

**Chesapeake Bay Program Update
Management Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012**

CBPO Calendar

Oct 8-10	Center for Watershed Protection conference (Baltimore, Md.)
Oct 20-25	Restore America's Estuaries conf (Tampa, FL.)
Oct 22-23	Water Quality GIT meeting (Carroll Valley, Pa.)
Oct 29-31	2012 Ag Network Forum (Staunton, Va.)
Oct 31	EO '13 Action Plan - public comment
Nov (TBD)	Cost analysis out for peer review
Nov 6	GIT 6 meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
Nov 20 (tent)	2013 EO Action Plan release/media
Nov 28	Habitat GIT meeting (Shepherdstown, Wv.)
Dec (TBD)	Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
Dec (TBD)	Principal Staff Committee meeting
Dec 4-5	STAC meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
Dec 6-8	Fisheries GIT meeting (Port Isobel, Va.)

Program Updates

Oral Arguments Heard in TMDL Lawsuit

On Thursday, October 4, lawyers from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Association of Home Builders along with attorneys representing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented their arguments of the pending lawsuit over the Chesapeake Bay pollution diet to the US District Court in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The farm groups and home builders asked the judge to block the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), arguing that it uses an erroneous model and infringes on state's rights. Attorneys for EPA argued that without strong federal oversight and threat of sanctions, states had repeatedly missed their pollution-reduction goals over the past 30 years. Arguments went on for more than four hours. No specific time has been set for the judge to rule on the case.

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GIT Chairs Meeting

The Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Implementation Chairs and Vice-chairs held their annual meeting on September 20 in Annapolis, Md. Much of their discussion focused on issues related to CBP alignment and governance issues including: finalizing GIT goals, implementing the CBP Decision Framework, strategic planning for future cross-GIT collaborations, solving/expediting regulatory roadblocks to restoration, enhancements for ChesapeakeStat, chair and vice-chair rotations, and partnership approvals/adoptions/endorsements of policies and products resulting from Executive Order Strategy initiatives.

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Stormwater Climate Change Impacts Workshops

EPA's Climate Change Research Program is collaborating with the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) to assist local-level planners in considering climate change impacts in stormwater management decisions. EPA and CBP will host three two-day workshops this winter, one each in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Invited participants will include local-level (county- or city-level) planners and decision makers (e.g., land use planners, engineers, water managers, stormwater managers); local researchers investigating the impacts of climate and land use changes; and representatives of selected state and federal programs related to water quality. The workshops are for the purpose of: (1) exploring the impacts of climate and land-use change in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the implications for precipitation-driven flooding, water quality, and stormwater management; (2) exploring stormwater adaptations to climate and land-use changes within specific counties, particularly green infrastructure or other low-impact development strategies; and (3) identifying information gaps and other barriers to implementation of green infrastructure or other low-impact development strategies to help control stormwater. Partners in this effort include the CBP Office, Local Government Advisory Committee, and the USGCRP.

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2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum

Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River, Jeff Corbin, and CBP Director Nick DiPasquale, gave remarks at the opening plenary session of the 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum on September 28-30 in Shepherdstown, WV. Tracks for the annual Forum, hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, included Restoration Science & Practice; Conservation and Preservation; Planning & Regulation; Organizational Development; Fundraising, Forestry and More; Communications/Advocacy; and Citizen Engagement.

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Local Government Workshop at Watershed Forum

The CBP Local Government Advisory Committee in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Chesapeake Bay Forum held a Local Government pre-conference workshop prior to the 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum. The workshop was intended to help engage and inform local government participants about topics ranging from green infrastructure and low impact development planning to innovative financing and innovative government solutions.

The CBP Local Government Advisory Committee also met on September 27-28 in Shepherdstown, WV leading into the 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum. Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator for Chesapeake Bay addressed the group regarding federal government initiatives in support of Chesapeake Bay restoration.

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Draft Executive Order 2013 Action Plan

The Chesapeake Bay Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) is now in the internal review stage of the FY2013 Action Plan, required by Executive Order 13508 on the Chesapeake Bay. The FY13 Action Plan outlines a list of next steps to be taken by Federal agencies in support of the Executive Order, based on the FY13 Presidential budget. Some initiatives are continuations of projects started in FY 2011 and 2012, others are new initiatives that build on earlier work. The Action Plan will highlight a comprehensive database of key actions and initiatives to be

accomplished in FY2012. A final draft of the plan will be shared with the Management Board prior to its planned release for public comment in late October, 2012.

