

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

Under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

Last updated: January 2021

The Chesapeake Bay Program has been engaged in climate change-related activities for some time, see the 2008 Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) report “Climate Change and the Chesapeake Bay: State-of-the-Science-Review and Recommendations”. Several years later the [2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) was signed placing a new emphasis on combating climate change within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. As a result the current Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) was formed. The following outlines the mission, scope of work, partners, and key actions of this workgroup.

Mission

- Increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.
 - Continually monitor and assess the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects.
 - Continually pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.

Scope of Work

- Assess past and future trends in sea level, precipitation patterns, temperature and ecosystem response to climate change
- Develop a research agenda to improve understanding of climate impacts and fill critical data and research gaps
- Undertake public, stakeholder and local engagement to increase understanding of climate change impacts
- Address the design and function of Best Management Practices (BMPs) under a new climate reality
- Implement and track priority adaptation actions, their effectiveness and ecological response and lessons learned
- Continually increase knowledge about the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed from the impacts of coastal erosion, inland and urban flooding, more intense and frequent storms and sea level rise
- Address the institutional capacity of the Chesapeake Bay Program to prepare for and respond to climate change
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Workgroup Roles and Membership

The workgroup includes core members and interested parties. Both groups receive updates and upcoming meeting information, and both groups are invited to attend workgroup meetings. The core membership will set the priorities of the work group, develop the annual work plan, and attend the workgroup meetings regularly, while interested parties will provide input relevant to their area of expertise, and should review agendas for upcoming meetings to decide their participation based on the issues or indicators to be discussed.

- Chair: Provides leadership to the workgroup, assists with strategic planning, running meetings, and making decisions on workgroup priorities, engages with STAR leadership on priorities and resource needs, and represents CRWG priorities and actions to GITs and other CBP entities as needed.
- Vice Chair: Participates as a member of the workgroup's leadership team and assists chair and coordinator with strategic planning, running meetings, and making decisions on workgroup priorities.
- Coordinator: Delegate/coordinate tasks with staffers and CRWG workgroup members to make progress on workplan actions, facilitate workgroup meetings, work with staffers to maintain/update workgroup roster when needed, coordinate activities of the workgroup (e.g., GIT-funded projects, SRS process, requests to and from workgroup members), manage project activities when needed, facilitate and coordinate cross-workgroup requests and activities, present on workgroup activities when needed, and check in with chairs to assess priorities and progress.
- Staffer: Assist in organizing workgroup meetings and provide support on workgroup actions.
- Core Member: Attend workgroup meetings, participate in smaller teams to assist with CRWG-supported projects and efforts, identify collaborative opportunities between the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership and your organization, and share information and knowledge.
- Interested Party: only interested in receiving emails with workgroup updates and learning and sharing information during workgroup meetings.
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Core membership is needed to fulfill the following roles:

- Jurisdictional representation
- Thought leaders on workgroup actions: assist with developing project proposals, lead smaller teams to assist with CRWG-supported projects and efforts, attend workgroup meetings and update workgroup on progress.
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Support

- Communications Director: use stories to connect different indicators. Make sure the workgroup is aware of what different audiences are looking to understand from Partnership indicators and progress. Advise the workgroup on ways to best communicate indicator updates.

Commented [1]: I'll work on filling this out more. We have a lot of additional needs regarding membership roles than the indicator workgroup.

Commented [2]: Add other GIT/workgroup support team

- Cross-GIT Coordinator: make better connections and facilitate better storytelling across the Program. Advise workgroup on participation in biennial review process.
- STAR Analyst: support the workgroup and WG leads. Contribute expertise.
- STAR Coordinator: connect workgroup and WG leads developing new indicators with science providers through STAR. Find experts and provide in house support for indicator development. Build the capacity of the Program.
- Wetlands Workgroup Representative
- SAV Workgroup Representative
- Forestry Workgroup Representative
- Fisheries GIT Representative
- WQGIT Representative
- Habitat GIT Representative
- Local Leadership Representative
- LGAC Representative
- DEIJ Representative

Operating Principles

[Add plan for workgroup meetings. Do we want to include a strategy that utilizes small teams that are addressing specific actions and reporting out to the workgroup?]

[Add how we plan to move forward in supporting other workgroups (e.g., consulting/advisory role)]

[Add how we plan to support partnership organizations]

GIT coordinators and staffers may not attend every meeting but are important members of the workgroup. They bring experience in developing and managing indicators within their goal team to share with other GITs through this workgroup. They will also supply the content for stories that link indicators across goals and outcomes. GIT coordinators and staffers will participate in workgroup meetings according to the agenda topics for each meeting.

Other interested parties include Communications Workgroup leadership, indicator data providers, STAR leadership, academic institutions, multiple Non-Governmental Organizations, and various local governments.

Commented [3]: We'll need to add this section for our workgroup given the amount of climate support requests we get.

Partners of the Workgroup

Commented [4]: See if there are external partners to include in this list, like MARISA and VIMS, etc.

Do we add all the GITs?

STAC: uses its reach of scientific and technical experts to advise on and address Partnership information needs; advise on adaptive management; and provide guidance or advice to bring the best possible science to bear on identified issues.

STAR: discuss and prioritize WG needs and provide input on the workplan of the Climate Resiliency workgroup. Identify science providers and facilitate science expertise and a connection to other related STAR workgroups. Provide a forum for the Climate Resiliency workgroup to seek input from GIT Coordinators and Staffers.