



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
December 6, 2018**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

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| Dec. 7 | STAC quarterly meeting (Annapolis) |
| Dec 8-13 | RAE National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management |
| Dec. 10 | Water Quality GIT conference call |
| Dec. 11 | Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting (Annapolis) |
| Dec. 11 | Federal Facilities Workgroup conference call |
| Dec. 17-18 | Sustainable Fisheries Biannual Full GIT meeting (Newport News, Va.) |
| Jan. 14 | Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference call |
| Jan. 16-17 | STAC Workshop: Accessing the Environment in Outcome Units |
| Jan. 17 | Management Board meeting |
| Jan. 29 | Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting |
| Jan. 30 | Budget and Finance Workgroup quarterly meeting |

Updates

NFWF Announces 2018 Grants

On December 3, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced more than \$13.1 million in grants to restore critical habitat and reduce pollution from farms, suburbs and cities in all seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions. The funding was announced during the Ag Networking Forum in Lancaster, Pa. Funding for the grants comes through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, funded primarily by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Forty-one projects will be funded through the Small Watershed Grants Program, which funds on-the-ground restoration, habitat conservation and community engagement projects. Eight more will be funded by the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program, which supports projects that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in rivers, streams and the Bay. The 49 projects will collectively leverage an additional \$21.9 million in matching funds, for a total of nearly \$35 million to improve the health of the watershed.

A full list of the projects is available at:

<https://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/Documents/2018grantslate.pdf>

All-Bay Agricultural Network Forum

On December 3, the NFWF hosted the 2018 All-Bay Agricultural Network Forum in Lancaster, Pa. The purpose of the forum was to connect NFWF's agriculturally-focused grantees and partners across the watershed to share best practices and discuss opportunities for accelerating and scaling up nutrient and sediment load reductions. Sessions included presentations on: Farm Economics and Profitability; Industry-Led Partnerships for clean water; riparian buffer innovations; conservation benefits and costs; Phase III WIPs and Ag; and Ag Streams, Soil Health; and Ag Technical Assistance.

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

FY 2018 CBARA Report to Congress Made Public

On Tuesday, November 13, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) sent the FY2018 *Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act Report to Congress* to Capitol Hill. The crosscut budget presents information on Federal funding from FY 2016 enacted through the FY 2019 and represents an accounting of Federal and, to the extent available, State, funding for Chesapeake Bay restoration activities. The report notes that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Budget recognizes the importance of Chesapeake Bay restoration activities and includes a request of nearly \$307 million for high priority programs and projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The report may be found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/omb-reports/> and

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018_chesapeake_bay_crosscut.pdf

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

Federal Agency Senior Leaders Meeting on Phase III WIP Implementation

On Tuesday, November 20, EPA Region III hosted a Federal Agency Phase III WIP Implementation meeting in Philadelphia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss in more detail EPA's expectations for federal lands and facilities in the development and implementation of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs. EPA issued its Phase III WIP expectations for jurisdictions in June 2018 and for federal agencies in August 2018. Jurisdictions were asked to identify issues of concern related to federal lands and facilities in WIP implementation.

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

Record rainfall causes wild seasonal fluctuations for dissolved oxygen in the Bay

The Chesapeake Bay watershed saw record stormwater flows in 2018. From Pennsylvania having its wettest July and August on record to Maryland dealing with its second-wettest July of all time, the Bay received an unusually high amount of fresh water. The rainfall led called into question how the extra freshwater would affect the Bay's dead zone. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) consider the 2018 dead zone to be of average size, but the seasonal patterns varied wildly. DNR monitoring cruises in the early summer showed an above-average dead zone in the deepest waters of the mainstem of the Bay, most likely attributed to double the amount of rainfall normally received in May that caused higher-than-average springtime river flows into the Bay. In July, wind effects from strong storms caused an unusual mixing of the Bay's surface water with the lower-oxygen waters at the bottom, reducing the dead zone to almost zero. However, it began growing again only two weeks later, and by September it had developed into a near-record size for that time of year. The mainstem Bay continued to see low-oxygen conditions into October, a situation most likely caused by the increased freshwater from the heavy rainfall.

