



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Conference Call
February 12, 2015**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Feb 18	PSC meeting (Washington, D.C.)
Feb 19-20	CAC meeting (Staunton, Va.)
Feb (TBD)	EO Progress Report release
Mar 1	NY/PA/VA Animal Ag Program Assessments
Mar 5-6	LGAC meeting (Winchester, VA)
March 10-11	STAC (Annapolis, MD)
Mar 16	CBWA Management Strategies out for public comment
Mar 31-Apr 2	Environment Virginia Symposium (Lexington, Va.)
Apr 7-9	Chesapeake Stormwater Partners Retreat (Shepherdstown, W.V.)

Program Updates

2014 CBP Bay Barometer

On February 3, the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership released its annual “Bay Barometer.” This year’s report describes a Bay that is still impaired, but an ecosystem that is in recovery. While the watershed continues to struggle against development, pollution and other challenges, a handful of the environmental indicators presented—including American shad, striped bass and underwater grass abundance—have shown signs of resilience. Still scientists have seen no significant changes in the last decade of water quality monitoring data and a sizeable drop in the abundance of blue crabs.

Communities have continued to reduce the nutrient and sediment pollution that has long plagued the Bay, and some living resources have improved in the face of challenges. Underwater grass acreage has risen 24 percent, American shad have continued to return to their Potomac River spawning grounds and the relative abundance of young striped bass in both Maryland and Virginia waters has recovered from the low numbers seen in 2012.

By tracking changes in this data over time, scientists can better understand ecological patterns and the long-term effects of our restoration work. There was extensive news coverage of the release and a news post on the partnership website.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, 410-267-5470, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Water Quality Standards Achievement indicator release

On January 23, the CBP partnership released the 2011-2013 data for the Water Quality Standards Achievement and held a media call with officials from USGS who compiled the data. As with all partnership indicator data, the WQSA findings were posted to the partnership website (www.chesapeakebay.net), along with a partnership news post detailing the findings. This indicator measures progress towards the achievement of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/underwater bay grasses and chlorophyll-*a* for each 3-year assessment period beginning in 1985.

The data shows a positive trend in the long term, however the short term shows a slight decrease from 30.93% in the previous period (2010-2012) to 28.93% of the Bay's tidal segments in attainment, due primarily to losses in bay grasses following severe weather events during the most recent 3-year period. Findings are mixed, with some monitoring sites showing increases and others showing declines and still others showing no significant change, both in the long-term and the short-term trends.

Contact: Peter Tango, (410) 267-9875, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

Bay Backpack Re-launched

The Chesapeake Bay Program's *Bay Backpack*, a website for environmental educators in the region, was recently re-launched with a new design, making it even easier for teachers to find resources that bring the Bay and its surrounding lands into their classrooms. Teachers and educators can use the site's updated design to find more than 750 lesson plans, books, curriculum guides and other teaching resources that are grouped into themed collections—including Bay animals and habitats, people and culture, Earth system science, land use and water quality. An interactive map of nearly 350 field studies allows teachers to search by location, grade level and subject matter to find hands-on learning opportunities outside the classroom. Bay Backpack also continues to provide a catalog of professional development and funding opportunities that support environmental education efforts, and the new responsive design means users can easily access resources on both desktop and mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets.

Additional information: <http://baybackpack.com/>

CBP Director at Chesapeake Bay Bowl

CBP Director Nick DiPasquale served as the keynote speaker during the lunch event for the 18th annual Chesapeake Bay Bowl on February 7 at George Mason University. The Chesapeake Bay Bowl is a regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. High school students from Maryland, Delaware, southeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. are eligible to participate. Teams of 4-5 participants answer questions based on the marine sciences in a quick answer timed format and more complex team challenge questions.

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 meeting in Winchester VA March 5-6, 2015. The meeting will include an opportunity to gather input/feedback from LGAC on engaging local governments in achieving Outcomes.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@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 Citizens Advisory Committee will hold a quarterly meeting in Staunton, VA on Feb 19-20. CAC will meet with VA Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources; learn about the City of Staunton's partnership with a local watershed group to install stormwater projects in the city; discuss agriculture in Virginia, including hosting a panel of three local farmers; hear and discuss updates from the Bay Program and the Management Strategies; and discuss CAC's priorities and work plan.