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Advisory Committee Updates

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

STAC is currently planning a number of workshops for the upcoming months. These workshops include:

- 1) *Lag Times in the Watershed and their influence on Chesapeake Bay Restoration* – This workshop will be held on October 16th and 17th in Annapolis, Maryland at The Sheraton Annapolis Hotel. The workshop will investigate how lag times between implementation practices and nutrient reductions in water bodies are simulated in the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Participants will develop a set of recommendations that will guide the Chesapeake Bay Program's future consideration of lag times.
- 2) *Multiple Management Models in a Regulatory Setting* – This workshop will be held in January of 2013 at a location yet to be determined. The purpose of the workshop will be to gather stakeholders, modeling experts and regulatory experts to discuss how multiple models have been applied in management situations around the nation, and analyze whether the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort may benefit from multiple models in the future.
- 3) *Targeting Restoration of Coastal Habitat Complexes* - This workshop will be held in the Spring of 2013 at a location yet to be determined. The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (GIT) proposed a workshop to convene coastal wetland, living shoreline, black ducks, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration partners to discuss complementary targeting approaches that will facilitate the development of coastal habitat complexes.

In addition, STAC will release the workshop report titled, "Using Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay: A Shallow Water Pilot Project." on Tuesday, October 9, 2012. This report summarizes an April, 2012 STAC workshop in which participants identified a number of ways the Chesapeake Bay Program could frame a shallow water, multiple model comparison pilot project that would provide the foundation for future modeling in the productive littoral areas of the Bay and demonstrate the potential use of multiple models in routine CBP modeling activities. After the October 9 release, you can find the report and the letter to the Management Board at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.

For questions about the report or the letter, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

CBP Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Sustainable Fisheries

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

At the Fisheries GIT's full June GIT meeting, the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) was charged by the Fisheries GIT to develop male specific reference points for blue crabs to complement the already in place female reference points and targets. CBSAC will meet on October 17th to develop reference points which should be in place by the

2013 fishing season. These reference points will provide managers with a better tool to sustainably manage blue crabs.

The Fisheries GIT has been updating its current work plan and priorities for advancing sustainable fisheries. Its top initiatives are oysters, blue crabs, and invasive catfish. They have narrowed down and prioritized a long list of actions and objectives they will work towards throughout the upcoming year, including:

- Maintain sustainable population (i.e. between the abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds) by preparing and delivering the 2013 Blue Crab Advisory Report and convening the Fisheries GIT to discuss the report and adapt management approaches when necessary.
- CBSAC will recommend male blue crab reference points to be adopted and implemented by the Fisheries GIT ExComm in 2013.
- In order to make progress towards developing an inter-jurisdictional blue crab allocation framework, we should begin discussions on an allocation process and develop an allocation framework complete with preliminary numbers for each jurisdiction.
- A) Initiate discussions on an inter-jurisdictional blue crab allocation process; and B) develop an inter-jurisdictional blue crab allocation framework complete with preliminary numbers for each jurisdiction.
- Continue blue crab commercial accountability pilot project. Evaluate efficacy of accountability program in MD and consider application in VA and PRFC.
- Continue to make progress towards the EO oyster outcome to restore 20 tributaries by 2025 by selecting priority tributaries and develop tributary specific restoration plans (blueprints) through the MD and VA interagency oyster teams.
- Identify a single tributary that by the oyster metrics criteria is seen as restored and then quantify the ecosystem services and fishery benefits.
- Convene the Invasive Catfish Task Force to coordinate research findings and develop and present their policy options/recommendations to implement the goals from the Invasive Catfish Policy Statement.

The next full Fisheries GIT meeting is scheduled for December 6-8 at Port Isobel near Tangier Island. This will be the sixth full GIT meeting and the team plans to primarily use the time to advance stakeholder engagement within the Fisheries GIT by holding the meeting close to local watermen. Other topics for discussion at this meeting may include updates on the blue crab accountability project, initial discussions on an allocation based blue crab fishery, outcomes from the latest blue and flathead catfish research, and oyster restoration.

GIT 2 – Habitat

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 has been working with STAR on the Brook Trout Indicator Task Group. The second meeting was held on September 25 and future meetings have been planned for Oct and Nov in order to update the indicator by Dec 2012. The new science data compiled by Mark Hudy has been obtained and is currently being reviewed. It will be used in the Oct and Nov meetings to develop the indicator and engage researchers and state partners.

The Habitat GIT has been working with CBP and DNR communication teams to develop a Brook Trout Habitat Video Story. Filming has been completed in West Virginia with interviews

from a landowner as well as a GIT representative. The purpose of the landowner interview is to engage a common audience by discussing fishing for brook trout as a cultural, cross-generational hobby, while the GIT representative interview provides the expertise on Brook Trout and why it is an excellent indicator of stream health. The Habitat GIT hopes to debut this video message at its fall meeting and share it on its website

The Habitat GIT is developing a survey to be distributed among different partner organizations through the GIT's steering committee to bring awareness to regulatory/permitting issues affecting restoration projects. The "real life scenarios" will be used as examples in the fall Habitat GIT meeting in November to discuss ways in which the issues can be resolved or avoided.

