



## Program Updates

### Management Board

July 18, 2024

#### CBPO Calendar

##### **June 13**

June 10

June 14

June 17

June 18

June 18

June 20

June 20

June 20

June 20

June 21

June 24

##### **June 25**

June 26

##### **June 27**

*June 27*

*July 1*

##### **July 8**

*July 9*

July 9-10

July 16

July 22

##### **Management Board QPM: Healthy Watersheds**

Data Integrity Workgroup Meeting

Agriculture Modeling Team Meeting

Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting

Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup Meeting

Wetlands Workgroup Meeting

GIT6 Meeting

Agriculture Workgroup Meeting

Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting

Nontidal Network Meeting

Stream Health Workgroup Meeting

GIT3: Water Quality Meeting

##### **Principals Staff Committee Meeting**

Press Event for 2024 Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Awards

##### **Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting**

*2024 Blue Crab Advisory Report*

*CBP Release Beyond 2025 Draft Synthesis Report for Public Feedback*

##### **Monthly FOD Meeting**

*2024 UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card*

Modeling Workgroup Meeting

Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Team Workgroup meeting

Guest Lecture at Howard University: Lew Linker & Kaylyn Gootman

#### General Updates

##### **CBP Releases Beyond 2025 Synthesis Report for Public Comment**

On July 1, the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership released the Beyond 2025 draft synthesis report for public comment. The report includes key recommendations from the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee and focused on providing a scope of work, or next steps, for the CBP as it

prepares for the next chapter in its partnership beyond 2025. The report will be open for public comment for 60 days starting on July 1. The steering committee was convened in response to a directive from the Chesapeake Executive Council and Principals' Staff Committee and consists of representatives from the signatories to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, Goal Implementation Teams, partnership Advisory Committees, participating federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. For more information, including a copy of the report, go to: [www.chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025)  
Contact: Matt Robinson (EPA CBPO), [robinson.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.matthew@epa.gov)

### **UMCES 2023 Report Card Gives Highest Grade in 20 Years**

On July 9, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) released its 2023 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card at a press event the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in Harrisburg, PA. The report card provides a transparent, timely, and geographically detailed assessment of Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. This year's report shows a half-grade point improvement (C+) in the Chesapeake Bay's health while pinpointing how economic, ecological, and societal factors relate to sustainability. Attendees will include PA Gov. Josh Shapiro (invited); Adam Ortiz, EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator; Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary, PA DEP; Jake Reilly, Director of Chesapeake Bay Programs, NFWF; Dr. Bill Dennison, Vice President for Science Application, UMCES; and Dr. Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, President, UMCES.

Contact: Matt Robinson (EPA CBPO), [robinson.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.matthew@epa.gov)

### **CBP Federal Office Directors Discuss Reconvening Federal Leadership Committee**

EPA Regional Administrator, Adam Ortiz and Maryland DNR Secretary and PSC Chair Josh Kurtz attending the CBP Federal Office Directors (FOD) monthly meeting on July 8. The discussion focused on renewed federal agency engagement with the partnership. Each federal agency provided a brief overview of their role within the partnership and talked about ideas for enhancing collaboration, advancing partnership goals and outcomes, and optimizing our outcomes around the watershed. The FOD also briefly discussed the plans for the upcoming Federal Leadership Committee – Designees (FLCD) meeting to be held in the fall.

Contact: Amy Handen (EPA CBPO), [handen.amy@epa.gov](mailto:handen.amy@epa.gov)

### **Guest Lecture at Howard University on Monday, July 22**

On Monday, July 22 two EPA CBPO staff, Lew Linker and Dr. Kaylyn Gootman, will be giving a guest lecture to environmental health graduate students at Howard University in Washington, DC. The lecture will cover the topics of 1) environmental changes, 2) effects on people, and 3) climate change from the Chesapeake Bay Program Office perspective, including modeling predictions and resiliency work with local communities.

Contact: Kaylyn Gootman (EPA CBPO), [gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov)

## **Annual Blue Crab Report Highlights Need to Maintain Focus on Female, Juvenile Crabs**

The 2024 Blue Crab Advisory Report released on June 27 by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee confirms that the overall population of blue crabs remains low but steady with a slight increase in juvenile crabs. Specifically, the report notes that while the population of juvenile crabs increased to 138 million from last year's 116 million, the overall population dropped slightly from 323 million to 317 million. Population numbers in the report come from the Winter Dredge Survey, conducted by Maryland and Virginia. The increase in the juvenile population is a positive step, but it is still at one of the lowest levels seen since the Winter Dredge Survey began in 1990.