The fluctuations in the size of the dead zone this year show us two things: in the long-term, the dead zone has been decreasing, meaning that the pollution reduction strategies put into place by the Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners are working; but in the short-term, weather events such as prolonged warm weather and heavy rainfall can drastically cause dissolved oxygen levels to vary.

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.

- Roundtables: Members of LGAC will continue hosting roundtables with their peers in Pennsylvania and Virginia over the next couple months. These roundtables are being coordinated with PA DEP and VA DEQ respectively and are intended to better engage local decision makers in watershed protection and restoration.
- Last meeting and vacant seats: LGAC held a meeting November 29-30, 2018 in Washington DC. LGAC seats remain open in Maryland (2) and New York (1).

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390. 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.

- September meeting: The Citizens Advisory Committee met in Richmond, VA on Sept 5-6. The theme of the meeting was innovative approaches to urban stormwater, combined sewage overflow systems and watershed restoration partnerships. The members heard presentations from the James River Association, the Mayor of Richmond, and the Richmond Department of Public Utilities' RVA H2O initiative. They toured the Waste Water Treatment and Collection Plant, a restored riverfront park, and a city middle school with a Green School Initiative. The members also discussed environmental priorities for Virginia, heard updates on the development of VA's local area planning goals in the WIPs, and learned about a local example of mitigation banking.
- CMC MOU: CAC sent a letter to the PSC in support of the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative MOU.
- Previous meeting: CAC held a meeting on November 29-30 in Washington, DC.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Paula Jasinski (VA), CAC Chair and Matt Ehrhart (PA), 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)

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 any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon dixonr@chesapeake.org or STAC Staff Annabelle Harvey harveya@chesapeake.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its third quarterly meeting of FY2018 on Friday, December 7, 2018 at the Westin Annapolis in Annapolis, MD. More information is available on the [December meeting webpage](#). STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2018 on March 26-27, 2019 at a location to be determined.

Workshops:

Special Announcement: The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY2019 STAC workshops will be distributed on approximately **December 10, 2018**. The RFP announcement will be posted on STAC's [webpage](#) and will be distributed to interested parties. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, contact STAC Staff. Proposals will be due February 15, 2019.

Planning is underway for the following three workshops, listed here in order of anticipated date. Information regarding recent workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management – **January 16-17, 2019 (Annapolis, MD)**
- 2) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals – **February 4-5, 2019**
- 3) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Urban Settings* – **TBD**

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers
- 2) CBP Climate Change Modeling 2.0
- 3) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triplet' Connection (FY2017)
- 4) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025 (FY2017)
- 5) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 6) An Analytical Framework for Aligning CBP Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 7) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 8) Linking Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 9) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 10) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup

The following indicators were updated since the September Management Board meeting:

The following indicators were updated since the September Management Board meeting:

- Water Quality Standards Attainment (preliminary, without water clarity acres assessment)
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment Loads and River Flow

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Wetlands – 2016 and 2017 data
- Forest Buffers – 2017 data
- Protected Lands – preliminary 2018 data
- Stream Health – revised baseline
- Diversity – addition of Partnership-approved target
- Toxic Contaminants – 2016 data

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Laura Drescher, 410-267-5713, drescher.laura@epa.gov

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.

- Executive Committee: Executive Committee members discussed possible ways to coordinate and collaborate with recreational fishing interests as NOAA Fisheries works to develop a National Engagement Strategy for the Recreational Fishing Initiative.
- Blue Crab Stock Assessments: The Fisheries GIT met with representatives from MD DNR and VMRC to discuss blue crab stock assessment updates. The stock assessment model was updated with data through 2017, and results showed that there were no substantial changes in estimated reference points or in status of the blue crab stock. Given the update results, the group reached a consensus that a new benchmark stock assessment is not needed at this time.
- Telemetry receiver: The Fisheries GIT and NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office are working in response to plans by the Navy to remove a telemetry receiver array from the lower Chesapeake Bay in January 2019 used to track migratory fish species. The Fisheries GIT wrote a letter to the Navy expressing support to work towards a solution that will continue data collection by the array system, and is consulting with partners in the research community and other federal agencies to determine a strategy for maintaining the most critical subset of receivers.
- Biannual Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting: Planning is ongoing for the December 2018 Biannual Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting, scheduled to take place December 17-18, 2018 at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA. Oyster restoration and monitoring will be the main focus of the meeting, with the rest of the meeting to include discussions on blue crab, forage, and fish habitat outcomes.

