



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
June 2019**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

June 19-20	Agriculture Workgroup in-person meeting
June 20	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
June 26-27	Sustainable Fisheries GIT Biannual meeting (Cambridge, Md.)
June 27	Environmental Literacy Summit (Woodbridge, Va.)
June 27	SAV workgroup meeting
July 1	Fish Passage workgroup meeting
July 8	Water Quality GIT conference call
July 9	Communications workgroup in-person meeting (Kent Island, Md.)
July 10	Local Leadership workgroup meeting (Frederick, Md.)
July 11	Management Board meeting
July 25	SRS presentations at STAR meeting
July 30	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting (GIT funding meeting)
Aug. 12	PSC conference call
Aug. 15	Healthy Watersheds Quarterly Progress Meeting

Updates

Advisory Committee Meetings with EC Chair Governor Hogan

On June 11, the chairs of the CBPO Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), Citizens Advisory Committee and Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) met with Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) Chair, Governor Larry Hogan. The advisory committee chairs each had time to discuss their recommendations for the Executive Council in advance of the September 5 EC meeting. CBPO Director Dana Aunkst also provided some brief remarks focusing mostly on the Phase III WIPs. Maryland Department of Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, and other senior staff also attended the meeting.

Contact: Dana Aunkst, 410-267-5700, aunkst.dana@epa.gov

Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans

On Friday, April 12, all seven of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions posted their *draft* Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) for public review. The Phase III WIPs include the specific steps each jurisdiction intends to implement between 2019 and 2025 to meet Bay restoration goals. EPA is evaluating the plans based on the criteria that was communicated to the jurisdictions in a June 20, 2018 “expectations letter”. EPA will provide formal comments to the jurisdictions in June and the WIPs will become final in August. Links to each of the jurisdictions’ websites through the EPA TMDL site at:

www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl.

Contact: Lucinda Power, (410) 267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Scott's Partner Network Annual Meeting

On June 6, CBPO Branch Chief Carin Bisland provided the keynote speech at the Scott's Miracle Gro National Partner Network Annual meeting in Annapolis, Md. The Scott's Company and its Foundation have worked on water quality issues nationwide since 2013. In 2016 it established the National Partner Network representing more than a dozen environmental organizations to help protect access to safe water. More than 15 organizations were represented at the meeting including: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, The Everglades Foundation, National Association of Conservation Districts, New York League of Conservation Voters, Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Restore America's Estuaries and The Nature Conservancy.

Contact: Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

CBP Enhances Events Calendar

The Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office recently upgraded its events calendar webpage. The page can now help users find fun local, Chesapeake-related events such as nature workshops, cultural events, races, hikes, educational activities, and volunteer opportunities like trash clean-ups, invasive plant removals and much more.

The calendar is also the primary source for all events celebrating Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week held this year from June 1-9. Beginning in 2016, Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. Businesses, government agencies, nonprofits and residents are encouraged to commemorate the week with events, activities and educational programs to acknowledge the significance of the Bay.

Conservation Practices Are on the Rise

Every five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) collects data to paint a detailed picture of the current state of farms and ranches in the country. In April, USDA released its latest version of this report: the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The ag census has become the authoritative source for agriculture data, accounting for every state and county in the United States. It is commonly used by state and local agencies, businesses, academics and the media to fund programs, identify needs, evaluate trends, prepare for emergencies and show the value of agriculture at all levels.

The most recent agricultural census highlighted the following positive trends related to conservation practices:

- Cover crops increased nationwide by five million acres, a roughly 50 percent increase over the past five years.
- No-till and reduced tillage acres increased by about eight percent and 27.5 percent, respectively. This means that approximately half of the farmland in the United States is left covered with crop residue or vegetation until ready for production.

Fact sheets detailing specific state information and data from the most recent agriculture census are currently available, and a more-detailed breakdown of agricultural trends in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be available in late July.

For more information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/recent_agricultural_census_shows_conservation_practices_are_on_the_rise

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.

- June meeting: LGAC met June 5-6, 2019 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA. Topics for discussion included the potential for expanding and replicating a Lancaster County Community Development Block Grants program for addressing water quality, providing feedback on the Watershed Data Dashboard, firming up the recommendations from LGAC to the Executive Council and discussing the plans for the September Local Government Forum on Workforce Development. LGAC still seeks a New York representative.
- LGAC members assisted in the review of NFWF Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants proposals to provide a local government perspective to the applications.
- Next meeting: LGAC's next meeting will be September 11-12 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. The first day of the quarterly meeting, LGAC will host the Local Government Forum. This year the Forum will delve into the topic of Workforce Development by looking at current green infrastructure training programs and seeing which could possibly be replicated and expanded. A key focus will be exploring efforts to create a pipeline to viable jobs.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jestarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.