For a copy of the report: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/2024-blue-crab-advisory-report>

## **Goal Implementation Team Updates**

### **GIT1: Fisheries**

#### **Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee**

The [Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee \(CBSAC\)](#) recently published its [2024 Blue Crab Advisory Report](#) detailing the status and recommendations for the management of Blue Crabs throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Winter Dredge Survey estimated the population of all Blue Crabs in the Chesapeake Bay to be 317 million individuals. The juvenile Blue Crab population jumped from 116 million (2023) to 138 million (2024). The population of female Blue Crabs dropped from 152 million to 133 million, which remains under the target of 196 million individuals. This number, however, is still above the minimum threshold of 72.5 million individuals.

The CBSAC recommends a precautionary approach and a focus on juvenile and female Blue Crab populations. CBSAC is also working on developing a new benchmark stock assessment that should be completed by early 2026.

#### **All information from**

Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee. 2024 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report. Chesapeake Bay Program. Annapolis, MD. 30 pp.

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/2024-blue-crab-advisory-report>

#### **Relevant Links**

[Blue Crab Advisory Report](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Program Press Release](#)

[Chesapeake Progress](#)

## **GIT2: Habitat**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Wetlands Workgroup Meeting - Tidal: The Wetlands Workgroup will be having their Tidal Team Workgroup meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link](#)

### **Strategy Review System & Healthy Watersheds Cohort**

- The Stream Health Workgroup is in the final stages of the most recent SRS cycle. During the June 13<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Progress Meeting ([link](#)), the workgroup co-chairs presented their Outcome's findings and next steps to the Management Board. Details on Stream Health Workgroup's request to the Management Board are below more details:
- **Stream Health Request:** We ask the Management Board to support the investment of resources to achieve a more holistic approach to improving ecological integrity of streams based on sound science, coupled with land management, planning, and protection to improve and sustain stream health.
  - o **Management Board Response:** The Management Board supports the continued investment of resources from sources throughout the partnership to achieve a more holistic approach to improving ecological integrity of streams based on sound science, coupled with land management, planning, and protection to improve and sustain stream health. Through this support the Management Board and Stream Health Workgroup seek to accelerate progress up to 2025.
- **Next Steps:** Currently, the Workgroup co-chairs are working on finalizing their new 2024-2025 Workplan and updating their Management Strategy. These documents will be finalized and submitted to the SRS Team by 9/5/2024, after which the documents will be posted to the workgroup webpage.

**FY2024 GIT Funding** The following project proposals were selected by CBP Leadership for GIT Funding:

- **SAV:** *Chesapeake Bay Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program Development*
- **Stream Health:** *Phase 3B – Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators – Physicochemical Metric Analysis*
- **Wetlands:** *Increasing Effectiveness of Landowner Engagement to Accelerate Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*

**Habitat GIT Staffer:** The advertisement for the open HGIT Staffer position closed July 7th, and interviews will soon be underway. We anticipate a new staffer to be hired by the end of August.

## **GIT3: Water Quality**

The WQGIT held a [meeting](#) on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and discussed the following topics:

## Workgroup Updates

- AgWG
  - o The AgWG approved the charge of the Agroforestry EPEG and will bring it back in July.
- FWG
  - o There are updated numbers for the [Forest Buffers](#) and [Tree Canopy](#) outcomes on ChesapeakeProgress.
- TCW
  - o The TCW and Brook Trout Workgroup are discussing moving forward on 6PPDQ; the TCW's PFAS GIT Funding proposal was not funded.

## Partner Spotlights

- There was no partner spotlight this month.

## Beyond 2025 Update

- KC and Joe summarized the latest developments and schedule for the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, which had its [June meeting](#) on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This included details on the Draft Synthesis Report that was finalized at the June meeting, and the ERG report. Members discussed the public outreach strategy and opportunities to comment.

