



**Management Board
Program Update
April 14, 2022**

CBPO Calendar

April 15	Stream Health Workgroup meeting
April 18	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
April 19	Wetland Workgroup meeting
April 20	Land Use Workgroup conference call
April 21	Agriculture Workgroup conference call
April 25	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference call
April 27	Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer 2022 Leadership Workshop
April 27	Integrated Trends Analysis Team meeting
April 27	Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting
April 27	Budget and Finance Workgroup Quarterly meeting
April 28	Joint Coordinator-Staffer/STAR Dry Run for Next Gen Stewards
May 2	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting
May 5-6	Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting
May 12	Management Board QPM meeting (Next Generation Stewards)
May 17	Principals' Staff Committee meeting
May 18-19	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
May 23	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting
May 19	Principals' Staff Committee meeting

Program Updates

Maryland Legislature Passes Conservation Finance Act

In the final days of its 2022 session, the Maryland Legislature passed its Conservation Finance Act (CFA) with near-unanimous bipartisan support. The new law will update state procurement regulations to permit "Pay for Success" and legally defines blue and natural infrastructure as real infrastructure, creating an enabling environment for greater innovation and flexibility in the future of conservation finance. Governor Hogan previously indicated that the bill was his top Chesapeake Bay legislative priority for the year and is expected to sign it shortly. Sen. Sarah Elfreth, chair of the Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Areas, noted that the CFA will bring unprecedented private-sector investment to Bay restoration efforts and that it could "leverage the power of the private sector community to improve water quality, advance environmental justice and public health, expand initiatives around forest and agricultural soil carbon sequestration, and rewards projects that deliver co-benefits like local jobs, flood risk reduction, and climate resilience.

Contact: Bo Williams, williams.james@epa.gov

2022 Diversity Indicator Survey

On April 26, the CBPO will send out a new diversity indicator survey to help track progress toward the Watershed Agreement target of increasing racial and ethnic diversity within the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and its leadership. This will be the third diversity survey the partnership has conducted in the last six years; previous surveys were conducted in 2016 and 2019. The Office of Management and Budget recently approved a CBPO request to conduct this survey and several others related to the Stewardship Goal. It will be sent to everyone who participates in the CBP from the Executive Council to interested parties. All partners and staff are asked to please take a few minutes to self-report this simple demographic data. More information may be found on Chesapeake Progress: <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/diversity>

Behavior Change Website to Debut

Chesapeake Behavior Change is a new web-based resource that helps organizations develop programs that increase the number of residents taking on-the-ground action to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Program held a webinar on April 12 – part of a broader webinar series – to show attendees how to use the site to create an effective behavior change campaign, whether that's getting folks to pick up litter, install a rain barrel, or protect a shoreline. The Behavior Change website will be formally launched next week.

Contact: Rachel Felver, 443-892-0205

EPA Region 3 to Host Mid-Atlantic Summit: “Together Building a Better, More Equitable Region”

EPA Region 3 plans to host a virtual summit showcasing the actions that the EPA; State, Tribal, and Local partners, and others are taking to address 21st century environmental and public health challenges impacting the communities they serve. Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz has distributed a save the date for May 25, 2022 (posted in the business meeting documents for the April 14 MB Meeting). Bay Program partners are encouraged to share this save the date with members of their organizations and others who would be interested in participating.

Contact: Amy Handen, handen.amy@epa.gov

CBPO Convenes Infrastructure Funding Meeting

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) convened a meeting of all partner jurisdictions and the Chesapeake Bay Commission in late March to discuss proposed allocation of infrastructure funds for “Most Effective Basins” grants. The program office took this step to both inform the partners and to gain constructive input into decision-making. The discussion included CBPO feedback on grant guidance comments from the partners. On April 5, CBPO issued the 2022 Grant Guidance on infrastructure grants to states and updated its Grant Guidance webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/restoration-chesapeake-bay/chesapeake-bay-program-grant-guidance>). CBPO will also issue a separate addendum to the Grant Guidance to address Infrastructure Act allocations and guidance in May 2022.