- May meeting: During the May CAC meeting, the members identified their top 4 priorities through 2020: Agricultural targeting, verification and tracking; Phase III WIPs; Co-benefits of Urban Stormwater Control and Green Workforce Development.
- WIPs: On June 7, the CAC delegations submitted comments on the VA, DC, MD and PA draft Phase III WIPs. CAC also helped review proposals for the Small Watershed Grants.
- Executive Council: On June 11, CAC Chair along with LGAC Chair and STAC representative met with Governor Hogan to discuss the Advisory Committees key points of recommendations for the September Executive Council meeting.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), 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 second quarterly meeting of FY19 on September 10-11, 2019 at a location to be determined. More information will be made available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

Workshops:

On May 22-23, 2019, STAC hosted a workshop in Baltimore, MD titled "Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings". This workshop synthesized findings on occurrence, transport, fate, and impact of contaminants of concern in agricultural and urban settings and explored approaches to mitigate their effects. Participants from around the watershed and the nation gathered to identify future needs for the most pressing research directions and discuss integrated management approaches. More information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2019, listed here in order of anticipated date. Planning is underway for several of these activities. Information regarding recent workshops- including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Targeting Non-Point Source BMP Implementation
- 2) Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program
- 3) Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Management to Soil and Watershed Health
- 4) Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

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](#).

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 3) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 5) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 6) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The Triblet Connection (FY2017)
- 7) Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
- 8) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers (FY2018)
- 9) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management (FY2018)

10) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals (FY2018)

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

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

- SAV – final 2017 & preliminary 2018 data
- Protected Lands – update to 2018 data
- Public access
- Reducing Pollution Indicator – modelled nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment loads

Contact: Daniel Giddings, giddings.daniel@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.

- Biannual meeting: Sustainable Fisheries GIT meets for a biannual meeting June 26-27 at Horn Point Lab oyster hatchery in Cambridge, MD. Meeting topics for Day 1 will include approval of the 2019 blue crab Advisory Report and stock assessment update, research on ecosystem factors impacting blue crab, a session on fish habitat with NCBO funded research, ongoing regional habitat assessment efforts, and discussions to prepare for SRS, concluded by a multi-disciplinary session linking water quality monitoring to trends in fisheries. Day 2 will include a vote to approve the Manokin River as the 10th tributary selected for restoration, discussion of a consensus-driven process for oysters, and a hatchery tour, followed by research on shoreline hardening impacts to forage, and refining/ranking GIT funded project ideas. Meeting info [here](#).
- CBSAC Advisory Report: CBSAC held a meeting at Potomac River Fisheries Commission May 30 to discuss recommendations and next steps to finalize the 2019 Advisory Report. A press release is expected from CBP by early July on the report with results of 2019 winter dredge survey.
- GIT funding: A GIT-funded project to support inventory of biological data for a regional Fish Habitat Assessment began with a May 29 kick-off meeting with Tetrattech. The Fish Habitat Action Team is also planning a call for June 12, and is preparing draft materials for the first cohort of SRS with a check-in meeting June 20.

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.

- Spring meeting: The Habitat GIT held its annual spring meeting May 21-22 in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Day 1 discussion was focused on GIT Funding project updates and planning and efforts toward incorporating the adaptive management process into everyday Habitat GIT work. The group enjoyed an informative personal tour of the Conowingo Dam and a climb up its fish ladder on a warm and sunny Day 2! Meeting materials will be posted to the [calendar event page](#) once they become available.
- New Habitat GIT co-chair: We are happy welcome former Chesapeake Bay Program Office Acting Deputy Director Bill Jenkins as our new Habitat GIT Co-Chair! Bill has over 30 years of natural resource management experience and currently serves as the Senior Advisor in the US EPA's Mid-Atlantic Regional office Laboratory Services and Applied Sciences Division where he works to collaboratively meet the science needs of Regional Office programs, and their state agency, local government, and NGO partners. Working alongside Co-Chair Christine Conn, Bill will no doubt bring our team good energy, insight, and expertise.
- Aquatic Nuisance Task Force Strategic Plan: One of the HGIT staffers attended the Aquatic Nuisance Task Force meeting on May 7 – 9. The Task Force is finalizing a new strategic plan and many discussions focused on outcomes and approached to achieving these goals. If you are interested to review the plan, please contact Susan Pasko (susan_pasko@fws.gov) for more information. The Mid-Atlantic Panel for Aquatic Invasive species brought one request to the Task Force. The Panel would like the Task Force to transfer the funds and personnel from the Eastern Shore Nutria Eradication effort to the western shore of Virginia, where nutria are moving inland. A response from the Task Force is still pending.
- The Wetland Workgroup held a kick-off meeting on June 5 to discuss workgroup logistics and priorities. The decided to try to meet quarterly, with the next meeting tentatively slated for September. Discussions at the meeting also expressed interest in a facilitated discussion over the summer to finalize a new workplan and update the management strategy. More details to follow.
- The fish passage workgroup will be meeting July 1 from 10-3:30 in the Fish Shack.

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 May 13 and June 10. A subset of topics is included below:

- Further discussion of the proposed process and schedule for development of the Phase III sediment planning targets, and recommendation to the PSC whether to approve the proposal.

- Discussion of FY19 GIT Funding Project Proposals
- WQGIT recommendation on options for draft Phase III sediment targets for the Management Board and PSC.
- WQGIT approval of the final Accounting for Growth Expectations for Phase III WIPs and land policy BMPs.
- WQGIT approval of the on the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel Report, and WQGIT decision on continuance or removal of the interim BMP efficiency for cropland irrigation.