## SRS Planning Follow-Up and Outlook

- There was follow up on SRS and the WQGIT's long term planning based on feedback received at the [May WQGIT Meeting](#). At the May WQGIT meeting there was discussion of a possible request to hold or pause the SRS process while Beyond 2025 carries on. **The omission of this from the 5/13 recap was an oversight and WQGIT Leadership made a correction to the [Actions & Decisions document](#).** WQGIT leadership also sought input from SRS and GIT6 leadership on our options. WQGIT leadership briefed the WQGIT on the available options with respect to a suggested pause. There was extensive discussion over the perceived pros and cons of a pause. Several WQGIT members indicated a desire to pause the SRS process and expressed concerns, such as a concern that the process at this time would not allow enough time or space for broader or larger scale discussions. Others noted that the SRS process enables opportunities for cross-jurisdictional and cross-outcome learning. Members of the SRS team noted that there is flexibility within the process to simplify the workplan and agree whether a 1- or 2-year workplan would be developed following the QPM in September. After discussion it was suggested that the WQGIT leadership could return with a draft consolidated workplan and draft information to inform discussion on whether to pursue a one- or two-year update for SRS at the July meeting. Each member supported this path forward in the chat. Thus, members decided on WQGIT leadership returning with a draft consolidated work plan to inform discussion on whether to pursue a one- or two-year update strategy for SRS. Information would include workplan actions completed from 23-24, 23-24

actions that could carry forward for 25-26, potential new actions for 25-26, and documentation of challenges to share with the MB.

#### **Flex time**

- There was a discussion of the [new Land Use Strategy](#). This document was referenced during the 5/13 Management Board QPM for the Healthy Watersheds Cohort.

#### **GIT4: Healthy Watersheds**

*There are no updates to the Management Board at this time.*

#### **GIT5: Stewardship**

Former Stewardship GIT staffer Wuillam Urvina transitioned to a full-time position as an Equity and Outreach Specialist with the Choose Clean Water Coalition. A job announcement for his open staffer position has been posted and will close July 21st. [Chesapeake Bay Program's Stewardship Goal Team Staffer Application - Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

#### **Stewardship Workgroup**

- Work is on course for the Stewardship Network Study & Asset Mapping "Scope 9" GIT Funded Project with contractors from Local Concepts LLC. The project is working to develop a visualization (a "map") of the network of networks supporting stewardship work in the watershed, in order to assess and use networks more effectively to strengthen collaboration and increase progress toward our shared goals and outcomes. This will serve many outcomes, both under the Stewardship GIT as well as those outcomes that can benefit from increased stewardship efforts (such as tree canopy, riparian buffers, etc.). The network visualization tool, now called "Chesapeake Steward Map," will provide a platform for stewardship providers to share their information (such as who they are, what they do and where, and which other providers they interact with), which will be used to help show existing and facilitate new connections among the various entities working in the field. This tool will highlight strengths and gaps in partner relationships and geographic areas to inform future efforts. Invitations to join the network map have been sent out to a first round of network members, and a number of individuals have joined the map. The map is currently being tested for functionality and refined to suit feedback and needs. Outreach to grow the use of the tool will be ongoing.
- The Workgroup completed its biennial progress review with the Management Board in March, and updated the Management Strategy and the new two year action plan (2024-25) throughout April-May. The Workgroup is now forming small teams to begin work towards actions intended to be started and/or completed in 2024.
- In February, Workgroup co-chair Michael Weyand left his position at the City of Gaithersburg for a different role with Montgomery County in the agriculture sector, and will not be able to continue leading the Stewardship Workgroup. The Workgroup will be

recruiting for a new co-chair this spring, to work with the current co-chair, Ashley Traut from the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition. Additionally, a transition plan is being developed to recruit a new co-chair to replace Ashley Traut who intends to take a step back from the co-chair position this summer.

### **Education Workgroup**

- The GIT funded project entitled, “How Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes,” referred to as “Scope 7” just wrapped up the first phase of the project. This included gathering data from school and school district personnel through surveys and focus groups to identify key areas where nonformal education organizations should be focusing to increase school district engagement. A summary document is now complete and a draft rubric has been developed. The next step of this project includes finalizing the rubric based on feedback from the state departments of education and NAAEE affiliate leaders and field testing it with partners across the region.
- Work continues with contractor WE Strategies on the Workforce Landscape Assessment “Scope 8” GIT funded project. The contractor team and advisory committee have been meeting regularly. The contracting team has conducted their interviews and presented findings to the Education WG during the April Quarterly meeting, and is preparing a workshop for July to present their findings and recommendations and gain feedback from more of the CBP community.
- The Workgroup provided a brief update to the Management Board in March on the 2022 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool which measures and tracks progress on the Student Outcome of the Environmental Literacy Goal.
- The 2024 implementation of the Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (that tracks implementation of the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience across the watershed) is postponed because EPA is renegotiating their contract. We expect an August 1st launch.
- Education Workgroup has been conducting community listening sessions with intern Apoorva Ajith. Listening session feedback will be used to inform the workgroup’s priorities and future work plans at the state and regional levels.