Contact: Martha Shimkin, 410-267-9850

CBP Wins National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award

Six authors from the CBPO and 16 other authors from throughout the CBP have won a National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award for Nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—A century of change, 1950–2050. The award recognizes the effective communication of the technical writing and publishing staff for the circular and associated YouTube video. The report, lead and published by the U.S. Geological Survey, provides a unique, long-term perspective of the major drivers of nitrogen change from 1950 up

to the present, and forecasts how those drivers may affect nitrogen loading in the Chesapeake Bay out to 2050. The CBPO authors include Gopal Bhatt (Penn State), Peter Claggett (USGS), Jeni Keisman (USGS), Lew Linker (EPA), Gary Shenk (USGS), and Qian Zhang (UMCES). The report is available from USGS electronically [Nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—A century of change, 1950–2050 \(usgs.gov\)](#) or contact John Clune, (jclune@usgs.gov), who is the lead author, for a copy. Contact: Lew Linker, 443-875-8070, or Scott Phillips (swphilli@usgs.gov).

Marland DNR and CBPO Modeling Team Collaborate on Striped Bass Study

Long-time Maryland Department of Natural Resources expert Tom Parham and his team from DNR are collaborating with the CBPO Modeling Team to examine the conditions of striped bass habitat in the Chesapeake under present conditions, 2025 WIP conditions, and future climate change (2025 and 2055) “No Action” conditions which represent Bay water quality if the CBP never began its Chesapeake restoration work. At the CBP Modeling Quarterly Review on April 6, Parham was able to share preliminary results of the study which show habitat increases and improvement under the WIP conditions, but severe reductions of habitat under future climate change No Action Scenario conditions. Contact: Lew Linker, 443-875-8070

Chesapeake Bay Program Plans for Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) will participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival this summer – a multi-day event on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. that is expected to attract nearly a million visitors onsite and online. Scheduled for June 22–26 and June 30–July 4, the Festival plans to “explore the possibilities and solutions that address some of our planet’s most significant challenges through new ways of living, learning, and working toward a shared sustainable future.” It includes four thematic areas – Animals, Plants & Us, Coastal Connections, Community Solutions, and Field and Forest. The CBP is invited to offer interactive displays, videos, speakers, and a panel taking a “deep dive” into the partnership’s work. CBP’s Communications office is looking to expand the small group of partners to help plan CBP’s participation in the event and to confirm which partners are committed to participating to help plan out each day.

Contacts: Martha Shimkin, 267-846-0140 and Rachel Felver, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

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.

LGAC held its first in-person quarterly meeting since December 2019 on March 17-18 in Annapolis with a video hybrid option. Members were thrilled to be back together; the conversation was lively and fully engaging - a reminder how important time together is. LGAC used Owl Labs technology and virtual speakers and guests found it very interactive.

This was the annual elections meeting for LGAC Chair and Vice-Chairs. Jasmine Gore (VA) was reelected Chair for her second term. Vice-Chairs are as follows-Daniel Chao (DC), Mark Dobbins (MD), Richard Baugh (VA), Michael Helfrich (PA) and Don Phillips (At-Large).

The focus for this meeting was Resources for Local Governments and there was discussion around a new CBP case study database, county tree cover status and trends fact sheets, American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding, resources and technical assistance from Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Defense as well as a discussion about what continues to be local barriers for implementation. Additionally, Members provided feedback on the STAC Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures project.

LGAC will next meet June 2-3 in Lancaster, PA with a hybrid option.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@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 CAC will hold a hybrid meeting in Ellicott City, MD on May 18-19, 2022. The CAC Emerging Issues Subcommittee will host a learning session about the water quality impacts from utility scale solar development. The members will tour a nearby site.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), Vice-Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org)

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac

Upcoming June Quarterly Meeting: June 14-15, 2022

The upcoming STAC June Quarterly Meeting will be held in-person in Lancaster, PA on June 14th and 15th. The meeting theme is soil health and there is a planned fieldtrip on the afternoon of Day 1. More details will be available as the event approaches. If you are interested in attending either in-person or virtually, please reach out to STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org).