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 fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2014 on March 10-11, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan to attend this meeting, please send an RSVP to Renee Kelly at KellyR@si.edu. STAC is currently planning two workshops that will take place before May 31, 2015. The workshops are listed below.

- 1) *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).
- 2) *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.

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 six 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) The Peculiarities of Pervious Cover: A Research Synthesis on Allocating Pollutant Loads to Urban Land Use in the Chesapeake Bay.

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

Finally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The 10 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 are working to finalize drafts by March 2nd. The blue crab and oyster teams are reviewing complete drafts and working to fill final content gaps. The forage and fish habitat teams have been meeting to flesh out their management approaches, current efforts/gaps and factors influencing which are now being integrated into complete drafts.
- The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) has developed a draft list of terms of reference (TORs) to guide the next blue crab benchmark stock assessment. After the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee provides input, CBSAC will meet in early March to finalize the TORs and begin more in-depth planning for the assessment, which is currently scheduled to be complete in late 2016/early 2017.
- The STAC Forage Workshop chairs Tom Ihde (STAC member) and Ed Houde (Chesapeake Biological Lab) as well as the rest of the steering committee are working on the final workshop report and recommendations. They hope to have a finalized report this spring after the STAC review process.
- The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will have their next monthly conference call on Monday, February 23rd.

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.

- The Habitat GIT is focused on developing the Management Strategies to support the six habitat outcomes in the new Agreement as well as the Fish Habitat outcome with the Fisheries GIT.
- Fish Passage Outcome: (POC: Mary Andrews, NOAA—Fish Passage Workgroup Chair) The initial management strategy draft was sent to the Fish Passage Workgroup for comments by Dec 31.

The team reviewed the comments, revised the draft and sent to the interested parties for comments by February 20th.

- SAV Outcome: (POC: N/A) The draft has been developed based on previous strategy documents however there is no official POC to coordinate review. The Habitat GIT has solicited over 12 individuals to chair the SAV Workgroup and take lead on the final steps of the drafting process and received no response. The Habitat GIT requests that the MB or PSC assign someone to fill this role. Meanwhile, Lee Karrh (former workgroup chair) sent the draft to workgroup members for review and GIT is revising the draft based on comments.
- Wetland Outcome: (POC: Erin McLaughlin, MDNR—Wetland Workgroup Co-Chair) The management strategy is currently in development and the drafting team is reviewing workgroup comments received on an initial outline. A revised draft is pending.
- Brook Trout: (POC: Steve Perry, EBTJV—Action Team Lead) The management strategy is currently in development and the drafting team is requesting and reviewing comments received on an initial draft. A revised draft is pending.
- Stream Health: (POC: Neely Law, CWP—Stream Health Workgroup Co-Chair) The management strategy is current in development and several drafting team meetings were held. The draft was shared with the Stream Health workgroup and comments will be addressed and incorporated into the strategy.
- Black Duck: (POC: Lacy Alison, FWS Mig Bird Div.—Action Team Lead) The initial drafting team call was on December 17th and a working session was held on Jan 28th. A revised draft is pending.

President Obama's proposed fiscal year 2016 budget was released on Monday and includes nearly \$38 million dollars to fund land conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. If fully appropriated, this funding could conserve up to 7,500 acres.

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.

Process for Phase 6 Agricultural BMP Expert Panels

The WQGIT approved the Agriculture Workgroup's proposed process for launching Phase 6 BMP expert panels including the development of the charge, scope, timeline, and identification of the needed expertise and leadership, and the mechanisms through which future expert panels are staffed and supported. This process does not depart from the WQGIT's Protocol for the Development, Review, and Approval of Loading and Effectiveness Estimates for Nutrient and Sediment Controls in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.

FY15 WIP Assistance Funding

WIP Assistance Funds are available to the Bay watershed jurisdictions to provide programmatic, technical, and resource support towards high priority needs that can be directly linked to implementation of the jurisdictions' Phase II WIPs, meeting their two-year milestones, and/or addressing related midpoint assessment needs under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. In 2015, these funds will be directed at providing support for jurisdictions' efforts to enhance existing and develop new BMP

verification procedures and programs, document those procedures and programs, and clean up their historical BMP data. WQGIT members agreed to submit proposals for WIP Assistance funding by February 13, 2015.

Midpoint Assessment Project Plan & Website

A Project Plan has been developed by TetraTech and CBPO to lay out and track all the tasks, deliverables, and timelines for the priorities under the midpoint assessment. The CBP partnership will be able to view the Project Plan on the midpoint assessment website, which is currently under development. The website will house all the documentation related to the midpoint assessment – guidance documents, presentations, support documentation, etc.

Toxic Contaminants Update:

The Toxic Contaminants Workgroup continues to develop the Research and Policy and Prevention management strategies. The draft documents have been released to the full workgroup as well as the Water Quality GIT for review and comment. The Toxic Contaminants Research strategy is focused on environmental effects and identification of related knowledge gaps and the Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention strategy is focused on PCB sources and loading mechanisms and ways to add value to current PCB management programs. The workgroup continues to work towards the March 2 deadline.

Upcoming WQGIT Topics for 2/9 Call

- The Shoreline Nutrient Management expert panel report will be up for WQGIT approval at their February 9 conference call.
- Modeling Workgroup Co-Chairs, Lee Currey and Dave Montali, will provide an update on January's Modeling Subcommittee meetings.
- A revised draft of the Water Quality Management Strategy will be presented, highlighting major changes as a result of the Management Board retreat.

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

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 Citizen Stewardship team meeting will take place on February 9th. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the updated framework for describing the levels of citizen engagement and discuss how this will be used as a framework for discussing the management strategy. At the upcoming meeting, the participants will provide feedback on the factors influencing section and the management approach sections of the strategy. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy

The Education Workgroup Leadership Team met on February 2nd. The focus of this meeting was on the status of the Management Strategy Work Plan as well as planning for the Environmental Summit coming up in the Fall. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access

The Public Access Team has continued to monitor progress on the implementation of the Public Access Plan and should have a final number of new access sites in mid-February. Initial observations indicate that 2014 could be a good year for new site development throughout the watershed. Please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov for more information.

Land Conservation

The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership developed a draft Land Conservation Management Strategy. The content was primarily derived from the 5th Annual Meeting of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership held on October 3rd and. For more information on the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership contact Kate_Baker@partner.nps.gov.

LandScope

LandScope, since the launch of its Chesapeake-focused platform in 2012, has been the shared GIS system in which members of the Partnership compile data and share updates on priorities and conservation efforts throughout the watershed. This free, publicly accessible web application enables decision-makers, practitioners, and citizens within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to work together toward shared land protection goals.

Users of the LandScope Chesapeake system will now enjoy a sleeker, faster, more modern user interface with a host of upgrades. This top-to-bottom overhaul of LandScope's technical architecture presents users with a completely redesigned map viewer, as well as upgraded capabilities that improve the user experience in a variety of ways, including:

- Mapping tools that more quickly and intuitively enable LandScope's 300-plus data layers
- More map options powered by ArcGIS Online—users can search on the tag "LandScope" and combine the results with their own datasets
- iOS compatibility for LandScope's thousands of maps, videos, photos, and articles
- A more direct and dynamic system for pulling map layers from LandScope's data partners—for example, maps depicting a state's most crucial habitats

Contact the LandScope Chesapeake Team at LandScope_ContactUs@natureserve.org

if your organization has maps you would like to contribute to LandScope.

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.

Local Leadership Outcome Management Strategy:

This management strategy continues to be further developed. The drafting team is currently incorporating feedback received from the January Management Board retreat attendees as well as the Advisory Committees. Targeted outreach to key stakeholders is being conducted to gather additional input. In addition, our Local Leadership funded project has been approved and the funding awarded following a transparent review process conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Environmental Leadership Strategies, LLC of Annapolis, Maryland was awarded the work and has begun their effort.

Independent Evaluator Function and the Chesapeake Accountability and Recovery Act:

The Independent Evaluator Function Workgroup has been meeting regularly to discuss the implications of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014 on the Independent Evaluator of the Program. A process and timeline for responding to the new law is currently being developed.

