



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Conference Call
January 9, 2014**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Jan 13	Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Call
Jan 13	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Jan 16	PSC Conference Call
Feb 4	GIT 6 Meeting
March 13-14	LGAC Quarterly Meeting (VA)
March 18-19	STAC Quarterly Meeting (Annapolis)

Program Updates

Progress on Jurisdiction's TMDL Programmatic Milestones

On January 15, the six Chesapeake Bay states and the District of Columbia are expected to submit the final status on whether they achieved their 2012-2013 Chesapeake Bay TMDL programmatic milestones. In December, all jurisdictions submitted data on the best management practices implemented during the past milestone period.

By January 15, jurisdictions are also expected to submit draft programmatic and numeric pollution reduction commitments for the next milestone period – 2014 through 2015. EPA expects final programmatic and numeric commitments for the 2014-2015 milestone period by May 15, 2014. EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL website (<http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>) will include information on the milestones, including links to the jurisdictions' achievements and commitments. The 2012-2013 milestones were the first set of milestones established after the TMDL was complete. By late spring, EPA will assess whether jurisdictions achieved their numeric and programmatic 2012-2013 milestones and whether the 2015 commitments are on pace to have practices in place by 2017 that would reduce 60% of the pollution necessary to meet water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.

Chesapeake Bay Federal partners' Water Quality Milestones

The Chesapeake Bay Federal Leadership Committee's Water Quality Milestones were finalized and posted on the Executive Order website on January 7, 2014. This second set of federal two-year milestones for water quality applies to calendar years 2014 and 2015. The Executive Order (EO) 13508 Strategy calls upon federal agencies to join the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions in establishing two-year milestones, many of which are designed to support the jurisdictions in meeting their water quality milestones leading to the 2025 implementation goal.

The milestones were selected to represent the activities that have the potential to have significant environmental outcomes, that require significant resources, or that directly support the jurisdictions in meeting Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) commitments. The remaining 2014-2015 federal milestone goals will be outlined in the Chesapeake Bay EO 2014 Action Plan to be published in early

2014. Completion of the Water Quality Milestones at this time is also in accordance with an EPA settlement agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

2013 Chesapeake Bay Program Report to Congress agency review

On December 19, the 2013 Chesapeake Bay Program Report to Congress was transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. Comments were expected to be completed by January 6. The report will be submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 117(h) of the Clean Water Act and is required every 5 years. The report includes: the status and trends of the Bay ecosystem; the effectiveness of CBP in implementing management strategies; and recommendations for improved management through development of a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

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Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

On Thursday, December 12, the Chesapeake Executive Council held a public presentation and press event at the U.S. National Arboretum Visitor Center in Washington, D.C. Executive Council members highlighted the Chesapeake Bay Program's thirty-year history, discussed future restoration and conservation efforts, and named Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley its new council chair. O'Malley served two consecutive terms as chair in 2007 and 2008, and accepted this transfer of leadership from District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray, who became chair in July 2012. O'Malley promised to lead the Bay Program and its partners into a new era of progress and accountability, which will include the signing of a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The agreement, now in its draft form, will be the fourth of its kind and will set a series of goals and outcomes that will guide restoration across the watershed.

EO 13508 FY13 Progress Report and FY14 Action Plan agency review

On December 17, an updated FY13 Progress Report and FY14 Action Plan draft was sent to OMB and CEQ for review. OMB/CEQ requested an extension on review, and edits are due back on January 13. The FY13 Progress Report will highlight efforts toward reaching the federal milestones set out in the FY13 Action Plan in support of the Executive Order for Bay restoration. The FY14 Action Plan outlines next steps to be taken by Federal agencies in support of the Executive Order for Bay restoration, including outlining the federal two-year Milestones for 2014-2015. Following the interagency review, the report will be presented to the Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board, then posted for public comment. The final reports are scheduled to be published at the end of January 2014.