### **Public Access Workgroup**

- The Public Access Workgroup presented its progress review to the Management Board in March, 2024. The workgroup has completed its new two year action plan (2024-2025) and 2023 data call for new Public Access sites. The Public Access Workgroup is currently on track to meet the Outcome target by 2025.

### **Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)**

- The Protected Lands Workgroup completed its new two-year action plan for 2024-25. This process is a bit off-cycle, but the new cycle of cohorts for the SRS process would

have delayed the plan, and an updated, new approach was needed. The most recent indicator shows sufficient progress to expect meeting the target for the Outcome by 2025, if the pace of land conservation stays on course; therefore the action plan will focus on actions needed to help accelerate or maintain the rate of conservation.

- PLWG GIS Community of Practice has completed a series of meetings with state jurisdictions to learn more about their data collection and records. Final findings were presented which established several needs and future actions to accurately maintain data collection.

### **Diversity Workgroup**

- The Diversity Workgroup has been exploring the process and timing for restructuring and growing the capacity of the Steering Committee and Workgroup membership, along with redefining the roles within these groups. This restructuring effort aims to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the workgroup as a whole. This also entails working to broaden participation to include entities currently missing that would help to round out the group's capacity to implement actions and achieve progress toward the Outcome. Recent Workgroup and Steering Committee meetings have included many new members who are eager to contribute to the work, and these groups are pleasingly the most diverse we've seen in any CBP meetings! Members have also begun joining small action focused teams to implement the new work plan, demonstrating a commitment towards greater engagement.
- The Diversity Workgroup has been involved in contributing to the internal assessment and development of recommendations as part of the CBP's "Beyond 2025" process. Forward-looking discussions have been held with Workgroup and Steering Committee members and other partners over the past year to explore ways to center people in Chesapeake Bay efforts beyond 2025, and to consider a vision and hopes for the future of the watershed. These insights have been carried by staff to the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee meetings and the "People" topic recommendations.
- The Diversity Workgroup presented its progress review to the Management Board in March, 2024. The Diversity Workgroup updated their Management Strategy and developed their new two year action plan (2024-2025) from March through the end of May. The Workgroup has begun coordinating the creation of small action teams to tackle key work plan actions, especially those intended to begin in 2024.

### **GIT6: Enhance Partnering, Leadership, Management**

**Update from June 20<sup>th</sup> GIT6 Quarterly Meeting:** On June 20<sup>th</sup>, GIT6 heard from all of its workgroups with updates on their recent activity. In addition, the GIT received feedback from



its membership on future involvement with the recommendations coming out of the Beyond 2025 steering committee efforts.

**Contact Information** Lucinda Power(Chair) [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov), James E. Martin(Chair) [james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov), Greg Allen (Coordinator) [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov), Erin Sonnenburg (Staffer) [Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov).

### **Local Leadership Workgroup:**

- Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis - GIT Funding Proposal
  - The aim of the proposal is to identify local government assistance programs and conduct a gap analysis to recommend an approach to filling those gaps.
  - Support partners who provide funds and offer local government technical assistance programs to identify opportunities to supplement or enhance existing programs with the goal of increasing local government implementation.
  - Help to meet many of the other outcomes that rely on local government implementation of policies and/or practices. This includes but is not limited to: Wetlands, Forest Buffers, Tree Canopy, Land Use Options Evaluation, Healthy Watersheds, Climate Adaptation and WIP 2025.
  - Empowered with detailed information on existing local government technical assistance programs and gaps in the current system, decision-makers at state and federal levels can more effectively target limited resources to the local governments that need it most.
- Local Leadership Survey
  - The 2024 Local Leadership survey was closed on May 25th and had the goal of quantifying the success of the LLWG and identifying areas where we need to strengthen our efforts. The survey was distributed via our network of local government associations and received 200 responses representing all watershed states and the District of Columbia.
  - Initial survey was done in 2022 with the goal of establishing the baseline of the knowledge and capacity of local governments around watershed concepts, mandates, regulations, and how decisions impact up and down stream.
  - Data is currently being analyzed and results will be utilized to better tailor our resources and programming to fit the needs of local government officials across the watershed. Initial Key findings:
    - Stormwater remains a key issue across the watershed and smaller communities (especially those with fewer than 10,000 residents) remained lower in using tools to protect/improve water resources, took

