



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Conference Call
April 9, 2015**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Apr 7-9	Chesapeake Stormwater Partners Retreat (Shepherdstown, W.V.)
Apr 16	Advanced on-site/septic system agreement signing ceremony
Apr 17	ECC Earth Day event (WDC)
Apr 22-24	Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Quarterly Review
Apr 28	Goal Implementation Team Chairs Meeting
Apr 30	End public input on Management Strategies
May 14	Management Board full day meeting
May 21-22	LGAC/CAC Quarterly Meeting
May 26	GIT Chairs meeting
May 28	Management Board Meeting (Annapolis)
June 2	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
June 16	1 year anniversary of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement signing

Program Updates

RFP for Coordinating GIT Funding

On April 6, the CBPO announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for applicants to provide a proposal for establishing and administering a program to support projects proposed by the CBP's Goal Implementation Teams, designated Work Groups, and Action Teams to meet their responsibilities, targets, outcomes and goals under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

A copy of the RFP may be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/region3/chesapeake/grants/RFP15-03.pdf>

Watershed Agreement Management Strategies released for public comment

On March 16, the CBP partners released the draft Management Strategies for public comment on the Chesapeake Bay Program website. The CBP executive director and several Goal Implementation Team chairs participated in a well-attended media call to give highlights found in each management strategy. At the request of the CBP Principals' Staff Committee and several interested environmental groups, the public comment period will be extended to 45 days, ending on April 30. The final Management Strategies are expected to be completed by June 30.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale: (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

2014 Federal Executive Order Progress Report

On March 25, the 2014 Executive Order Progress Report was accepted as final by OMB/CEQ and was posted to the EO website. The report includes achievements from Fiscal Year 2014, specific actions to be carried out by federal agencies in 2015, as well as highlights of federal efforts since the issuance of President Obama's EO 13508 in 2009. This report will be the final report exclusive to the federal agencies. Annual progress reporting will now be captured as part of tracking the progress of meeting the

goals of the state and federal Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

Environment Virginia Symposium

On March 31-April 2, a contingent of CBPO staff, including CBPO Deputy Director Jim Edward, gave presentations and took part in panels as part of a "Chesapeake Bay" track at the Environment Virginia Symposium in Lexington, Va. Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay and Ann Swanson, Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Commission, provided an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the development of management strategies at the symposium. Jim Edward discussed Federal Facility participation and reporting as they relate to Virginia's WIP planning and milestones as well as Chesapeake Bay Program funding. Additional Chesapeake Bay related presentations were given on: Midpoint Assessment; Virginia TMDL/WIP Progress and Milestones; and Oyster Restoration. Additional details about the annual conference are available at:

http://www.vmi.edu/Conferences/EV/Environment_Virginia/

Contact: Jim Edward, edward.james@epa.gov

Chesapeake Stormwater Partners Retreat

A contingent of CBP staff gave presentations and took part in discussions with stakeholders as part of the annual Chesapeake Stormwater Partners Retreat, April 7-9. The retreat sponsored by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, brought together more than 100 leading stormwater professionals from the local, state, federal, academic and NGO sectors in an informal and non-confrontational setting. The focus was to learn and collaborate on new techniques and concepts that have the potential to improve stormwater programs on the ground in the seven states and over 2,000 communities across the Bay watershed. CBP Director, Nick DiPasquale, gave welcome remarks to the group, and took part in the awards ceremony for the Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award (BUBBA) contest. CBP Associate Director for Science, Rich Batiuk, was part of a panel titled *Getting Ready for Urban BMP Verification*, and CBP Implementation and Evaluation Team Leader, Katherine Antos, was on the panel titled *Getting the MOST (Municipal On-line Stormwater Tool) Out of It*.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

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.

The Local Government Advisory Committee is assisting the Water Quality GIT's Land Use Workgroup by notifying local governments about the opportunity to review land use data for the Phase 6 Model. LGAC will be sending letters to all local jurisdictions who submitted data to the Bay Program, thanking them for providing the data and encouraging them to review the data for accuracy once it is released. LGAC is coordinating with states and other agencies such as the Virginia Geographic Information Network to ensure that all local governments are aware of the opportunity to review land use data. LGAC is also helping make local governments aware of the opportunity to provide input on Management Strategies by sharing the information through member's affiliated organizations. LGAC's Coordinator hosted a panel of elected officials at the annual Stormwater Partners Retreat in Shepherdstown. LGAC is hosting two additional panels in Pennsylvania in April.

