**Chesapeake Bay Program**

**Management Board Meeting**

**December 10, 2015**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Dec 14-15 WQGIT Face-to-Face

Dec 18 Draft workplans due to Management Board

Jan 7-8 Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly meeting

Jan 14 Management Board Meeting

Jan TBD Chesapeake Progress website launch

Jan 26 (tent) Release of 2015 Bay Barometer

Jan 22 Draft workplans released for public input

Jan 28 STAR meeting

March 16 CBP Principals’ Staff Committee meeting

**Program Updates**

**Draft 2016-2017 Federal Agency Water Quality Milestones Public Comment Period**

On November 17, the draft federal agency Water Quality programmatic milestones for the 2016-2017 milestone period were posted for a 30-day public comment period. EPA and other federal agencies completed an interagency review prior to sharing with the jurisdictions. The draft milestones are available for comment at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net> through December 17.

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

**Potential Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Practices to Reduce Toxic Contaminants**

**in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed**

The Chesapeake Stormwater Network released the first installment of a series of technical memos that evaluate whether BMPs used to reduce nutrient and sediment loads for the Bay pollution diet might also offer additional benefits to reduce toxic contaminants. The first memo looks at how stormwater BMPs remove urban toxic contaminants. The second memo will examine how toxic contaminants are influenced by the agricultural and wastewater sectors in the Chesapeake Bay, with an emphasis on croplands, animal feeding operations and manure application, as well as discharges from wastewater treatment plants and land application of biosolids. The memo underscores that past and future efforts to implement urban BMPs in the watershed has played a strong role in keeping 12 particularly troublesome toxic contaminants out of the rivers and estuaries of the Bay. It also sends a cautionary message that these urban toxics are accumulating in the sediments of older stormwater ponds.

Contact: Greg Barranco, [barranco.greg@epa.gov](mailto:barranco.greg@epa.gov)

**American Rivers Report on Urban Agriculture**

A new report from American Rivers highights the benefits of using urban farming as a green infrastructure practice to mitigate stormwater runoff by allowing precipitation to infiltrate into the soil. *Urban Farms: A Green Infrastructure Tool for the Chesapeake Bay* underscores the many other benefits urban agriculture provides to communities as well as to watersheds including: increasing the nutritional health of communities, improving local economies, and providing residents with greenspace. It also provides recommendations to city officials on how to promote the use of urban agriculture in their communities. For more information: [www.americanrivers.org/reports-publications/](http://www.americanrivers.org/reports-publications/)

**Chesapeake Bay Dead Zoone Measures Slightly Below Average**

The Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay dead zone measured slightly smaller than average this past summer, supporting scientists’ June predictions of a smaller than average hypoxic zone in the nation’s largest estuary. Each summer, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources nad the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality collect water samples to measure the hyposic volume of the Bay. At 3,806 million cubic meters, the Maryland portion of this year’s dead zones was the 13th smallest in 31 years of sampling. The size of the dead zones was likely a result of reduced rainfall earlier this spring.

**CBP Associate Director at Local Government Advisory Committee meeting**

On December 3-4, the CBP LGAC held its quarterly meeting in Winchester, VA. EPA’s Lucinda Power, the coordinator for the CBP Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, gave a presentation on the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans in conjunction with a presentation by Frank Dukes on the Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Assessment. CBP Associate Director for Partnerships and Accountability Carin Bisland gave a program update, including response to LGAC recommendations to the Executive Council and a Land Use Data update. The full agenda is available at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22710/lgac_agenda_december_2015_nov_20_version_2.pdf>

Contact: Carin Bisland (410) 267-5732, [bisland.carin@epa.gov](mailto:bisland.carin@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.*

Contact: Mary Gattis, [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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 met in North Beach, MD on November 19-20. The main topic was learning about oyster restoration and oysters as BMPs. CAC issued a letter to the Oyster BMP Expert Panel based on what they learned and discussed and will continue to follow this topic.

CAC held officer elections during this meeting. Charlie Stek will serve another term as Chair. Paula Jasinski was elected as the new Vice-Chair. The next CAC meeting will be in Norther VA on Feb 17-18, 2016.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

For additional information contact Natalie Gardner at [gardnern@si.edu](file:///C:\Users\gbarranc\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\D0G80XMY\gardnern@si.edu)

**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.*

* The Sustainable Fisheries GIT and their workgroups are reviewing and evaluating the blue crab, forage, fish habitat and oyster workplans. They are investigating the final details on the workplan actions including estimated costs. Prior to submitting these workplans, they will present and receive final comments from the entire Sustainable Fisheries GIT at their biannual meeting later this month.
* After a successful workshop on Cownose Rays in October, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Fisheries GIT staff are compiling the research presented at the workshop and the related discussions into a comprehensive report that can be used as a resource to help inform future management discussions. A summary of the research and scientists’ recommendations can be found [here](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23141/cnr_findings_chart_final_2.pdf).
* A literature review and synthesis project focused on the habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species has been initiated with Tetratech. Fisheries GIT staff and Fish Habitat Team members identified species which were lacking comprehensive fish habitat analysis for this project. Tetratech will compile information on habitat requirements, habitat functions, and threats or stressors to those habitats for the identified species in a literature review. The project will be completed by December 31, 2015. This project directly supports actions outlined in the fish habitat management strategy.
* The Sustainable Fisheries GIT will be hosting their semi-annual meeting with the full Sustainable Fisheries GIT on Monday, December 14th at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD. They will review oyster restoration progress, blue crab research, a study on forage indicators, blue catfish diet research, and other topics. There will also be a poster session to review the fisheries workplans. Information for the meeting can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23179/>
* The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is planning a 2-day Oyster Summit for February 2016. The agenda topics are being developed by a workshop steering committee comprised of a diverse group of oyster stakeholders. The meeting will bring together fishery managers, scientists, and the industry (harvest and aquaculture) to discuss common objectives and priorities for oysters moving forward.