fewer actions related to water quality/water resources, and had less understanding of local, state, and federal regulations that they are subject to.

- Clean Water Roundtables

- In partnership with LGAC and multiple local government associations, LLWG is hosting a series of smaller, regional roundtable discussions with local officials to collect additional feedback about the draft Beyond 2025 Steering Committee report. Attendees are asked to bring their success stories, share their progress, and continue the momentum of the incredible work of their local government. These conversations will help ensure the people and places local government officials represent are accurately reflected and included in watershed cleanup efforts now and beyond 2025, while informing LGAC's comments report.

- August Quarterly Meeting

- The Next LLWG Meeting: Tuesday November 20th 9:30am - 12pm (virtual) and we plan to “Talk Toxics” by discussing Brownfields and PFAs. See meeting webpage for more details.

**Budget and Finance Workgroup:**

The workgroup was awarded funds for its STAC workshop proposal. The workshop will explore the natural and social sciences gaps that impede the use of market-based approaches for Chesapeake restoration. On June 28<sup>th</sup> the first meeting of the steering committee was held to discuss next steps.

**Contact Information:** Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair) [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov); Khesha Reed (Co-Chair) [reed.khesha@epa.gov](mailto:reed.khesha@epa.gov)

**Strategy Review System Workgroup:**

*There are no updates to the Management Board at this time.*

**Scientific Technical Assessment & Reporting Updates**

**Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)**

The [June STAR Meeting's](#) theme was Beyond 2025. The meeting opened with the fire alarm in the Chesapeake Bay Program Office going off, but once that was resolved, Ken Hyer (USGS) provided an overview of ERG's Report on Beyond 2025. This was followed by a discussion of the report's findings and considerations. Then, Breck Sullivan (USGS) gave an overview of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee's Draft Report. STAR participants discussed each of the draft

report's recommendations and provided feedback on the recommendations, which will be summarized and provided to the Steering Committee for their consideration. There will not be a July STAR meeting, and the next STAR meeting will be [August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024](#).

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its Quarterly Review on [July 9th](#) and [July 10th](#), 2024. On the first day of the July 2024 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review, presentations included a review of the STAC Climate Change 3.0 Workshop, an overview of the Phase 7 Watershed model, an update on CalCAST development, an update on progress on Phase 7 WSM model development, a presentation on Development of Efficient Multi-Objective Optimization Procedures, and a presentation on Stormwater Management in a Changing Climate SWM & AG BMPs. The day also featured a discussion on Updating and Improving Loading Sensitivity to Inputs, Phosphorous Loading Processes, and Related Activity Update. Day 2 included an update on the Main Bay Model, a Phase 7 update of Model Criteria Assessment, discussion on Whole Bay Criteria Assessment, Decarbonization Sensitivity Scenarios on atmospheric chemistry models, a review of CBP Multiple Tributary Model (MTM) Work and Progress on the East Coast Tracer Model, a presentation on the Documentation of Algal Temperature Correction for Algal Growth, and updates on MTM progress. Day 2 concluded with a discussion of climate change impacts in the Chesapeake region beyond mid-century.

### **Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)**

The [June ITAT meeting](#) began with a progress update on the UMCES Nutrient Limitation project funded by EPA. Tom Fisher (UMCES) showed bioassay data that has been collected so far for the project. Then the River Input Monitoring (RIM) loads and trends, updated through 2023, were presented by USGS. Finally, workgroup members took some time to debrief the Chesapeake Community Research Symposium and share any insights that are relevant to ITAT's work. The next ITAT meeting will take place [on August 28th, 2024](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute 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 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan ([bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net)) and Kaylyn Gootman ([gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov)).