LGAC's next meeting will be held on May 20-21 in Harrisburg, PA. Several members will be attending the Choose Clean Water Conference in advance of the meeting. For additional information, please contact Mary Gattis at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties e-mail distribution list, please contact Amy Robins at arobins@allianceforthebay.org.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.

CAC will be holding their next quarterly meeting in Harrisburg, PA. On Thursday, May 21 they will be meeting with LGAC and hosting a panel discussion about Land Use.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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.

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY 2015 on June 9-10, 2015 at an undetermined location in Williamsburg, Virginia. If you plan to attend this meeting, please send an RSVP to Renee Kelly at KellyR@si.edu.

STAC held a workshop at the end of March. Information regarding that workshop is below.

- 1) *Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?* - The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requires significant reductions in nutrient and sediment runoff from new- and re-developed land, as well as restoration goals for existing developed land. In both cases, these goals can be met through a variety of nonstructural and structural treatment practices commonly known as best management practices or BMPs. Manufactured treatment devices (MTDs) are structural BMPs that are typically proposed for ultra-urban or other high density developments. Verifying the performance of MTDs can be difficult and protocols for their evaluations are evolving. The outcome of this workshop will seek to provide recommendations on the shape and function of a Baywide MTD evaluation program. The workshop will take place on March 24, 2015 at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) offices.

STAC is supporting one more workshop prior to the end of its fiscal year (May 31, 2015). Details regarding that workshop are below.

- 2) *Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making* - The workshop objectives are (1) to assess the relative skill of multiple linked hydrodynamic/water quality models in terms of their ability to reproduce observations of multiple variables at select shallow water sites in the Bay; (2) to compare the modeled Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) computed from an empirical SAV model for each participating hydrodynamic/water quality model; and (3) to compare results of nutrient reduction strategies applied to these multiple estuarine models at these select sites. The workshop will take place on May 20, 2015 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

FY15 Workshop Proposals Rankings: The STAC Executive Board met on Tuesday, April 7th to discuss the workshop proposal rankings from STAC's March quarterly meeting. STAC will announce the workshops it will support in mid-April. Stay tuned.

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit that STAC workshop webpage at http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

STAC is in the process of finalizing five workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few months.

- 1) Management Effects on Water Quality Trends.
- 2) Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects in the Chesapeake Bay.
- 3) Exploring Applications of Behavioral Economics Research to Environmental Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- 4) Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals.
- 5) Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities.

In addition, STAC distributed a workshop report entitled "The Peculiarities of Pervious Cover: A Research Synthesis on Allocating Pollutant Loads to Urban Land Uses in the Chesapeake Bay" on March 26, 2015. The purpose of this report is to ensure that a scientifically credible approach is taken to develop urban land use/cover data to inform the suite of Chesapeake Bay Program models and accounting systems. As always, the report can be found on the STAC publications database at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/333_Sample2015.pdf.

Finally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The ~11 remaining reviews will take place between now and 2016. The STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 mid-point assessment.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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.

- Management strategy teams will convene in mid-April to review public comments so far and make necessary edits to the draft strategies.
- The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) and the blue crab management jurisdictions are working to finalize the draft terms of reference (TORs) that will guide the next blue crab benchmark stock assessment, which is currently scheduled to be complete in late 2016/early 2017. The final TORs will affect how much funding will be necessary to complete the assessment.
- GIT staff and the Executive Committee are planning the next semiannual full Fisheries GIT meeting: June 1-2, 2015 at CBF's Brock Center in Virginia Beach, VA. The meeting will cover multiple topics

including climate change impacts on fish species, updates on EPA-GIT funding projects, and the 2015 Blue Crab Advisory Report.

- The STAC Forage Workshop chairs Tom Ihde (STAC member) and Ed Houde (Chesapeake Biological Lab) are finalizing the workshop report and recommendations. The next step will be a final review by the full STAC membership.
- The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will have their next monthly conference call on Monday, May 18th.