Governance Document:

A log of potential revisions to be made to the draft Governance Document has been kept by GIT 6 since July 2014, and the Goal Team conducted a 6-month review of the Governance Document and log of revisions at their December 2014 meeting. Several suggested changes on the revisions log were accepted, while there were numerous items that require continued discussion. The Goal Team has formed an Action Team to develop revision recommendations to present to the Management Board. A second conference call of our Action Team is scheduled for Thursday February 12th following this MB meeting.

CBP Annual Performance Review:

Preliminary steps in planning this performance review have been initiated among Goal Team members. A subgroup under GIT6 with members from across the Partnership will likely be formed to plan the review. Ideally, the performance review will be timed with the release of the Bay Barometer and the annual EC meetings.

GIT Funding Support

GIT 6 continues to provide organizational support related to individual projects and cross-GIT assistance in relation to management strategy development. Ten different individual projects and a contract for assistance with various aspects of developing and finalizing management strategies have been initiated using FY 14 EPA funds. A similar effort is expected utilizing FY 15 EPA funds.

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.

Modeling Workgroup

Two quarterly review meetings were held in January, addressing aspects of the WQSTM and the Watershed Model. As Phase 6 model construction continues through 2015, there will be further incorporation of several factors.

- Update of the Airshed Model to the CMAQ Bidirectional Ammonia Model

- Revisions to the Watershed Model system structure and a revisiting of model calibration methods
- Refinements and updates to the WQSTM and shallow water simulations
- Continued exploration of factors associated with TMDL
 - Effects of Conowingo Infill
 - Influence of climate change on Chesapeake WQ standards and the 2010 Bay TMDL
 - Review of James River chlorophyll criteria and James River TMDL allocations
 - Influence of oyster filter feeders on water quality, with increase aquaculture and sanctuary development

In addition, the Modeling WG will continue to carry out requests by STAR that support the needs of the WQGIT and provide TMDL midpoint assessment support, and assess and explain water quality trends.

Climate Change Workgroup

Efforts of developing the climate resilience management strategy are ongoing. Both outcome groups have held drafting meetings and a combined management strategy document is currently being compiled. This document will be circulated to the entire Climate Change WG for feedback, and the workgroup will reconvene on February 18 to review comments and make revisions to the draft.

Presentation on BASIN report to the Water-Quality Goal Team

STAR provided a presentation to the Water-Quality Goal Team on the initial recommendations for the BASIN (building and sustaining integrated networks) water-quality report. The first draft is expected in March for comment. STAR is also preparing a summary of results from its Global Seminar Services on Monitoring.

Workshop Proposals to STAC

STAR is working with the Goal Teams on a variety of proposals for STAC workshops, which will be submitted in February and discussed at the March STAC meeting.

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.

The Communications team's current focus is developing messaging and a communications strategy for the release of the Management Strategies. Additionally, Bay Brief is set to be released on February 3rd.

Editorial Calendar: January

1.2(Fri.) [Restoration Spotlight: Crow's Nest](#)

- 1.5(Mon.) [News Post: CBF State of the Bay release](#)
- 1.6(Tues.) Chesapeake Currents/[Letter from Leadership](#)
- 1.8(Thurs.) [Video: Unscripted: Your wish for the Bay](#)
- 1.16(Fri.) [News post: Farm bill RCPP announcement](#)
- 1.23(Fri.) News post/Press release: [Water quality standards](#)
- 1.28(Wed.) News post: Bay backpack redesign

Jan TBD

News Post: Land Conservation Fund announcement
 Bay 101: Population

February

- 2.2(Mon.) Chesapeake Currents
- 2.3(Tues.) News post/Media release: Bay Barometer
- 2.5(Thurs.) News post: EPA Chesapeake Bay air deposition fact sheet

Feb TBD

Feature story: Master oyster shucker
 News post: USGS Eastern shore nutrient trends (expected late Feb)
 News post: EO progress report release (expected late Feb)
 Video: Unscripted: TBD
 Restoration Spotlight: Protecting land w/conservation easement (W. Va. Conservation Farm of the year)

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Jan 22 TMDL/WIP Managers' retreat
 Jan 26(tent) Bay Barometer release
 Jan 27 GIT Chairs Meeting
 Jan 28-29 Modeling Quarterly Review
 Feb 7 Chesapeake Bay Bowl (Fairfax, Va.)