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held a meeting on [June 13, 2024](#). Mike Mallonee (ICPRB) presented the split sample data from the coordinated split sample program. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the next steps for labs that are switching out their instruments for new instruments. Some labs have already made the switch and started running paired samples. Statistician Elgin Perry contributed ideas on how to ensure that the data from the new instruments is consistent with data from the previous instruments and between the labs. Durga and Elgin will continue to collect information from the labs on their minimum required protocols for instrument switches, as well as data from labs who have started to run their paired sample analysis. Elgin will use this information to determine what level of replication is needed, and the group will meet again later in the summer to solidify this framework and share updates on this issue. The next Data Integrity Workgroup Meeting will be in August, exact date to be determined.

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

The Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) met for their quarterly public meeting on [May 20, 2024](#). Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) provided an overview of the process used to pull data into the 4-Dimensional interpolator tool development for, including a comprehensive overview of what data sets are used for exploring patterns to inform development; development and testing; validation; and application. Following this, Elgin Perry gave an overview of how he was approaching stochastic components of daily mean and small scale variability in the interpolator development. Both presentations included a thorough question and answer period. The meeting wrapped up with more discussion on topics such as the interpolator grid, and areas lacking data. The next BORG meeting will be a development team meeting on July 15, 2024 and they will not meet in June.

### **Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup**

The Nontidal Network (NTN) Team of the Integrated Monitoring Network Workgroup met on [June 20, 2024](#). The workgroup shared updates on a number of topics including Goal Implementation Team funding, the historical database reconstruction effort, and the small agricultural watershed monitoring sites. Doug Chambers (USGS) shared an update on potential bias in the Suspended Sediment Concentration analysis for NTN stations in karst watersheds. Doug will bring this issue to the Data Integrity Workgroup at a future date so that they can weigh in on the best way to proceed. The meeting wrapped up with Jimmy Webber (USGS) presenting on the River Input Monitoring (RIM) loads and trends, updated through 2023. The next Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting will be [August 21st, 2024](#).

### **Hypoxia Collaborative Team**

The Hypoxia Collaborative Team met on [March 4, 2024](#). Partners shared updates on their ongoing work. Then, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (NCBO) team shared the proposal for the 2024 hypoxia station deployment locations with justification for the proposed placements. This proposal was followed by a robust discussion of the proposed two geographical areas. The collaborative was given an additional week to provide feedback or follow-up thoughts on the proposed locations. Peter Tango (USGS) then went over a proposed

model-assisted optimization analysis for a high frequency sensor water quality sampling design strategy for long term and near term to support bay habitat and criteria assessment at the segment scale. This analysis was proposed for GIT funding and this project was selected to be funded. The scoping meeting for this GIT funded project will occur on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Hypoxia Collaborative Team will meet next in October.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup**

The CAP workgroup met on [June 18, 2024](#). The meeting began with Peter Tango (USGS) sharing which GIT funded projects were funded, and participants expressed interest in being involved with the Sampling Strategy and Design for Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment GIT funded project. Peter, Richard Tian (UMCES) and Tish Robertson (VA DEQ) led a discussion of the state boundary layers in the current 3-D interpolator. Some of the VA interpolation cells were misplaced based on the current stated boundary; Richard and Tish are fixing that, and Richard will also be checking that the same issue isn't present with MD interpolation cells. The group discussed whether it made more sense to use the US Topo Boundary or the US Census 2020 layer. Ultimately, they decided to go with the US Topo Boundary, and all were in consensus on this decision. Peter then brought to the group the proposal of having a new workgroup or action team that would focus on water quality standards. Participants shared that they didn't feel a totally new workgroup would be appropriate, and that their priorities should be chlorophyll narrative criteria, making use of all the data, and supporting the monitoring design GIT funded project. There may be workshops for other questions that come up that CAP can lend expertise to, and CAP can delegate things that don't fit within their mission. The next CAP Workgroup meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual on [August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024](#). The in-person location will be at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

### **Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)**

The [STWG met on January 29th](#) to foster cross-outcome learning and discuss STWG plans for 2024. The meeting began with a presentation on the [Forage Status and Trends Report](#), which synthesized all research findings and projects completed since 2014 in support of the Forage Outcome. This was followed by a presentation and discussion on the ongoing conversation to develop the Oyster outcome post 2025. The meeting wrapped up with an overview of the STWG plans and objectives for 2024. The full workgroup will next convene as needed while individual teams continue to meet to work on new indicator development projects. The sea level rise indicator team had a broader discussion with partners at the tidal convening of the [Wetlands Workgroup on May 21st, 2024](#)