GIT 3 – Water Quality

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 Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) continues to make progress on several fronts to assess the actions necessary to meet the Partnership's water quality goals. The WQGIT is in the process of prioritizing and refining input from the WQGIT and Modeling Workgroups regarding the midpoint assessment of water quality progress, which will be complete by 2017. The midpoint assessment will take stock of the latest science and data, the range of available tools, and progress toward implementing WIPs and milestones. The assessment will inform the Phase III WIPs, which will refine strategies for implementation through 2025 to reduce pollution and achieve water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal tributaries. The midpoint assessment is an important component of the WQGIT's adaptive management toward meeting the Partnership's water quality goals. The WQGIT is meeting on October 22-23 at the Liberty Mountain Conference Center in Carroll Valley, PA, to develop recommendations and a work plan for the midpoint assessment.

Additionally, the WQGIT and the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup have been providing input on how to show data on the Phase II WIPs, 2012-2013 milestones, and implementation progress in ChesapeakeStat. Proposed screen shots of how ChesapeakeStat will present these data are attached. The Chesapeake Bay Program expects to release the updated version of Chesapeake Stat in late Fall, 2012.

Finally, the WQGIT and associated Workgroups continue to move forward on tracking progress toward meeting the Bay TMDL, developing verification principles, conducting reviews of Best Management Practices, and devising and implementing Workgroup Decision Framework documents.

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT (GIT4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. GIT4 activities in 2012 include the following:

Maintain Healthy Watershed Goal Implementation Team (GIT4) leaders convened a very well-attended 90-minute session at the 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum on September 29 in Shepherdstown, WV. The Forum session and the healthy watershed tracking project that was presented were both major elements of the Goal Team's 2012 work plan. The Goal Team's Communications Workgroup Chair, Donelle Keech (TNC), planned and moderated the session. Goal Team Chair Mark Bryer (TNC) explained the Team's goal, mission and strategy. CBPO

GIS Team Leader, John Wolf (USGS) presented the GoalTeam's compilation of CBP partner states' healthy watershed identification data layers. John also demonstrated the GoalTeam's current capacity to use existing data to characterize development threats to the state-identified watersheds and the applicability of current data on protected lands to characterize healthy watershed protection status. In a December Goal Team meeting focused on 2013 work planning, the Goal Team will be considering next steps to further develop and communicate these identification and assessment capacities, in service to state and local healthy watershed identification and protection initiatives. The Goal Team's Coordinator and CRC Staffer will be visiting with Goal Team state, NGO, and federal contacts during October to solicit and discuss 2013 work plan ideas. (Contacts: Mike Fritz, Goal Team Coordinator; Anna Stuart Burnett, Goal Team CRC Staffer)

GIT 6 – Partnering and Leadership

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

Decision Framework: The Decision Framework Implementation Workgroup is currently drafting a one-page guidance document on “Decision Framework Next Steps” to help goal teams as they continue to work on goals and implement the framework. The workgroup is also in the process of developing text on adaptive management and the decision framework to be used in communications outlets in an ongoing effort to keep the partnership updated on the utility of the framework and implementation progress. The goal team is also working with GIT chairs and coordinators on an as needed basis to assist them as they identify their high level goals using the coordinators/staffers meeting as a forum to collaborate. All GITs must have their high level goals completed by October 31. The high level goals will be presented at the November 14th MB meeting.

Alignment: For stage 2 of the alignment process, GIT 6 will develop draft protocols for how the partnership will make decisions related to setting new goals, changes in governance, and to determine if a new agreement would provide added value to the CBP. These draft protocols will be discussed at the MB for PSC approval this winter.

Management Board Improvement: The goal team is currently analyzing the results of the Management Board mission survey that ended October 3. A full report with graphs will be presented at the November 14th MB meeting.

The GIT is modifying its workplan, which defines the structure and goals of the team. Highlights of ongoing work to be included are: (1) enhance meeting management, (2) provide superior information technology support, (3) support GITs in implementing adaptive management through the decision framework, (4) address governance issues, (5) continue to develop ChesapeakeStat website to support decision-making, (6) develop and implement options for independent evaluation of the program to promote continual improvement.

Recent Events

Sept 11-12	STAC quarterly meeting
Sep 20	GIT Chairs meeting
Sep 27-28	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Shepherdstown, WV)
Sep 28-30	2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, WV)
Oct 1	USGS Monitoring trends data
Oct 4	AFBF lawsuit oral arguments (Harrisburg, Pa)