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Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting

On January 2, the Chesapeake Bay Commission held its quarterly meeting in Annapolis. Agenda items included: Identifying Commission Priorities, a discussion on the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, a briefing on Implications of Climate Change for Chesapeake Bay Restoration, and the election of 2014 officers. The new chair is Pennsylvania House Representative, Ron Miller of York County.

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More than \$100M available to protect communities from climate change

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced more than \$100 million in new grant funds on the one-year anniversary of the "superstorm" that affected the entire East Coast, raising river flow in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and causing significant damage to New Jersey and New York. The *Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program* will direct funding to those states that declared a

natural disaster after the storm, including all seven Bay jurisdictions. Proposals are due Friday, January 31, 2014.

In an effort to benefit humans and wildlife alike, funding will be directed to those projects that use natural ecosystems to protect coastal communities from strong storms, sea level rise and erosion. The restoration of marshes, wetlands and oyster reefs, for example, can build coastal resiliency in the face of climate change; so, too, can planting streamside trees, removing dams from rivers and streams, and better managing stormwater runoff.

The grant program will be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Learn more at: <http://www.nfwf.org/hurricanesandy/Pages/home.aspx>

Draft Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy

USDA has posted a Draft Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy for public review and comment, available online at: <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>

This document supports the Chesapeake Executive Order Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which includes an outcome to permanently protect (i.e. through easements, etc.) an additional 2 million acres between 2010-2025, including 695,000 acres of high value forest land. The USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service collaborated with Bay states and other partners to produce this Strategy. The Draft Strategy emphasizes importance of protecting working lands to support environmental, economic, and community goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including water quality goals and the Chesapeake TMDL. It also summarizes opportunities to strengthen working lands protection in the Bay, including recommended actions to advance these goals over the long term.

Public comments may be sent via email to Julie Mawhorter (jmawhorter@fs.fed.us) by February 14, 2014.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2013 on March 18-19, 2014 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan on attending this meeting, please send your RSVP to Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

STAC is in the process of finalizing three FY 2012 workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few months.

- 1) Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay (M3.2)
- 2) Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats
- 3) Critical Issues in Implementing Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

STAC recently held its last workshop of 2013. The workshop is described in detail below:

1) *In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems* - The workshop took place on December 17-18, 2013 at the National Association of Home Builders Headquarters in Washington, DC. The workshop was an open forum to further discuss decentralized systems issues to bring the watershed as a whole into a new era of management. The workshop focused on potential measures addressing state management of existing onsite septic systems and new technologies that may be used in new installations of onsite septic systems. A workshop report will be distributed in early March.

STAC staff and the workshop steering committees are in the beginning stages of the planning process. The workshops include:

1) *The Peculiarities of Perviousness* - The steering committee tentatively scheduled this workshop for February 12-13, 2014 at the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resource Center in Baltimore, Maryland. This workshop plans to define, measure, and model the nutrient dynamics from the land cover known as pervious land.

2) *Management Effects on Water Quality Trends* - This workshop will take place on March 25-26, 2014 at The Westin Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop will investigate connections between trends in human activities (including management actions in the watershed), watershed loads, and estuarine water quality and living resources.

3) *Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* - The workshop is being planned for early May 2014. The objective of this workshop is to create agreement among practitioners, regulators and scientists on a common language and methods for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health to address water quality, climatological impacts, physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.

For additional information about workshops, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

Local Government Advisory Committee

LGAC held its' last quarterly meeting in Annapolis in early December. In addition to meeting jointly with CAC to explore the issue of local capacity, LGAC members heard presentations by Mark Bennett (STAR) and Bill Dennison (STAC) on the water quality monitoring program. As a result, LGAC, through their Coordinator, will become more engaged in Phase II Monitoring Networks "BASIN" review process.

LGAC's next meeting will be held March 13 and/or 14 in the Tidewater region of Virginia. The tentative meeting schedule for the remainder of 2014 is as follows: June 5-6, September 25-26, and December 4-5.

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Citizens' Advisory Committee

No new updates at this time.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting

The Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting (STAR) Team monthly meeting will be held on January 23, 2014. All STAR workgroups have been asked to present their 2014 work plans at this meeting. The STAR Team is underway in conducting the Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) process. Phase II of BASIN includes the review, through panel discussions, of how other long-term monitoring programs conduct and fund their network activities.

