, members review cross-cutting themes, recommendations, and next-steps. The CESR objectives are to identify gaps and uncertainties in system response —physical, chemical, biological, and socioeconomic— that impact efforts designed to attain the 2025 TMDL and WQS. All STAC members are split into one of three workgroups—watershed, estuarine, and living resources. Each will work within

their groups and across groups to recommend research strategies that improve understanding of system response to support informed decision making to attain WQS and decision making under uncertainty. STAC aims to have a final report by December 2021.

### ***STAC June Quarterly Meeting***

STAC's upcoming Quarterly Meeting will be held virtually on June 15-16, 2021. STAC members will discuss membership vacancies, science needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program, and continue work on the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR). Details and materials will be made available on the [June meeting webpage](#).

### ***Upcoming STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates***

June 15-16, 2021

September 13-14, 2021

December 7-8, 2021

### ***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 Mini-Workshop Series: COVID Impacts on Bay Restoration Efforts***

Monday, May 17th, 12-2pm: Nutrients

Monday, May 24th, 11am-1pm: Local Gov/Funding

Monday, June 7th, 12-2pm: Fisheries

### **[COVID-Impacts STAC Webpage](#)**

The impacts of COVID-19 have played out in many ways across the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. To better understand these impacts, STAC has brainstormed potential impacts during its meeting, then reached out to Bay Program committee and partners for what impacts they are seeing.

Based on the feedback from these discussions, we are developing 3 “mini workshops” to more closely examine individual topics Each workshop would be 2 hours long, with short presentations to set the

stage and provide available data, then a discussion with targeted questions. These sessions are open to all, but you must RSVP using the link on the STAC webpage.

### ***FY2020 STAC-Sponsored Workshops***

STAC has held one workshop thus far in FY2021

#### **1. Advancing Outreach Effectiveness to Improve Conservation Practice Adoption**

*January 26-28, 2021, Virtual*

This workshop fostered interactive discussions among farmers, outreach practitioners, and experts in behavioral economics to improve outreach capacity and address farmer concerns about conservation practice adoption. Along with funding partners from the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR), The Nature Conservancy, and the Walton Family Foundation, this STAC virtual workshop utilized facilitation and online survey software to best understand barriers to implementation of agricultural practices and to provide guidance to overcome these barriers to reach restoration targets. The findings and recommendations from this workshop will be released in a report to the Partnership.

The following workshops are in the process of planning.

#### **1. Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (Received extension due to COVID. Plan to hold workshop in the fall)

#### **2. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens—July 13, 14, and 20**

The agricultural sector is an important part of the solution for achieving long-term water quality (WQ) goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (CBW), but we still have a long way to go in BMP implementation to reduce pollutant loads to levels that will achieve established WQ standards. Current on-farm BMP adoption demonstrates the agronomic, economic, and environmental benefits of conservation practices, but the current rate of adoption is not sufficient to meet Bay pollutant reduction goals. Thoughtful distribution of limited resources through creative and flexible approaches is essential. In this workshop, ag service providers from across the public and private sector are invited to propose and discuss ideas garnered from their own experience. The expected outcome of this exercise is a set of practical recommendations to broaden and deepen farmers' efforts to reduce field-level nutrient and sediment losses.

Days 1 and 2 (July 13 and 14) will be dedicated to listening to service providers. Day 3 (July 20) will focus on developing recommendations, but service providers' participation is encouraged.

#### **3. Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap** (Received extension due to COVID. Plan to hold workshop in the fall)

### ***STAC Reports***

STAC recently released the following report:

1. [Exploring Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program](#): This report summarizes the proceedings, findings, and recommendations of a FY2019 workshop. The workshop convened technical and management personnel to consider pathways to achieve the aforementioned goals. Acquiring CSI at no cost is an option under the NextView License agreement between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and Maxar (previously DigitalGlobe, Inc). The NextView License was developed by the NGA to accommodate United States Government (USG) agencies, contractors, partners, and other entities that require CSI to support USG interests. The basic premise of the agreement is that any federal agency that requires satellite imagery from contracted commercial sources can request and obtain said imagery at no cost to the local agency. As 2017 updates to the Water Resource Development Act, which amends Section 117 of the Clean Water Act, called for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out an annual SAV survey in Chesapeake Bay. This makes it theoretically feasible for the EPA to now request and obtain the high-resolution CSI necessary for the annual SAV assessment.