- GIT Funding: The scope of work for each GIT funded proposal was developed in collaboration with Fisheries GIT partners. Cross-GIT proposals supported by the Fisheries GIT include:
 - “An ecosystem approach to living shorelines design” (\$50,000)
 - “Support for inventory and evaluation of biological response and environmental data for fish habitat assessment (\$90,000)
 - “Pilot a cost effective, real-time dissolved oxygen vertical monitoring system for characterizing mainstem Chesapeake Bay hypoxia” (\$80,000)
 - “Quantification of the value of green infrastructure hazard mitigation related to inland and coastal flooding” (\$75,000)

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.

- Call for new co-chair: As mentioned by Christine Conn at the last Management Board meeting, Habitat GIT Co-Chair David Whitehurst is retiring, and the Habitat GIT is soliciting nominations for a new co-chair. Please email Christine.conn@maryland.gov and Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov with your suggestions.
- Annual fall meeting: The Habitat GIT held its annual Fall meeting this November 8th and 9th at Cacapon State Park in West Virginia. Much of our afternoon was dedicated to robust discussion on effective communication strategies of BMP co-benefit opportunities with planners and local decision makers and linking decision support tools and data with funding opportunities to implement habitat restoration/protection in shared priority areas. On the 9th, we visited different culverts on park grounds to learn about effective design and structure for aquatic organism passage. Meeting materials and minutes will be posted to the [meeting page](#) as they become available.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, hobaugh.paige@epa.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 conference calls on September 10, September 24 and October 9. A subset of topics is included below:

- The WQGIT reviewed of revised management strategies and workplans for the following outcomes, as part of the Strategy Review System Process: 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs, Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring, Forest Buffers, Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention, and Toxic Contaminants Research. The final SRS materials for Forest Buffers, Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention, and Toxic Contaminants Research outcomes were approved by the WQGIT on October 9. The 2017 WIPs, 2025 WIPs and Water Quality Standards

Attainment and Monitoring SRS materials will be reviewed and finalized by the WQGIT through October and November 2018.

- The WQGIT was briefed on final results of 2025 forecasted land use conditions.
- The WQGIT was briefed on new approaches and tools for targeting sediment sources and management actions
- WQGIT revisions to the climate resiliency narrative use in the Phase III WIPs, and recommended Management Board approval of the narrative revisions.
- Jurisdictional representatives briefed the WQGIT on development of local planning goals in preparation for presentation of local planning goals to the PSC in late fall 2018.
- The WQGIT was briefed on a new data dashboard developed to support Phase III WIP planning, implementation, and local decision-making.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on October 22. A subset of planned topics is included below:

- The WQGIT will be briefed on the use of CAST in creating implementation scenarios that reflect needs for effectiveness, implementation efficiency and co-benefits.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on model runs and map products in development to communicate segment-shed expectations for Phase III WIP development and implementation purposes.
- The WQGIT will be asked to approve the draft SRS progress presentation and proposed indicator for the Tree Canopy outcome and management strategy.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@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.