Contact: Bruce Vogt, [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto: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 seeking nominations for a new chair as current chair Mike Slattery is prepared to step down after over two years of duty. As the past two chairs have been federal representatives, the next chair would preferably represent a watershed state. Nominations are being accepted by email or phone to Jennifer Greiner or Jana Davis. An announcement is planned for the January Management Board meeting.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, [Jennifer\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto: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.*

The WQGIT held a conference call on November 9:

* The WQGIT approved the proposed membership definitions for the Urban Stormwater Workgroup and the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup.
* The WQGIT reviewed a draft of the Federal 2016/2017 Water Quality Milestones and provided feedback.
* The WQGIT approved the proposed ranking of science and monitoring needs for which STAR has been asked to provide support.
* The WQGIT saw a demo of BayTAS 2.0, an updated version of the TMDL Tracking and Accounting System. The 2.0 release focuses on giving users access to nutrient load, BMP, and other supporting data specific to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
* The WQGIT received an overview of the Phase 6 land use review process, including opportunities for providing feedback on the Phase 6 land use dataset. They were also given a demonstration of a website that will allow local governments to view the land use data they have provided for use in the Phase 6 modeling tools.
* The WQGIT received updates on the development of the draft Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment Action Plan and the draft Water Quality Management Strategy Biennial Workplan. Complete drafts for both documents will be provided for WQGIT review in December.

Upcoming WQGIT Topics for December 14-15 Face-to-Face meeting ([Draft Agenda](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22349/draft_wqgit_dec_14-15_mtg_agenda_v11.9.15.pdf)):

* Phase 6 Modeling Tools and overview of 2016 Review
  + Phase 6 Land Uses
  + Inclusion of new BMPs
  + Historical Data Cleanup

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

**Toxic Contaminants Workgroup**

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

**Federal Facilities Workgroup**

The Federal Facilities Workgroup will have a conference call meeting on December 17, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Agenda topics will include the status of BMP planning to meet targets, a demonstration of the Facility Editor Tool, and the progress in improving the federal facilities list.

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

**Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today.  This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

Workplan Development:

* GIT leaders and staff are continuing to reach out to signatories and partners to complete the Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Options Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics Workplans. While we have had overwhelming participation from most partners and jurisdictions, we are still missing key action items from the Commonwealth of Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware. In addition we are still awaiting additional input from EPA Region III.
* GIT leaders and staff have been working closely with the Protected Lands workplan drafters as well as other Goal Team leaders to develop and identify cross-goal team action items. There is still a need for CBP staff to more comprehensively identify areas of overlap and synergy. This will happen in the coming weeks.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, [Phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:Phillips.tuana@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.*

Contact: Amy Handen, [ahanden@chesapeakebay.net](mailto: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.*

**FY 15 GIT Funding:** The Chesapeake Bay Trust has released the RFP for FY15 GIT Funding projects. The RFP can be found at cbtrust.org. Proposals are due by January 7.

**Local Leadership Work Plan Development:** The Local Leadership Workgroup has been actively working on developing the work plan for the Local Leadership Management Strategy. A project to design a local leadership education program has been funded through FY15 GIT Funding. A contract has also been executed with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to establish the metrics and baseline for monitoring success towards this Outcome. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for December 14.

**Budget and Finance Workgroup:** This proposed workgroup has been presented to the leadership of CBPO and to the GIT Chairs for comment. This proposal is being presented for approval by the MB at this 12/10 conference call. The purpose of this workgroup is to convene CBP partners in a way that facilitates innovation and collaboration in budgeting and finance decisions, not to infringe on any one partners’ decisions on budgeting and finance. If the MB approves the formation of this workgroup, the next step would be to begin recruiting workgroup members.

**GIT 6 Work Plan:** GIT 6 has created a team work plan to plan the activities of the GIT until June 2016. In moving forward, the GIT will revisit this work plan every 2 months to evaluate the level of completion of key actions. Every 6 months, a new work plan will be created to continue to guide GIT activities efficiently and effectively.

**Governance Document Updates:** Potential revisions to the Governance Document have been collected since the last update in July 2015. The GIT plans to reconvene the Governance Document Action Team in January to evaluate these suggested revisions and update the Governance Document. The current Governance Document is always available online at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf>. If you have any suggested revisions to this document, please email Samantha Watterson ([Watterson.samantha@epa.gov](mailto:Watterson.samantha@epa.gov)).

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

Contact: Peter Tango, [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto: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.*

Contact: Margaret Enloe, [menloe@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:menloe@chesapeakebay.net)

**Recent Meetings and Events**

Jan 7-8 CBC Quarterly Meeting

Jan 28 STAR Meeting

Mar 16 PSC Meeting

May 26 PSC Meeting

Sept 29 PSC Meeting