#### ***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](#). 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.

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)

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](#).

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov)

#### **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.*

- **Summer Biannual Meeting** - The Fish GIT is planning a two-day membership meeting to take place in late June. Details on the date and topics will be distributed soon.

- **Fish Habitat Action Team** - The FHAT recently convened to discuss progress on a variety of projects and to review the team's current Logic and Action plan. In preparation for the next round of SRS, the FHAT will reconvene for a follow-up discussion in early June.
- **Forage Action Team** - After developing and prioritizing a list of outcome indicators, the team is now actively working on three of the listed seven options. These ongoing indicators are abundance/biomass estimates of polychaetes in the bay, a GIT-funded study exploring the impact of springtime warming on the bay's forage base, and a recently-completed habitat suitability index connecting habitat quality/quantity to abundance (specifically with a focus on juvenile spot and bay anchovy).
- **Shoreline Hardening Layers** - Thank you to the Chesapeake Bay Program GIS team for their great work developing shoreline hardening maps for [Virginia](#) and [Maryland](#) (four important coastal counties). These layers were developed in response to a GIT-funded study from VIMS establishing threshold effects of shoreline hardening on species decline. This was an important action under the Forage and Fish Habitat work plans.

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.*

- The Habitat GIT has a nomination for a Co-Chair to replace Christine Conn. After approval from all HGIT Workgroup Chairs is sought, we will bring this nomination forward for approval at the June Management Board meeting.
- The Habitat GIT held their bi-annual meeting on May 4th and 5th, 2021. The theme was "Taking Action Together", and the agenda featured updates on Chesapeake Bay Program initiatives, lightning round science talks, and examples of collaboration in restoration and conservation throughout the watershed.
- The Wetland Workgroup held their bi-monthly meeting on April 20th. The agenda featured updates on wetland mapping efforts, the STAC workshop being led by the workgroup, and a synthesis of sediment science by USGS.
- The Stream Health Workgroup met on April 16th to discuss their upcoming Strategy Review System (SRS) cycle and updates on ongoing projects.
- The Brook Trout Workgroup met on April 27th to discuss their upcoming SRS cycle and updates on projects.
- The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species held their biannual meeting on April 28th and 29th. The meeting focused on updates from previous Small Grant Program recipients and the selection of the 2021 Small Grant Program winners.
- The first listening session for the Targeted Outreach on Green Infrastructure (TOGI) GIT-funding project was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.
- The Fish Passage Workgroup met on May 27.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann  
([greenberg.julianna@epa.gov](mailto:greenberg.julianna@epa.gov); [ossman.megan@epa.gov](mailto: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 April 26, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.**

- The WQGIT approved Cassandra Davis (NYSDEC) as the new WTWG chair.
- Mark Lambert provided an overview of the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund (SWOF).
- The WQGIT reached concurrence on the Tree Canopy Outcome Logic and Action Plan.
- Peter Claggett presented WQGIT members with information on the 2013-2017 land use change product and how it can be incorporated into CAST.
- Jeff Sweeney provided an update on the CAST 2021 Workplan.

**The WQGIT held its most recent conference call on May 24, 2021 to discuss the following issues:**

- Updates to CBP TMDL Models
- Updated Land Use and Land Cover Data
- Climate Narrative Document
- EPA Expectations for Addressing 2025 Climate Loads
- Monitoring / Assessment Package for WQGIT

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

HWGIT heard presentations from land conservation partners and CBP staff on diversity, equity, inclusion and justice during the April 12 [meeting](#). We are still requesting nominations for a new Chair to join the leadership team (please send to [njackson@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:njackson@chesapeakebay.net) and [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)). Healthy Watersheds staff are leading a synthesis element related to identifying watershed characteristics that may signify vulnerability or resiliency to stream temperature changes as part of the STAC Rising Water Temperatures workshop preparatory work and continuing metric and analysis development for the MDHWA. In addition to participating in the process updates for GIT funding, leadership is continuing demonstrations of the [CHWA](#) for partners and interested parties, most recently at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) May 7<sup>th</sup> webinar. The next HWGIT meeting is planned for [Monday, June 14](#).