- The First BASIN International Long-term Monitoring Programs Panel was held on December 6, 2013. This panel included case studies from the USGS Great lakes Monitoring Program, and the Puget Sound Partnership. More information can be found at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21128/>
- The Second BASIN International Long-term Monitoring Panel will be held on Friday, January 10, 2014 and is open to all who are interested in participating. This panel will include case studies

from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS), the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA), and the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. Information can be found at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21275/>

- An update on the BASIN process was provided to CBP-STAC in December 2013 by STAR Chair Bill Dennison and Vice-Chair Mark Bennett. Additional synergy is being targeted in 2014 between the Phase II STAR work that is focused on the Chesapeake Bay and Basin water quality monitoring program and Phase III STAC work that is taking a detailed look at overall monitoring needs associated with tracking progress of the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals and outcomes.

The Modeling Workgroup and Modeling Team continue to work on Midpoint Assessment Priorities. Updates on progress and next steps were given at the [December 2013](#) and [January 2014](#) Modeling Quarterly Review Meetings.

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Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Fisheries

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

- The full Fisheries GIT met for their biannual meeting December 3-4, 2013 at Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD. The agenda covered a wide range of topics, including the GIT's recent priorities of blue crabs, oyster restoration, and invasive catfish. The team also discussed ecosystem-based management, forage fish, and striped bass, which are important issues to address in the near future as the New Agreement is signed and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission considers new striped bass fishery regulations.
 - The agenda, meeting materials and the meeting summary can be found at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21025/>.
- CBSAC met in person in late November 2013 to discuss the issue of gear selectivity in the Winter Dredge Survey (WDS), which they identified as the top research priority. CBSAC has developed a new sampling design that will be implemented in the 2014 Winter Dredge Survey to analyze the gear selectivity between MD and VA.
- The Executive Committee will have their first monthly conference call of 2014 on Monday, January 13th.

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GIT 2 – Habitat

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

No new updates at this time.

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GIT 3 – Water Quality

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

No new updates at this time.

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

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

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.

GIT4 had a face-to-face meeting on December 19th. GIT4 members from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, and West Virginia gave an update on state management strategies for healthy waters and watersheds protection. GIT4 reflected on collective management strategies, and affirmed that the following strategies are important for GIT4 moving forward:

- Develop a method to track and report watershed health and protection.
- Engage with local governments, land trusts, and other local stakeholders.
- Develop outreach and communications tools.
- Improve policy and program efficiency.

At the end of the meeting, GIT4 agreed to form ad-hoc workgroups that will work directly on local engagement, communications, and tracking strategies in 2014. GIT4 members heard presentations on two Case Studies:

- Ruth Thorton (TNC) and Keith Fisher (TNC) gave a presentation on West Virginia's Watershed Assessment Pilot Project. The purpose of this pilot was to develop and test a watershed assessment methodology that will eventually be replicated for all of West Virginia's watersheds.
- Shannon Moore (Frederick County Office of Sustainable and Environmental Resources) gave a presentation on Frederick County's Green Infrastructure project. The project is a multi-year effort to identify and protect environmentally rich and valuable areas in Frederick County.

On December 5th, EPA Office of Water released *A Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program*. This document describes a new long-term vision that focuses on goals such as prioritization, assessment, protection, and integration. For a link to the vision statement, visit:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21119/vision_303d_program_dec_2013.pdf

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GIT 5 – Foster Stewardship

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.

No new updates at this time.

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GIT 6 – Partnering and Leadership

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

No new updates at this time.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Recent Meetings and Events

Dec 2-3	Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Summit
Dec 3-4	Fisheries Full GIT Meeting
Dec 3-4	STAC Quarterly Meeting
Dec 5-6	LGAC Quarterly Meeting
Dec 5-6	CAC Meeting
Dec 12	Executive Council Meeting (D.C.)
Dec 19	Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting