

MINUTES

Welcome Introduction and Updates – Bill Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)

STAR Leadership gave an introduction and requested updates from the Goal Implementation Teams and STAR WGs.

Discussion and Questions

- Maintain Healthy Watershed GIT – Produced map of state identified healthy watersheds and with protected lands data layer.
 - Map is available on the Chesapeake Stat site.
 - Thanks to GIS and Stat Teams.
- Habitat GIT – Conowingo Dam Policy WG has been formed – USGS, USACE, and USFWS are some of the partners are involved.
 - This WG will take the output from the LSWRA and narrow the options down and investigate the costs.
- Modeling WG – Workshop proposal to STAC for Conowingo Dam.
- Indicator WG – Releasing updated reducing pollution indicators based on the 2012 Progress Run data next week. Also, recently released the underwater bay grass data and phytoplankton data (VA only).
 - Part of the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) data release, there was the release of the [interactive map tool](#).
- Follow-up from STAR Toxic Contaminants Meeting
 - An action team will be formed to come up with an outcome for toxic contaminants for the new Bay Agreement. The task of the action team will be to investigate existing programs that address toxic contaminants and determine gaps that the Chesapeake Bay Program could fill.
 - The Chesapeake Bay Foundation released a report on the effects of toxic contaminants on fish in the Susquehanna.
- **ACTION:** STAR will schedule a meeting to discuss the implementations and plan considering the budget cut to monitoring.

Communications Discussion – All

STAR discussed communication ideas including upcoming reports, studies, and videos to recommend to the Communications Workgroup.

Discussion and Questions

- USGS Science [summary on sea level rise](#).
 - Release: May 2013
 - Contact: Scott Phillips

- USGS is working with MDNR and USFWS to release a [fact sheet on yellow perch reproduction](#).
 - Release: July 2013
 - Contact: Scott Phillips

Brook Trout Indicator Status Update – Jeff Horan and Jennifer Griener

[Attachment A](#)

[Attachment B](#)

Jeff Horan and Jennifer Griener updated STAR on the status of the brook trout indicator.

Discussion and Questions

- **ACTION:** STAR members should review the presentation and white paper and send comments on the revised outcome to Jennifer Griener and Jeff Horan before May 16th, 2013.

Lessons Learned Update – Liza Hernandez and Christina Lyerly

[Attachment C](#)

Liza Hernandez and Christina Lyerly presented the Lessons Learned Report, which is a review of a management lessons learned on BMP effectiveness developed by the tidal and nontidal monitoring teams.

Discussion and Questions

- Lesson 6 comment: Consider NRCS Priority watersheds for targeting – This also considered areas where there were highest nitrogen and phosphorus loads to the bay.
 - Information is available on Chesapeake Stat.
- Lesson 2 comment: Should also consider rotational grazing and not just completely fenced-out livestock.
 - CBF Cost Effective Study on Livestock Rotation Grazing that could be useful.
- Upgraded wastewater treatment plants still had a major issue with illegal hook up.
- For the Pocomoke study, should mention that the study was conducted pre-phytase.
- German branch study is a dated study and the picture has changed since then.
- Are the case studies all published reports?
 - Peer reviewed journals articles, published reports, and presentations.
- Who is the targeted audience? How will you target them? Do you need help with the marketing strategy and outreach?
 - Tasked to produce this for water-quality managers, but a boarder audience may also be interested.
 - **ACTION:** Work with WQGIT at the Mid May Conference Call
 - **ACTION:** Present dissemination plan to STAR at the May Meeting

Report Card Update – Bill Dennison

Bill Dennison presented the Water Quality Report Card for the Chesapeake Bay.

Discussion and Questions

- The [2012 Bay Report Card](#) will be released in May 2013.

USGS Local Scale Watershed Study – John Clune

[Attachment D](#)

John Clune presented the USGS study of residence time, chemical and isotopic analysis of nitrate in the groundwater and surface water of a small agricultural watershed in the Coastal Plain, Bucks Branch, Sussex County, Delaware.

Measuring cover crop performance in the Eastern Shore landscape – W. Dean Hively, USGS Eastern Geographic Science Center

[Attachment E](#)

Winter cover crops can play a critical role in conserving nutrients and sediment, but their performance is variable, depending on the land, farming techniques, and the weather. What makes a successful cover crop? For the past six years Dean has worked in collaboration with the USDA-ARS and the Maryland Department of Agriculture to develop methods for using satellite remote sensing to evaluate the performance of winter cover crops. At this IAN lunchtime seminar, Dean presented some observations from the Eastern Shore, and discussed the role of cover crops in sustainable agricultural systems.

Discussion and Questions

- Could study the effect of successive years of cover crops with this data.
- Estimating the amount of nutrients being applied to the soil. Options for improving assumptions:
 - Work with others like John Clune to make better assumptions about the nutrient management by farm type.
 - Site specific data working with farmers.
 - Comparing estimated yield and actual yield.
- Consider treating cover crops differently for dairy farms vs. poultry farms and other farms.
- Must identify farming practices and individual farmers that are using cover crops effectively in their communities and increase the communication of this information to others.

PARTICIPANTS

| Last Name | First Name | Affiliation | Email |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------|--|
| Dennison | Bill | UMCES/STAR Chair | dennison@umces.edu |
| Bennett | Mark | USGS/STAR Vice Chair | mrbenet@usgs.gov |
| Tango | Peter | USGS/CBPO/STAR Coordinator | ptango@chesapeakebay.net |
| Pruzinsky | Amanda | CRC/CBPO/STAR Staffer | apruzinsky@chesapeakebay.net |
| Rubin | Lea | CRC/CBPO/STAR Staffer | lrubin@chesapeakebay.net |
| Buckley | Patricia | PADEP | pbuckley@state.pa.us |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| Burnett | Anna-Stuart | CRC/CBPO | aburnett@chesapeakebay.net |
| Clune | John | USGS | jclune@usgs.gov |
| Cropper | James | Northeast Pasture Consortium | jbcropper@yahoo.com |
| Fritz | Mike | US EPA/CBPO | fritz.mike@epa.gov |
| Greiner | Jennifer | USFWS/CBPO | jennifer_greiner@fws.gov |
| Hernandez | Liza | UMCES/CBPO | lhernandez@chesapeakebay.net |
| Hively | Dean | USGS | whively@usgs.gov |
| Horan | Jeff | USFWS/Habitat GIT | jeff_horan@fws.gov |
| Horsey | Beth | MD Dep of Agriculture | horseyea@mda.state.md.us |
| Johnson | Jackie | ICPRB/CBPO | jjohnson@chesapeakebay.net |
| Land | Mike | NPS | mland@chesapeakebay.net |
| Ley | Mary Ellen | USGS/CBPO | mley@chesapeakebay.net |
| Lyerly | Christina | UMCES | clyerly@umces.edu |
| Mallonee | Mike | ICPRB | mmallone@chesapeakebay.net |
| Martin | Hannah | CRC/CBPO | martin.hannah@epa.gov |
| Michael | Bruce | MDNR | bmichael@dnr.state.md.us |
| Phillips | Scott | USGS | swphilli@usgs.gov |
| Ristow | Aaron | USC | aaronristow@tcsacd.org |
| Saacke-Blunk | Kristen | Headwaters LLC | Kristen@headwaters-LLC.org |
| Shenk | Gary | EPA/CBPO | shenk.gary@epa.gov |
| Staver | Ken | | kstaver@umd.edu |
| Stephens | Guy | UMCES | gstephens@chesapeakebay.net |
| Sweeney | Jeff | US EPA | jsweeney@chesapeakebay.net |
| Sylvester | Nita | EPA/CBPO | sylvester.nita@epa.gov |
| Valente | Jenna | CRC/Communications WG | jvalente@chesapeakebay.net |
| Vogt | Bruce | NOAA | Bruce.Vogt@noaa.gov |
| Walsh | Brianne | UMCES | bwalsh@umces.edu |
| Weinberg | Howard | UMCES | hweinber@chesapeakebay.net |
| Wicks | Caroline | UMCES | cwicks@umces.edu |
| Wolf | John | USGS/CBPO | jwolf@chesapeakebay.net |
| Zinecker | Elizabeth | USGS/CBPO | bzinecker@chesapeakebay.net |