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

#### **Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.*

## Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

- The 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.
- 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".

## Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship workgroup is currently seeking a co-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 Stewardship 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 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

- The Education Workgroup is preparing for the biennial Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit which provides 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. The Summit will be held virtually on June 15th.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). The Workgroup shared important lessons learned from the ROLN project with other groups at the Bay Program on April 29th.
- In cooperation with the Education Workgroup and NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, the Stroud Water Research Center created the [CBW Public School Stream BMP Evaluation Tool](#). This map tool provides information to help identify and prioritize public schools within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that have the greatest need for Best Management Practice installations taking into consideration stream health, environmental literacy, and equity considerations. A Stakeholder Interview Report is currently available on the [Education Workgroup webpage](#).
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of [baybackpack.com](https://baybackpack.com), an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

## Public Access

- The Public Access Workgroup is consolidating data from the jurisdictions to track public access site development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to update Chesapeake Progress.
- The Public Access Workgroup hosted its Spring meeting on May 19.
- 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.

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

### **Diversity Workgroup**

The Diversity Workgroup has selected a new chair. Kevin Newman has been a member of the workgroup and plays a pivotal role in the DEIJ Action Team. He is a DOEE environmental protection specialist and has been working directly with DC’s underserved/underrepresented populations for years. He recently graduated from the Diversity and Inclusion Certification Program at Cornell University. Kevin has immense dedication and passion for this work, and we are excited for him to bring that to our workgroup.

Starting May 24<sup>th</sup>, two C-StREAM interns began working with the Diversity Workgroup to help us tackle items on our logic and action plan. Abril Hunter is a Florida State University student who is studying Environmental Science and Policy with a minor in Urban and Regional Planning. As our DEIJ intern, she will help us inventory the current job market and conduct a literature review that examines the benefits of incorporating DEIJ in restoration and conservation. Crystal Zhao is a junior studying Environmental Science and Economics at Johns Hopkins University. She is our new Outreach intern who will help the Chesapeake Bay Program strengthen new and existing partnerships.

Finally, the Diversity Workgroup continues to track all Chesapeake Bay Program DEIJ efforts across all the GITs and we are preparing for our next quarterly meeting in June.

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; [phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto: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**

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

The Local Action cohort is the last cohort to go through the current SRS cycle (2<sup>nd</sup> cycle). The Local Action Cohort’s Local Leadership and Tree Canopy outcomes’ as well as the Climate Change and Resiliency Cohort’s Climate Adaptation and Climate Resiliency outcomes’ draft final SRS materials were posted to [Chesapeake Decisions](#) The SRS Planning Team has temporarily merged with the Biennial Meeting Planning Team and 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle Planning Team as we approach the Biennial Meeting dates (May 12-13, 2021) and beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SRS Cycle (June 2021). **Contact:** Doreen Vetter, [vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@epa.gov)

### **Goal Team 6**

The GIT 6 Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on March 17, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: Strategy Review System (SRS)-related updates, GIT Funding Program updates, Culture of Trust Analysis updates, Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) updates (specifically around the topic of DEI), the draft 2021 GIT 6 Workplan, and workgroup updates.

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

### **FY 21 GIT Funding Program**

FY21 process/planning discussions are underway with the GIT Funding Innovation Team (GIT FIT).

**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) Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on April 28, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19), CWSRF follow-up discussion updates, utilization of carbon markets for financing, restoration economy action item updates, proposed conservation finance bills in the Maryland legislature, as well as the BFWG Charge and draft 2021 Workplan.

**Contact:** Bill Jenkins (Co-Chair), [jenkins.bill@epa.gov](mailto:jenkins.bill@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov); or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), [guck.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:guck.michelle@epa.gov)

### **Local Leadership Workgroup**

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on May 18, 2021 as a conference call. The “theme” for this meeting was Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ). Agenda items include an overview of DEIJ, an example of how Maryland Black Mayors connected their members with stormwater technical assistance and a discussion of how mapping can address equity issues within a local government.

**Contact:** Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Shannon Moore (Chair), [SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov); or Heidi Bonnaffon (Vice Chair), [hbonnaffon@mwcog.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwcog.org)

**GIT 6 Contact:** Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov) (until new GIT 6 Staffer is on-boarded)

### **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**

The April STAR meeting focused on 1) Addressing the PSC request to improve Monitoring Networks within the CBP; 2) Reviewing the effectiveness of the Strategic Science and Research Framework and how to further improve this as a part of the next cycle of the Strategic Review System Cycle; 3) The development of Environmental Justice Indicators by UMCEs students under the tutelage of Bill Dennison. STAR members will continue to refine the SSRF process to benefit workgroup members. The May meeting will focus on the Integrated Monitoring Team and Data Integrity.

### **Data Integrity Workgroup (DIWG)**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly virtual meeting on April 13, 2021. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found here. The meeting was presided over by the co-chairs; Bruce Michael, DNR and Cindy Johnson, VADEQ. This was Bruce's last DIWG meeting before he retires, all workgroup members thanked him profusely for his service and wished him well. All jurisdictions provided an update on monitoring efforts during the pandemic and plans going forward into 2021. Similar plans for citizen monitoring groups were discussed by Caroline Donovan including their data upload and training schedules. Peter Tango provided an in-depth analysis of monitoring approaches being implemented to enhance tidal and nontidal monitoring and assessment. This STAR-led effort is expected to provide the PSC a roadmap of the status and vulnerabilities of the existing network and potential recommendations including financial details for the proposed strategies. Details on the March web release by USGS for the National WQ Laboratory were reviewed by Joel Blomquist along with corrective action plans. Watershed wide QA sample data appraisals were summarized by Breck Sullivan (USGS reference samples), Durga Ghosh (bias & precision data), Jerry Frank (blind audit samples), and Mike Mallonee (coordinated split samples). Efforts undertaken by DNR and other organizations for a pilot project to deploy a vertical profiler assessing hypoxia in the Bay were outlined by Bruce Michael. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for summer 2021.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup**

The Criteria Assessment Protocol WG's final STAC Workshop proposal on Advancement Monitoring and Assessment opportunities and options was submitted to CBP-STAC on February 26th for their consideration of support. The proposal was approved by STAC during its March 2021 and official work under the proposal begins in July 2021. This workshop will be used to evaluate opportunities to use recent research findings on assessing key water quality parameters supporting water quality standards attainment assessments in the tidal waters of Chesapeake Bay. The Criteria Assessment Protocol WG met on May 14, 2021 and laid out the PSC monitoring program review as well as focus on the new STAC Workshop overview.

### **Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup**

The **Nontidal Network Team** is: 1) Developing an inventory of partner support behind funding of each of its 123 stations. The first round of information gathering is near complete. Other data will be added to the spreadsheet summary to support a prioritization exercise. 2) Planning an optimization exercise to consider prioritizing decisions for adjusting the network size to meet the buying power of level funding operation support on a 5-year time horizon. The next meeting is set for May 19, 2021. The anticipated focus areas for this meeting will include: Web-based meeting materials, Vulnerabilities to maintaining stations and network support, Provide NTN status summary draft for review, Watershed Science: A challenging WV Cacapon River filamentous algae issue.

The first meeting of the **4-D Water Quality Estimator Team** (4-D Bay Oxygen Research Group, aka, 4-D BORG) occurred in April 2021. The project timeline was envisioned as 2 years of development of the initial tool (2021-23), and 2 years of application and education (2023-25). Methods underpinning the tool are the subject of early discussions.

The first meeting of the **Hypoxia Collaborative (Vertical Profiler network development team)** occurred on April 30, 2021. The group briefly reviewed the pilot study and project data applications. The group reviewed the 9-month timeline needs related to the PSC monitoring request and longer-term network development needs. Recommendations were discussed on sensor arrays and their location for 2021. A follow-up call was held the first week of May to address recommendations for deployment of 2 NOAA sensor arrays during 2021. This will support permit applications for the deployment locations in Chesapeake Bay.

Integrated Monitoring Networks groups will further be involved in responsibilities associated with addressing the March 2021 PSC request to review the monitoring programs addressing water quality standards attainment assessments, watershed monitoring capacity, and analysis tools, providing recommendations on a path and needs to address capacity shortfalls over a 9 month review period. (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO, CRC Staffers: Breck Sullivan).