Contact: Bruce Vogt, bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

No new updates.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.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.

Land Segmentation Update

The WQGIT approved the recommended updates to the land segments in the Watershed Model based upon improved line work and precipitation data. The recommendations had been approved by the Modeling Workgroup in January.

High Resolution Land Cover Data

The WQGIT received an update on the efforts to acquire a high resolution land cover data set for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The group discussed the timeline for the project and its potential impacts on the Midpoint Assessment schedule.

BMP Panel Protocol

The WQGIT began to discuss proposed revisions to the BMP Panel Protocol document. Proposed revisions were generally focused on issues related to unintended consequences, conflicts of interest/panel composition, and BMP verification. The WQGIT will conduct a more detailed discussion on the BMP Panel Protocol at their April 13th Face-to-Face meeting. Members have until April 30th to submit feedback on the proposed revisions.

Agriculture Workgroup

The WQGIT received a briefing of action and decision items that resulted from the March Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) meeting. Official panel charges were approved for five of the new Agriculture BMP panels: Phase 6.0 Nutrient Management; Phase 6.0 Manure Injection/Incorporation; Phase 6.0 Conservation Tillage; Phase 6.0 Cover Crops; and Animal Waste Management Systems. Additionally, the AgWG approved the Poultry Litter Subcommittee (PLS) report and the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee's Phase 6 agriculture land uses. The WQGIT will be asked to approve the PLS report during their April 13th Face-to-Face meeting.

Monitoring Report Briefings

The WQGIT received an update from UMCES on the new maps developed to show water quality trends in tidal waters. They also received a briefing on a conceptual approach for integrating multiple sources of information to investigate drivers of water quality changes that was presented by USGS at the AGU conference in December.

Upcoming WQGIT Topics for April 13 Face-to-Face Meeting

- The WQGIT has scheduled a full-day, interim face-to-face meeting on April 13th at CBPO in Annapolis.
- The WQGIT will reach a decision regarding the formation of an Oyster BMP expert panel.
- The WQGIT will discuss BMP Panel Protocol revisions in greater detail and work to resolve any concerns.
- The WQGIT will hear a presentation on optimization and its potential usefulness for TMDL planning.
- The WQGIT will receive a progress report on the effort to establish a protocol for developing federal facility targets.
- The WQGIT will receive an update on the revised land use loading targets for the approved Phase 6 land use categories.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Expert Panel Establishment Group reports for the new Agriculture BMP Panels and the proposal for approving expert panel recommendations pre- and post- October 2015.
- The WQGIT will receive an update on the climate change analyses underway and discuss next steps for collecting data on local impoundments.
- The WQGIT will discuss current progress towards the Midpoint Assessment. They will review the current timeline and the key decisions that have been made over the past several months.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Toxics Program

The Toxic Contaminants Workgroup released two management strategies for public input in March and will make appropriate updates and revisions to the document until the strategies are finalized. The workgroup also submitted a proposal for a STAC sponsored workshop that will focus on high resolution PCB monitoring techniques.

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.

Citizen Stewardship

A subset of the Citizen Stewardship Outcome Team met on Monday, March 16th to kick-off the development of an index that will provide a metric(s) for the citizen stewardship outcome. This group will meet again on April 27th. At this meeting a rough framework for an indicator will be shared, research and examples from related work will be presented, and priorities to shape the Chesapeake

Citizen Stewardship Indicator will be discussed. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy

The Education Workgroup Leadership Team met on April 6th. The focus of this meeting was the implementation of the Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) for the 2014-2015 baseline. The full education workgroup will meet on May 8th to discuss public comments on the Environmental Literacy Management Strategy. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access

The Public Access team is continuing to make progress on the Public Access site development Management Strategy and Workplan. For more information please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov.

Land Conservation

The Partnership's Steering Committee convened in late March to identify priority actions for 2015-2016. Potential actions include developing a priority map for land conservation that reflects shared resource values, pursuing the development of a mitigation strategy to minimize the impact of infrastructure development on conserved lands, and strong advocacy for Rivers of the Chesapeake LWCF funding and other funding and policies. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in late April to finalize goals and designate appropriate work groups to advance key priorities. For more information on the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership contact Kate_Baker@partner.nps.gov.