March Quarterly Meeting: March 8-9, 2022

STAC held its first meeting of 2022 virtually on March 8-9th. Materials from the meeting can be found on the [STAC March Meeting Webpage](#). STAC welcomed 7 new At-Large Members onto the Committee.

STAC approved 5 proposals for the FY22 workshop cycle and provided suggestions to proposers for workshop planning; 1 proposal was recommended as a technical review. Following, STAC heard a report-out from the Bay Program Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT) on proposed changes to Best Management Practices (BMP) protocols, as well as an overview on expert panel protocol history. STAC was asked for feedback on the Healthy Watershed Cohort and Aquatic Life Cohort science needs and were reminded of the use of the Science Needs Database. At the end of Day 1, Denise Wardrop (CRC) briefed Membership on the ongoing STAC effort titled Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR), including an updated timeline for the report release.

The meeting's second day was dedicated to a discussion on 'triple-loop learning', a concept which distinguishes three fundamentally different levels at which management can adapt to new information. Speakers were invited to sit on two panels considering this topic, one focusing on Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) management today and the other on opportunities to advance CBP adaptive management going forward. STAC Members split into breakouts at the end of Day 2 to consider how the Bay Program may adapt at different scales as we approach 2025.

FY2022 STAC Workshop Approved Proposals

STAC approved the follow five workshops for funding in FY22 (June 1, 2022- May 31, 2023):

1. *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities* (State of the Science Workshop)
2. *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality* (State of the Science Workshop)
3. *The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes* (State of the Science Workshop)
4. *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes* (Programmatic Workshop)
5. *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model* (Programmatic Workshop)

The following proposal was recommended to be a STAC technical review:

1. *Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Proposal: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in Acid Mine Drainage Impacted Watersheds*

Upcoming FY2021 STAC Workshops: FY21 runs from June 1, 2021- May 31, 2022.

1. *Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (State of the Science Workshop): May 2022
2. *Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop): Multi-session
3. *Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria* (Programmatic): Multi-session

Information regarding future workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

Recent STAC Workshops

1. *Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses* (FY21)
2. *Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting* (FY21)

STAC Reports

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC publication page](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership.

Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the STAC past workshop webpage.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Sustainable 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.

GIT 5 has no update for this month.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

- **Habitat GIT:**
 - HGIT staffer Megan Ossmann has accepted a new position. Her last day at the Bay Program will be April 15th.
 - The Habitat GIT Spring Meeting is scheduled for [May 4th \(1:00-5:00 ET\)](#) and [5th \(09:00-1:00 ET\)](#). A meeting agenda is being drafted and will be sent out closer to the meeting date. Meeting details will also be posted to the CBP website.

- **GIT Funding:** The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Stream Health, and Wetlands workgroups were all approved for GIT Funding and their proposals have been included in the recently released RFP. Proposals to bid on the projects are due to the CBT by 4:00pm EST on Monday, April 18, 2022.
- **STAC Science Needs:** The Brook Trout and Stream Health, and SAV Workgroups presented their science needs at the STAC Quarterly Meeting on 03/09.
- **Workgroup Updates:**
 - **Stream Health Workgroup:** The next workgroup meeting will take place on April 15 from 10:00-12:00 ET. The meeting agenda is being drafted and will be posted to the [CBP Calendar](#) soon.
 - **Wetland Workgroup:** There is a workgroup meeting scheduled for [April 19th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm ET](#). A meeting agenda is being drafted.
- **Other:**
 - The steering committee has been meeting weekly to plan the workshops that will address increasing the implementation of tidal and nontidal wetland restoration. The workshops will be held August 2-3, 2022.

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann (ossman.megan@epa.gov) and Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

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 meeting on March 28, 2022. A subset of topics discussed includes:

- David Wood provided an overview of the steps the USWG has taken to assess urban fertilizer data in CAST 2021. Although USWG did not reach consensus on a proposed method for urban fertilizer in CAST 2021 during their March meeting, they are developing an Ad- Hoc group that will review new research and data sources on non-farm fertilizer sales, application, and verification.
- WQGIT endorsed the Urban Stormwater Workgroup's Recommended Next Steps to Advance Efforts to Maintain the Resilience of Stormwater BMPs.
- Lucinda Power and Jeremy Hanson reviewed the received feedback on the BMP Protocols. The revised BMP Protocols will undergo a second round of review with the WQGIT.
- Jeremy Hanson and Zach Easton briefed the WQGIT on the Climate Synthesis Report which evaluates climate change impacts on efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. *The full report is available at bit.ly/BMP-CC-synth.*
- Ed Dunne provided an update on the draft letter to the MB addressing the WQGIT's concerns for CAST 2021. WQGIT members expressed interest in scheduling a separate call to discuss any recommendations and ensure understanding before presenting the letter to the MB. The WQGIT plans to meet on **Tuesday, April 19th from 1:00 – 2:30 PM**. Any meeting materials will be posted to the [calendar page](#).

The WQGIT will hold a meeting on April 25, 2022 to discuss [Phase 7 model development](#). A subset of topics to potentially be discussed are below:

- Estuarine Model
- Hi Resolution Land Use Data and Land Use Change Model
- Watershed Model
- CAST
- Optimization
- Water Quality Criteria Assessment

Water Quality GIT Contact: Hilary Swartwood (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov), Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@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.

- The Healthy Watersheds Goal implantation Team is ramping up for a busy spring. Renee Thompson (Coordinator) and Sophie Waterman (Staffer) are meeting with jurisdictional leads to make sure that State Identified Healthy Watersheds (SIHW) definitions are correct, up to date and refined as needed. The next steps are the following:
 - Refine SIHW Definitions for each participating jurisdiction
 - Update data as appropriate (GIS shapefiles)

To view the current State-identified healthy watersheds and the definitions visit the Chesapeake Progress site at: <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/healthy-watersheds>

- The goal team meeting was on April 11th where members heard presentations on Planning for Clean Water Collaboration, the STAC Rising Temp Day 2 Workshop Overview and Relation to HWGIT, and a progress status on Monitoring Very-High Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Change. The next HWGIT meeting will be held on June 13th.
- The HWGIT is sponsoring two GIT funding projects. The first project is the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment 2.0 (Scope 1) with Renee Thompson as the technical lead. The second project Updating the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) Priority Habitat dataset of the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas: Scoping project (Scope 10) with John Wolf, Bill Jenkins, and Renee Thompson as technical leads. RFP applications for GIT funding project are due on April 18th at 4pm EST. Between now and June the Bay Trust will be reviewing bidders, writing contracts, and sending out awards with contractors work starting in the middle of June.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: rthompso@chesapeakebay.net; swaterman@chesapeakebay.net

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists residents, communities, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase engagement and active stewardship.

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership / Protected Lands Workgroup

- The CCP is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of ‘Green Spaces’ in Diverse and Low-Income Urban Communities.”
- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform success.chesapeakeconservation.org. Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner (wisnero@chesapeake.org) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they’d like to be developed.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The workgroup met on April 5th to discuss the 2022-2023 Logic and Action Plan. Meeting materials can be found on the calendar page: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/stewardship_workgroup_meeting_april_2022
- The next workgroup meeting will be held on July 13th, and October 6th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup is excited to share the Chesapeake Behavior Change web-tool which houses and promotes the use of the stewardship index data. Check it out for yourself here: <https://www.chesapeakebehaviorchange.org/> This project was generously supported by GIT funding and will serve as a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program. A CBP webinar about the site took place on 4/12, a recording can be viewed on the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Youtube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/chesbayprogram>
- The workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development” which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- The next Education Workgroup is in the process of preparing for it’s Quarterly Progress Meeting in front of the Management Board on May 12th.
- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September, 2019 to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks included (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The second local networks are in their early stages and include Baltimore City, MD and Hampton Roads, VA. OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup's Spring Meeting will be held on April 20th from 9:30 - 10:30. During our time together we hope to share preliminary results of the Benefits and Barriers to Public Access Research Project and share a draft version of the workgroup's next 2-year action plan. Join info can be on the Bay Program calendar page: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/public_access_workgroup_spring_meeting
- The Public Access Workgroup is currently collecting data on Public Access sites opened in 2021.
- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled "Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed" which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites. A small subset of the workgroup has agreed to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; wisnero@chesapeake.org

Diversity Workgroup

We are preparing for the next training in our Allyship series, titled Power and Privilege. This training will be held in person at the CBP office on April 26th.