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup continues to develop next-generation airshed, watershed, and estuary models to support CBP partners and decision-makers in the consideration of “results of updated methods, techniques, and studies in 2025 to revisit existing estimated loads due to climate change to determine if any updates to 2035 load estimates are needed.” During the April Quarterly Review, 6-7th, the Workgroup began to outline the formulation of a bacterial model to determine the human health impacts of No Discharge Zones in Virginia.

Also, Airshed Model tracer work is going forward to answer the nitrogen emission question, “For What Goes Up, Where Does It Come Down?”. Recent advances in the Chesapeake Bay Airshed Model allow a much improved estimate of the transport and fate of atmospheric emissions of oxidized nitrogen (NOx) and reduced nitrogen (NH4+). The analysis centers on the question, “For a nitrogen emission source type within a source region, what is the fraction that is deposited to the Chesapeake watershed and tidal Bay? Eight emission source types are tracked: 1) electric generating units (EGUs), 2) mobile sources, 3) off-road sources, 4) poultry manures, 5) other animal manures, 6) fertilizer, 7) marine sources, and 8) other emission sources. The eight emission types are tracked from nine source regions. Finally, the Workgroup has begun to work cooperatively with the WQGIT and CRWG to draft a Climate Narrative.

### **CRWG**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) met on [April 19th](#) to discuss an ongoing STAC synthesis project to assess the effectiveness of BMPs under varying climate conditions. Additional feedback was provided by the workgroup to better format the gathered information to suit workgroup member needs. The CRWG began gathering information to work cooperatively with the Modeling Workgroup to assist with the development of a Climate Narrative for the jurisdictional milestones outlined in the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans. In addition CRWG members provided additional feedback on the logic factors and management strategy for the Climate Resiliency outcomes. The CRWG submitted their updated Management Strategy and draft 2021-2022 logic and action plan on April 30th for public/signatory review ending on May 28th.

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

The ITAT met in April to discuss the state of trends within the Rappahannock River. This meeting led to the discovery that: 1) The Middle Rappahannock River needs further analysis; 2) the trends in SAV and nutrient dynamics require further examination; 3) Scientific results will require a translation into actionable items for on the ground implementation. As a result of this meeting, there is the potential for the development of a citizen science SAV identification group working in Virginia. Contact Jeni Keisman ([jkeisman@usgs.gov](mailto:jkeisman@usgs.gov)) for more information.

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

The Status and Trends Workgroup had a meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> that focused on the theme of indicator development. We reviewed the fisheries GIT's plans for their forage fish indicator development, approved changes made to the water quality loads and flow indicator, and discussed next steps for the local leadership outcome in developing an indicator from their developed survey (which is pending OMB ICR approval). We will meet again on June 7<sup>th</sup> with a focus on the Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome and how an indicator might be developed for this outcome.

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) and Tom Butler; [butlert@chesapeake.org](mailto:butlert@chesapeake.org)

### **Indicators**

No indicators were updated since the April Management Board meeting.

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

- *RPI (2025 Watershed Implementation Plans) – update with 2020 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](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.*

On May 5, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around American Wetlands Month and Garden for Wildlife Month. Additional shared messaging content can be found at:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/41862/05\\_2021\\_may\\_comwg\\_shared\\_messaging.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41862/05_2021_may_comwg_shared_messaging.pdf)

Marisa Baldine, Chesapeake Research Consortium, provided an update on Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week planning. Phil Miller, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DE

DNREC) showed the winning video for the DE DNREC Earth Day video contest. Brian Hamilton, EPA Region 3 Tribal Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the federally-recognized American Indian Tribes in Region 3 and discussed the projects they are currently working on with them.

Meeting materials can be found here:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications\\_workgroup\\_may\\_meeting](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications_workgroup_may_meeting)

Mark your calendars! Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 5-13) is almost here. If your organizations have any events they'd like to feature on our Events calendar, please contact Marisa Baldine at [mbaldine@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mbaldine@chesapeakebay.net).

Communications Office:

On April 20, the Communications Office kicked off its new monthly public webinar series by providing an overview of the benefits of native plants and pollinators. A recording of the webinar can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/CmREfDQ02Fk>. The May webinar, held on May 17, featured wetlands.

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