LandScope

Landscape is continuing outreach to update existing data layers and expand its data layer inventory. For more information or to contribute maps to landscape please contact the LandScope Chesapeake Team at LandScope_ContactUs@naturereserve.org
Contact: Amy Handen, ahanden@chesapeakebay.net

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.

Governance Document:

The Goal Team has formed an Action Team to develop revision recommendations to present to the Management Board. Since the PSC accepted the Governance Document as an interim version in July 2014, the Goal Team has been collecting issues to address in the next version of the document. The ad hoc Action Team developed options and recommendations for addressing these issues, with consideration and input from the full Goal Team, Coordinators and Staffers from the other GITs, and the GIT Chairs.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@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.

No new updates.

Contact: Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

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.

Editorial Calendar:

April

- 4.2(Thurs.) Chesapeake Currents/Blog post: Elizabeth River Project
- 4.2(Thurs.) News post: Peculiarities of previous cover (STAC report)
- 4.6(Mon.) News post: EO progress report
- 4.8(Wed.) Photo Essay: Microplastics
- 4.14(Tues.) List: Species affected by climate change

TBD

- News post: Reducing pollution indicator
- News post: Shad abundance
- Video: From the Field: CBIBS buoys
- Photo Essay: Vernal pools
- Photo Essay: Green Building Design (CBF Brock Env. Center, Hampton Rds)
- Restoration Spotlight: Chesapeake Bay Studies Program at the Gunston School

Other Updates:

- The Reducing Pollution Indicator will be released on April 6th at 1:00pm with speakers including Joel Bloomquist, Jen Volk, and Katherine Antos.
- Executive Council Planning Team meetings have begun and are slated for Wednesday afternoons at 3:00.

Press/Media Inquiries

MPT – Chesapeake Bay Summit during Bay Week

- Update on conversation with Mike English re: panel for summit.
- Still working with Laura Lutz, other producer, as needed on data/fact support.

Background: MPT Focuses On Chesapeake Bay - 3/17 - "Chesapeake Bay Summit: Charting A Course" on Tuesday, April 21 at 8 PM.

- Moderated by Frank Sesno, the program will focus on creating a list of what 'out of the box' solutions are needed to get to a clean Bay. We have all the frameworks in place (EO, Agreement, TMDL), what else is needed? Intent is not to focus on the negative but the future/positive and get to some new thinking. Impediments to restoration will be touched on but intent is to not stay on those.
- The summit will focus on 2 topics (30 minutes each) – Nutrients & Sustainability

- Panelists: Don Boesch, Tim Wheeler, Kim Coble (CBF), Lynne Hoot (MD Grain Producers Utilization Board), Rena Steinzer (Center for Progressive Reform), Adam Ortiz (Prince Georges Co. Public Works), Joel Dunn (Chesapeake Conservancy)

NETtv – Brooklyn – Amanda Brier

CBP Interviews for faith-based documentary special in anticipation of the Pope's forthcoming encyclical on environment, which will focus on the responsibilities as caretakers of Earth, as well as the impact that our habits have on our environment. The documentary focus is on conservation, preventing further climate change, and reversing a "disposable" culture.

Interviews will be end of April. After reading MS's and Agreement, they'd like speakers on the following:

- Stream Health & The Watershed -- how tributaries affect the overall health of the Bay
- Runoff Pollution/Over-riching Waterways - what it does to the Bay & how we are working to prevent it
- Climate Change - how are we working to prepare for rising waters, and what could this mean for the Bay.
- Restoration of Wetlands/Natural Habitats -- including proactively preserving those in stable health.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

April 9	Management Board Conference Call
March 31-April 2	Environment Virginia Symposium (Lexington, Va.)
March 24	Goal Implementation Team Chairs Meeting
March 16	CBWA Management Strategies out for public comment
March 12	Management Board Conference Call
March 12	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
March 10-11	STAC (Annapolis, MD)
Mar 5-6	LGAC meeting (Winchester, VA)
Mar 1	NY/PA/VA Animal Ag Program Assessments