The past few weeks we have conducted interviews with C-STREAM intern candidates, and selected two who will work with the Diversity Workgroup to help us tackle items on our logic and action plan. These interns will start at the end of May.

Finally, we are preparing to issue our CBP diversity indicator survey. Every two years the DWG sends this survey to all Chesapeake Bay Program participants to collect demographic data that helps us assess progress towards our diversity targets. We are working with Staffers to ensure we have up to date membership lists for GITs and Workgroups.

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy; yancy.briana@epa.gov (Staffer)

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)

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

2021 GIT Funding Program – An EPA GIT Table 2 Training was held on December 14, 2021 to review the GIT Funding Manual for Phase 2: Refinement of Project Ideas into Scopes of Work (Table 2). Chesapeake Bay Trust provided reviews and comments on Table 2 drafts and Final Phase 2 Scopes of Work were due to CBT February 21, 2022 and are currently under review. The 2022 GIT Funding Program Manual has been drafted and will follow an extensive review by a volunteer team of stakeholders.

Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GIT 6 approved the recent proposed edits regarding roles of staff and grammatical edits to EC Leadership language. A draft of the revised document and proposed language were presented to GIT 6 for concurrence at the March 16, 2022 meeting and later will be presented to Management Board. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEI Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making.

Organizational Analysis – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to

measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in Spring 2022.

Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov; and Kristin Saunders (ksaunders@umces.edu)

Budget and Finance Workgroup - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Winter Quarterly Meeting took place on February 23, 2022 as a conference call. Meeting topics focused on infrastructure spending following the recent Infrastructure Bill, the 2022 BFWG Workplan, a National Center for Environmental Economics Environmental Justice Proposal, and the Conowingo Finance Strategy Update. BFWG will hold its Spring Quarterly Meeting on May 5, 2022. Meeting topics will include forest buffers and wetlands, NCEE Environmental Justice proposal, and an update on the funding opportunities table.

Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), shimkin.martha@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup - The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its Winter Quarterly Meeting on February 22, 2022 themed around Agriculture. The meeting explored case studies on how local officials are supporting their local agricultural community, identified tools and resources about agriculture, and determined what local elected officials need to know about agriculture. LLWG will hold its Spring Quarterly Meeting in person on May 3, 2022 (location TBD). Meeting topics will include a discussion on the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from the Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay, Phase II modules, and an update on the Peer 2 Peer Bus Tours. Efforts to roll out A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay 2.0 continue in partnership with state agencies and local government associations.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), johnson.caroline@epa.gov; Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Heidi Bonnaffon (Chair), hbonnaffon@mwcoq.org; Michelle Edwards (Vice Chair), medwards@rrregion.org

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) johnson.caroline@epa.gov

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team (STAR)

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.

The [March STAR meeting](#) focused on the theme of targeting tools for benefits to people and the Stewardship Cohort science needs as part of the Strategic Science and Research Framework. The meeting began with lightning talks on targeting tools with co-benefits to people as this topic was ranked highly interesting to membership based on the poll conducted at the February STAR meeting. The first lightning talk had Steve Raabe and Amy Handen showcase the [Chesapeake Behavior Change website](#). John Wolf then provided an overview of the [Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice and Equity](#)