- SRS: The Land Use Options Evaluations and the Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes were presented to the Management Board in November as part of the SRS process. The HWGIT will now start working on the next iterations of the Land Use Options Evaluations Workplan and Management Strategy, and will assist the Land Use Workgroup on the next iterations of the Land Use Methods and Metrics Workplan and Management Strategy.
- GIT Funding Project: The HWGIT is working with Tetra Tech to finalize the 2016 GIT Funding project, [Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay](#). This project identified and collected geospatial data that can be used to customize watershed health and watershed vulnerability indicators which will help track whether the Healthy Watersheds Outcome is being met. A final report and presentation will out in January.
- GIT Funding Project: The HWGIT is also working with the Chesapeake Conservancy to finalize the 2016 GIT Funding project, *Methodology for developing high-resolution stream and waterbody datasets for the Chesapeake Bay watershed*. This project investigates and evaluates existing and novel methods for deriving channel maps from LiDAR data, developing a prototype for attribution of stream networks, and customizing by physiographic province and to urban areas and meets the

management needs of the CBP Partners for tracking riparian forest buffers, monitoring stream health, assessing habitat for brook trout, and modeling hydrology and sediment. This work was presented to the [STAR Team on November 29th](#).

- GIT Funding Project: The HWGIT is working on RFPs for two FY2018 GIT Funding projects: *Development of improved methodology for data collection of Chesapeake Bay Protected Lands indicator* and *Chesapeake Watershed Conservation Finance Intensive Workshop*.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@chesapeakebay.net

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.

- Public Access Workgroup: Conference Call on November 8th to walk through the process for updating 2018 site count data.
- Stewardship Online Tool: The Stewardship GIT continues to work with the CBP Creative Team and Green Fin Studios to develop the Stewardship Online Tool. The team most recently held a design sprint to get design ideas onto paper.
- MWEE Online Training Tool: The Education Workgroup is in the final stages of developing the MWEE Online Training Guide for formal and informal educators. This has been a close collaboration between staff at NOAA, CBF, MSDE, and Washington College. The MWEE videos developed as a result of 2017 GIT Funding are completely finished and are available here: <https://vimeo.com/walkaboutannapolis>. They will soon be uploaded to YouTube and we are working with the Creative Team to determine best placement on Bay Backpack.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov

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.

GIT 6 in-person meeting

GIT 6 will have its winter quarterly meeting on December 11 in Annapolis

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The SRS Planning Team is planning the 2019 Biennial SRS meeting. The tentative dates for this meeting are March 13-14 2019; the tentative location for this meeting is Richmond, VA. The planning team will bring additional details to Management Board for review and approval in late 2018/early 2019.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found under the “Project and Resources” section of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY2018 GIT Funding

The EPA funded 13 projects for a total of \$855,100 in the FY2018 round of GIT Funding project selection. GIT and project technical leads are working with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop robust scopes of work for each of these projects. Scopes of work will be submitted to the Trust in early November, and an RFP will be released in December 2018 (with a second release planned for early January 2019).

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup has been undertaking a “reconstitution of the workgroup,” in a effort to reinvigorate the membership prior to the Local Leadership outcome review by the Management Board (November 2018). The workgroup held a meeting at the Chesapeake Bay Program on October 11, 2018, where workgroup members discussed priorities for the next 2-year work plan. The next planned meeting will take place in Laurel, DE in March 2019, and will be a joint meeting between the workgroup and the Local Government Advisory Committee (tentative).

Contact: Jennifer Starr, jstarr@allianceforthebay.org

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@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.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on October 23 in Annapolis. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by the co-chair Bruce Michael, DNR. A summary of the Summer High Flow events was presented by Peter Tango, CBP Monitoring and STAR coordinator. As a follow-up, Bruce Michael presented the new Summer Hypoxia results to the group. A brief update on the status of Tier III audits was provided by Caroline Donovan (UMCES), and Durga Ghosh (CBP QA Coordinator). A discussion on implementation of the new MDL procedure by the various participating laboratories was initiated by Durga with all members providing input. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager), and USGS Reference Sample results by Cuiyin Wu (STAR staffer). The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup is currently updating their workplan as part of the SRS process. They are also developing a prioritized list of Climate science needs in conjunction with STAC that will be used to inform STAC’s science synthesis.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup recognized two existing indicators, Protected Lands and Restored Habitat in Wetlands and Oysters, as having climate resilience implications. The Workgroup also published a total of 7 unique climate trends indicators that are currently available on Chesapeake Progress. Those 7 climate indicators will be spotlighted in the January edition of the Bay Barometer.