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup led a number of efforts and initiatives in the month of June. The staff and leadership supported a special session at the Chesapeake Community research Symposium, "Tackling Ecosystem-Level Impacts from Rising Water Temperatures in the Tidal Waters of Chesapeake Bay," which brought together researchers focused on understanding extreme temperature events in the Bay, temperature impacts to key living resources and

habitats, and how to communicate environmental conditions and subsequent living resource impacts in the Bay. Workgroup leadership has followed up with some of the presenters to understand how the Marine Heatwave work that they are supporting could help inform external partner efforts.

The workgroup held a special [working meeting](#) focused on community resilience, which helped inform current community resilience efforts taking place in Maryland and Virginia. Discussion topics included understanding how best to approach communities around the topic of resilience, what sorts of tools, metrics, and data are helpful for decision support, and how to identify tipping points for changing resilience strategies with communities. Key takeaways from the discussions include ensuring that community engagement happens first and occurs often throughout the process, data and tools with finer-scale information (e.g., community specific), social vulnerability metrics, and visualization/ prediction ability are most helpful, and that when discussing tipping points, it is important to approach the topic with sensitivity and have a foundation of trust with community before engaging on these topics.

The workgroup's [June Meeting](#) focused on sharing updates about recent workgroup-supported efforts. Jamileh Soueidan presented highlights from the Chesapeake Community Research Symposium and the Community Resilience Working Meeting, Julie Reichert-Nguyen shared an overview of the Adaptation Outcome presentation for July's Management Board Meeting, and Mark Bennett briefed the workgroup on the key takeaways from the STAC Climate Model 3.0 workshop. Additionally, the workgroup heard presentations from Krista Romita-Grocholski and [Lena Easton-Calabria](#) on MARISA's small grants program and Michael Maddox on UMD's Climate Resilience Network.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's [August meeting](#) will be held on August 15, 2024 from 1:30-3:30 PM. Tentative topics include Equitable Resilience Builder, carbon sequestration of BMPs, and saltwater inundation assessment.

## **Strategic Engagement Team & Communications Office Updates**

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

On June 25, the Strategic Engagement Team met with the Healthy Watersheds and Climate Cohort to discuss their people-oriented needs and actions. SET will work on coordinating with STAC to see if there is any capacity to work with their social scientists. SET will also work with Healthy Watersheds and Climate Cohort on future GIT funding proposals to make them more impactful and will follow up with the cohort soon. The next bi-weekly SET meeting will take place on July 16th for a discussion on the Community Response to Land Use Changes Project.

### **Communications Office**

The Communications Office is helping to support the Beyond 2025 effort through public engagement efforts. On July 1, they released a blog announcing the public feedback period, an FAQ and recorded a webinar. They will help collect comments through the public feedback period, which ends on August 30. These products can be found on [www.chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025).

### **Executive Council**

The Executive Council meeting will take place on December 10 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Annapolis, Md. The Executive Council planning committee continues to meet bi-weekly to discuss possible agenda topics as well as further details regarding logistics. While no agenda topics have been finalized, potential actions include a directive that reaffirms commitment to the Advisory Committees and acknowledges the new Ag Advisory Committee and issues a new charge for the recommendations in the Beyond 2025 report.

### **Press Releases**

- The following press releases were issued in June:
- Chesapeake Bay oyster reef restoration on track to meet 2025 goals:  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-oyster-reef-restoration-on-track-to-meet-2025-goals>
- Chesapeake Bay Program announces highest number of forest buffers planted across watershed since 2016: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/while-forest-buffer-restoration-advances-in-the-bay-watershed-forest-loss-offsets-gains>
- Experts forecast Chesapeake Bay dead zone to be near average in summer 2024:  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/experts-forecast-chesapeake-bay-dead-zone-to-be-near-average-in-summer-2024>

### **Published Blogs**

The following blogs were published in June:

- Memorial trees give us a way to honor loved ones while protecting the Bay  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/memorial-trees-give-us-a-way-to-honor-loved-ones-while-protecting-the-bay>
- In Memoriam of Wink Hastings, a Chesapeake unsung hero  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/in-memoriam-of-wink-hastings-a-chesapeake-unsung-hero>
- Eight out of 10 reefs are now restored in Chesapeake Bay tributaries  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/eight-out-of-10-reefs-are-now-restored-in-chesapeake-bay-tributaries>
- What's your 'Unsung Hero' of the Chesapeake Bay?