[Dashboard](#), including how to access the tool and examples of Cross-Outcome use cases. Briana Yancy presented on how the Targeting Outreach for Green Infrastructure (TOGI) project utilized targeting tools to pick their locations and shared lessons learned on communicating the benefits of the green infrastructure to local communities. The rest of the STAR meeting focused on the [science needs](#) of the Stewardship Cohort. Outcome Leads announced new science needs and provided updates to current science needs, sharing how multiple needs are being met through the CBP and our partners. STAR members suggested potential resources to meet the new science needs and how to refine the language of the needs. The next STAR meeting is on April 28, 2022 and will continue the focus on targeting tools for benefits to people, in addition to hosting the dry run presentations for the Next-generation Stewards Cohort.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup completed its [April Quarterly Review of CBP Modeling and Analysis](#). The April 5-6, 2022 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the new Phase 7 suite of models. Within the suite of models, the state-of-the-science Phase 7 Main Bay Model (MBM) will replace the national award-winning Bay Model that has been successfully used by the CBP for three decades. Along with the MBM will be new and updated models of the watershed, airshed, and future land use, all directed as an integrated model suite to assess challenges to the Chesapeake watershed and Bay beyond 2025. In particular, the Phase 7 Models will assess the 2035 climate risk to the Chesapeake TMDL and its restoration goals. The tasks and timelines of the various models were shared and discussed as part of the process to ensure CBP decision-maker's direction and guidance were included in the Phase 7 Model workplans. Specifically, the 14 presentations ranged from optimization efforts, to the initial set up of the James, York, and Patuxent River Multiple Tributary Models (MTMs), to progress updates on Phase 7 Watershed Model and MBM development thus far. Going forward, the Modeling Ad Hoc team will meet weekly to continue working on improving the workplans and coordination among the Phase 7 suite of models. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly is a two-day meeting on July 5 and 6, 2022.

Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

The [March ITAT meeting](#) began with an update from Breck Sullivan and Mike Lane on the status of the revisions to the Rappahannock Tributary Summary since the last meeting. Erik Leppo then presented on the recent updates and changes to the baytrendsmat app and solicited feedback from members. Breck Sullivan led a discussion on incorporating precipitation volume and intensity data into the tributary summaries to address the influence of climate change. Qian Zhang solicited feedback from members about visualizing the attainment deficit as a time series using segments of the Rappahannock tributary to include in future updates to the tributary summaries. Members agreed on the strengths of using a percentage attainment deficit graph, as opposed to the binary framework for segment attainment of WQS currently included in the tributary summaries. Qian will work on developing more options in light of the group's feedback. The meeting concluded with Vanessa Van Note leading the group through the rest of the discussion on the steps needed to update the tributary summaries, and the process to operationalize these steps in the future. This information will be used to generate a timeline for updating the tributary summaries going forward to better align the summary updates with CAST model updates and the release of tidal trends. The next ITAT meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2022.

In efforts to disseminate the tributary summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, and Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee. If

interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact Breck Sullivan (bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net) and Vanessa Van Note (VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov).

Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)

In March, the Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) helped support [session 2](#) of the Rising Water Temperature STAC workshop. The day focused on identifying management and policy recommendations that were related to the [session 1](#) findings on the impacts of rising water temperatures on living resources, as well as identifying the research and monitoring needs to support these recommendations. Discussed themes for the tidal portion of the workshop included ecosystem-based management, multiple stressors, nearshore habitats, and new temperature regimes. Discussed themes for the watershed portion of the workshop included coldwater fisheries and habitats, rural waters and habitats, and cross-watershed topics. The CRWG is working alongside STAC to compile a report covering the findings and discussions from the two-day workshop.

The CRWG will be holding their [April meeting](#) on the 18th from 1:30-3:30 PM. This meeting will have a social science and diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice theme.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly virtual meeting on February 22, 2022. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by Cindy Johnson from VADEQ. All jurisdictions provided an update on monitoring. Peter Tango and Breck Sullivan provided an overview of the PSC report on monitoring, specifically the enhancement of nontidal and tidal monitoring programs. Peter also updated the workgroup on updates for SAV and 2022 monitoring. Scott Schroeder presented on and demonstrated Fluidics Intelligently Automated (FIA) lab instrument's system. Mike Mallonee presented the coordinated split sample results for the Chesapeake Bay mainstem and tributaries. CBL performance testing blind audit program schedules were provided by Jerry Frank. Liz Chudoba provided updates on citizen monitoring programs. The next quarterly meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator

The Leadership Team met on March 25, 2022 to review progress on using Classification and Regression Trees (CART) to explore relation of flow to dissolved oxygen along dimensions of space, season, and lag time. Preliminary results for exploring the same relationship but instead using GAMs was shown. The group decided on the appropriate approach. The full BORG meeting on the case study showcase and 4D developments will be coordinated as the 3rd event in the STAC Advanced Monitoring Workshop held on May 13th.

Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup

The [March 2022 NTN](#) meeting included an update on the PSC Monitoring report and the response from the PSC. The meeting also included an updated and discussion led by Mike Mallonee on the Chesapeake Environmental Data Repository NTN data inventory. The meeting concluded with a discussion on releasing cluster analysis of nontidal network as part of future publication(s) for other related. The next Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting is scheduled for April 27th, 2022.

Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup

The CAP WG participated in the first event of the STAC workshop on Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment focused on advances in estuarine SAV assessment. This is a STAC workshop with invited technical and management personnel convened to review and determine the gaps and cost challenges limiting habitat assessments as outlined by the water quality standards under the TMDL for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll a. The objective is to develop actionable recommendations on adaptive monitoring and assessment for the next generation Chesapeake Bay Program tidal monitoring program. Plans for the second STAC workshop session on April 22nd are being targeted at the state of research for satellite-based assessment of chlorophyll and water clarity. CAP WG members will be asked to provide foundation perspectives on the existing protocols for reference to compare to new opportunities evolving with aerial/satellite-based sensors. If interested in participating in the workshop, please reach out to Peter Tango (ptango@chesapeakebay.net) or Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org.) The March Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup meeting was canceled because of a conflicting meeting.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

The workgroup had a meeting on [March 14](#) that focused on a potential new direction for future STWG meetings as well as a new workgroup structure. Kathryn Barnhart proposed a [format for future meetings](#) that could help to both address topics of interest in a more thematically organized fashion, as well as allow for reduced meeting inflation for interested parties. Members agreed to the new format. As part of the new workgroup structure, the STWG will next meet in April with existing indicators that are expected to update their indicator between April and June.

April 2022 Management Board Indicators Update

April MB Indicators Update

Since the March MB meeting, there have been no indicator updates on ChesapeakeProgress.

We anticipate finalizing the following additional indicator updates in advance of the May MB meeting:

- Sustainable Schools

Contact: Kathryn Barnhart, barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov

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.

Communications Workgroup

On April 6, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around Arbor Day and Earth Day. Rachel Felver, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, provided an overview of the changes to the structure of the Communications Workgroup. Felver explained what services will be provided by the Communications Office and what will be asked of workgroup members. Marisa Baldine provided an update on planning for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

Communications Office

On March 29, the Communications Office hosted a webinar, “Women on the Water: Female anglers and business owners on the Bay.” The speakers included Kate Fritz, Ida Hall and Imani Black.

- Watch the recording:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqabgiDTT7s&list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTxyiO2P_wP2vO4R2v&index=9

On April 12, the Communications Office will host a webinar in partnership with the Stewardship GIT to showcase the new Chesapeake Behavior Change website.

- Register for the April 12 webinar:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/attend/inspire_local_stewardship_with_chesapeake_behavior_change

Will Parson, Multimedia Manager published Bay 101 Climate Change in March.

- Watch the video: <https://vimeo.com/693212830>

The following blogs were published in March:

- The northern flicker is a delightful sight for birders
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_northern_flicker_is_a_delightful_sight_for_birders
- A thoughtful approach to restoration is giving one community more days at the beach
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/restoration-cape-st-claire-living-shoreline>
- How we can reach a healthier, more productive Chesapeake Bay watershed
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how_to_reach_a_healthier_more_productive_chesapeake_bay_watershed
- How the Chesapeake region can slow down—and adapt to—climate change
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how_the_chesapeake_region_can_slow_down_and_adapt_to_climate_change
- 250 miles away, New York farmers still contribute to improvements in the Bay
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/250_miles_away_new_york_farmers_still_contribute_to_improvements_in_the_bay
- How the "nerdy" side of fly fishing hooked a Chesapeake conservationist
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how_the_nerdy_side_of_fly_fishing_hooked_a_chesapeake_conservationist
- Tracking the elusive tiger salamander on Maryland's Eastern Shore
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/tracking_the_elusive_tiger_salamander_on_marylands_eastern_shore