STAR

The Oct 25th STAR meeting focused on providing feedback to the teams preparing their strategic review system presentations that will be presented to the Management Board in November. The presentations were for the Tree Canopy Outcome, Local Leadership Outcome, Land Use Options Evaluations Outcome, and Land Use Methods and Metrics. The CBP Communications Office also presented an overview of what will be included in the 2017 – 18 Bay Barometer.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is working to support the partnership's WIP3s while making progress on the completion of the Phase 6 and WQSTM model documentation. The CBP Modeling Team is also actively working to complete, by the close of 2019, a fully operational model assessment system of the influence climate change has on Chesapeake water quality. The last Modeling Workgroup Quarterly was held on October 16th and 17th, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#).

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. The purpose of these webinars is to communicate management-relevant research findings to the CBP Partnership's natural resource managers. August, September, and October presentation topics:
 - A synthesis of patterns in estuarine water clarity, with insights for nutrient and sediment management (Jeni Keisman, USGS and Carl Friedrichs, VIMS)
 - Targeting CREP buffers and wetland restoration to maximize water quality benefits (Kathy Boomer, TNC)
 - BMP Implementation: Integrating cost-effectiveness and co-benefits with nutrient efficiency (Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting, Inc)
- ITAT organizers are currently planning 2019 webinar topics and outreach priorities.

Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information

STAR Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@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.

Communications Workgroup:

The Communications Workgroup held our monthly meeting on December 5. We coordinated shared messaging around the holidays, the Bay Program's 35th anniversary and ways to get outside in the winter months. We heard updates on our three action teams: forest buffers, fish consumption advisory and Phase III WIP engagement. We also discussed our 2019 priorities and began to plan our January in-person retreat.

Communications Office and Web Team:

Thanks to those who provided comments on the draft Bay Barometer text. The scheduled release date has been pushed back from January 8 to January 29.

[Wetlands Work](#), the new website aimed at helping agricultural landowners convert some of their land to wetlands, has officially launched. We also published a [blog](#) about the website.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in November:

- [Making wetlands work](#): New online resource to help agricultural landowners restore wetlands
- [Opt outside and discover the Chesapeake](#): Our region offers plenty of opportunities to explore the outdoors
- [The Forgotten River's forgotten people](#): From its original inhabitants to the community today, artwork celebrates the people who live along the banks of the Anacostia
- [New United Nations report states significant efforts needed to limit warming](#): Chesapeake region not immune to climate impacts
- [The woman behind a Thanksgiving tradition](#): Turkeys have been gracing holiday dinner tables since the mid-1800s
- [Diving into love at 200 miles per hour](#): Peregrine falcons form lifetime bonds through diving displays
- [Three champions honored for forest conservation efforts](#): Winners celebrated at annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum
- [A piece of WWI history on the shores of the Bay](#): Over 100 WWI steamboats have a watery grave in Mallows Bay
- [It takes a partnership to save an estuary](#): For more than three decades, the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has been leading the restoration effort
- [Record rainfall causes wild seasonal fluctuations for dissolved oxygen in the Bay](#): Heavy river flows and prolonged warm weather cause dead zone to last well into October
- [Preserving the important things](#): Understanding our role in the ecosystem benefits us all

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

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|---------|---|
| Oct. 3 | Forestry Workgroup conference call |
| Oct. 10 | Status and Trends quarterly meeting |
| Oct. 12 | Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Annapolis) |
| Oct. 22 | Water Quality GIT conference call |

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| Oct. 23-24 | Chesapeake Conservation Partnership annual meeting (Shepherdstown, Wv.) |
| Oct. 29 | Climate Resiliency Workgroup in-person meeting |
| Oct. 30 | Goal Team Chairs Meeting |
| Nov. 8-9 | Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Maryland) |
| Nov. 8-9 | Fall 2018 Habitat GIT meeting (Berkeley Springs, Wv.) |
| Nov. 12 | Water Quality GIT conference call |
| Nov. 13-14 | STAC Workshop: Establishment of multifunctional riparian buffers (Harrisburg, Pa.) |