<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/whats-your-unsung-hero-of-the-chesapeake-bay>

- How one town is determined not to drown  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how-one-town-is-determined-not-to-drown>
- Why conserving existing forest buffers is just as important as planting new ones  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/why-conserving-existing-forest-buffers-is-just-as-important-as-planting-new-ones>
- Size of the Chesapeake Bay dead zone predicted to be about average despite heavy rainfall  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/size-of-the-chesapeake-bay-dead-zone-predicted-to-be-about-average-despite-heavy-rainfall>
- Baltimoreans swim again at Harbor Splash 2024  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/baltimoreans-swim-again-at-harbor-splash-2024>
- Hike leader looks back on one of the longest running LGBTQ outdoor groups in Washington, D.C.  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/hike-leader-looks-back-on-one-of-the-longest-running-lgbtq-outdoor-groups-in-washington-d-c>

## **Advisory Committees Updates**

### **Local Governments Advisory Committee**

*There are no updates to the Management Board at this time.*

If there are MB requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Laura Cattell Noll at [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staffer, Kayli Ottomanelli at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

### **Stakeholders Advisory Committee:**

*There are no updates to the Management Board at this time.*

The Stakeholders' Committee officers are Chair- Chuck Herrick (DC) and Vice-Chair Donna Harris-Aikens (VA).

### **Scientific Technical Advisory Committee**



### **STAC-Sponsored Workshop RFP for FY2024: Proposals due Aug 16th**

The Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is accepting proposals for STAC-sponsored workshops for the second round of funding for the STAC fiscal year 2024 budget cycle. Workshops are organized to gather critically needed scientific and/or technical information related to protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Workshops funded through this RFP should convene by May 31, 2025.

- [STAC Workshop FY2024 Request for Proposals](#)

As an independent advisory committee to the entire Chesapeake Bay Partnership, STAC reserves funds for two categories of workshops. More information can be found in the attached RFP and Workshop Overview Document. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the Workshop categories. The current STAC membership list can be found [here](#). Proposals are due to STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org)), by COB August 16, 2024.

### **September 2024 Quarterly Meeting**

The September 2024 Quarterly Meeting will be held in-person on **Tuesday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 11th** at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle in Howard, PA. For updates and more information as it becomes available, please visit the [September 2024 STAC Quarterly Meeting page](#).

### **June 2024 Quarterly Meeting**

The June 2024 Quarterly Meeting was held **Tuesday, June 4th and Wednesday, June 5th** at Point of View Retreat in Mason Neck, VA. For presentations, recordings, and materials from the meeting, please visit the [June 2024 STAC Quarterly Meeting page](#).

### **Recently Published Reports**

All STAC review and workshop reports are available for download on the STAC [Publication webpage](#). So far in 2024, STAC has published four workshop reports:

- Hegberg, C., J. Egan, C. Brosch, J. Hubbart, P. Imhoff, D. Lueckenhoff, T. Miles, W. Teel, and D. Wood. (2024). *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities*. [Download](#).
- Mason, P., G. Noe, Berlin, C., D. Clearwater, S. Claggett, D. Goerman, B. Landry, and A. Santoro. 2024. *Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services*. [Download](#).

- McPhillips, L., A. Buda, Z. Easton, W. L. Daniels, S. Fathel, J. Ignosh, C. Raj, D. Sample. (2024). *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality*. [Download](#).
- Berger, K, K. Filippino, G. Shenk, N. Goulet, M. Lookenbill, D. Moyer, G. Noe, A. Porter, J. Shallenberger, B. Thomas, and G. Yactayo. (2024). *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model*. [Download](#).
- Hanson, J., K. Brownson, E. Gilinsky, K. Gootman, B. Jenkins, R. Rossi, K. Saunders, L. Wainger, B. Williams, and S. Yee. (2024). *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of Multiple CBP Outcomes*. [Download](#).