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.

- Quarterly Meeting: The Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team held a quarterly meeting on June 6. Meeting materials may be found on the meeting calendar [page](#). The GIT is preparing the Healthy Watersheds outcome Logic and Action Plan and Narrative Analysis for the Strategy Review System.

Contact: Renee Thompson; rthompso@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.

- Stewardship Online Tool: The Stewardship Team leads and Web Team are well into the design and mock up phases of the Stewardship Online Tool.
- Environmental Literacy Summit: The Education Workgroup has been preparing materials for the Environmental Literacy Summit to be held on June 27th at George Mason University's Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA. Discussions will include advancing specific goals for the Sustainable Schools Outcome and the fact that we are not achieving consistent environmental literacy progress in all schools throughout the watershed. This event was organized in response to the unanimous vote at the Chesapeake Executive Council in August, 2018 that we must convene the region's education and natural resource leaders around these issues.
- Public access sites: The Public Access Workgroup announced 23 new sites opened in 2018 (12 in MD, 4 in PA, and 7 in VA), marking 176 total sites (59% of the 300 site goal). The team will be convening this summer to discuss next steps and dive deeper into enhancing the quality of public access sites.

- Conservation finance: The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership held their first round table focusing on private investments in land protection on April 29th in Baltimore. This was the first series of steps towards the GIT funded Chesapeake Watershed Conservation Finance Workshop being planned for fall, 2019.

Diversity Workgroup

- In-person meeting: The Diversity Workgroup had an in-person meeting with 25 attendees on May 20th in Baltimore, MD. The agenda included an overview of the 2018-19 workplan, covering what we have achieved so far and where the focus will be for the remainder of 2019. The workgroup heard from partners in Baltimore who are engaged in workforce development efforts, were given an update on the DEI Strategy GIT Funded project that is currently underway with Skeo Solutions and participated in an exercise to engage workgroup members with specific actions in the workplan. The Diversity Workgroup is currently developing a plan for greater jurisdiction and member engagement and will meet again in September.
- Internships: The Chesapeake-StREAM intern program is underway and 11 interns have been placed. This year will include a series of lunch & learn sessions designed to provide interns with added support and mentorship.
- Tuana Phillips, Coordinator, voluntarily reviewed three Environmental Justice Small Grant proposals submitted to the EPA Region III office.
- Jim Edward, Chair, visited Virginia State University to participate in the signing of an MOU between VSU and the EPA designed to formalize and strengthen their relationship and to enhance research, teaching, outreach, career development and stewardship in environmental sciences.
- Several members of the steering committee met with members of the other workgroups in the stewardship GIT to collaborate on shared goals and outcomes. Plans are underway for a larger workshop this fall.
- Demographic profile: The workgroup has been continuing to collect information for the Chesapeake Bay Program Demographic Profile. This will close on June 10th, 2019. The results will be analyzed and compared to the 2016 profile over the course of the summer.

Diversity workgroup contact: Francesca King; king.francesca@epa.gov

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.

Quarterly GIT 6 meeting – summer 2019

Based on GIT 6 member availability, the June 11 Quarterly GIT 6 meeting will be rescheduled for some time in mid to late July. Agenda topics will include completing the decision framework and updates from the GIT 6 workgroups.

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

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The Chesapeake Bay Program hosted the Strategy Review System Biennial Meeting on March 13-14, 2019 in Richmond, Virginia. The [SRS Planning Team](#) is working to synthesize the results of that meeting and other concurrent efforts to communicate changes to the cycle going forward. Discussions with the Management Board on various related topics are forthcoming.

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

The ChesapeakeStat team is working on final details prior to launch of ChesapeakeDecisions in support of the Strategy Review System. A walkthrough demonstration is planned for the July Management Board meeting. Pertinent updates to the Management Board will be shared as development continues.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

FY2019 GIT Funding

The EPA will continue the GIT Funding program in FY2019 at a level of \$900,000.¹ GITs and their respective workgroups are working to develop project ideas, due to GIT 6 and Chesapeake Bay Trust staff in mid-June 2019. After a peer review and revision period, GIT and program leadership will meet in late July 2019 to review and score final project proposals. A final list of projects will be submitted to the Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office for review and approval in August 2019.

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

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup has completed a revision of the Local Leadership Management Strategy and 2-Year Logic and Action Plan as part of the Strategy Review System process. Documents were accepted as complete by the Management Board at the May 16, 2019 meeting. The next workgroup meeting will be held on July 10, 2019 in Frederick, MD (venue TBD).

Contact: Jennifer Starr, jstarr@allianceforthebay.org

Budget and Finance Workgroup

Jim Edward, EPA and Dr. Elliott Campbell, MD DNR will serve as Co-Chairs of the workgroup. This change in leadership was approved by workgroup members and the Management Board in April 2019. The workgroup held a quarterly meeting in April 2019, and discussed next steps to move forward with the recommendations in the Environmental Finance Advisory Board report *Illustrative Private Equity Capital Model: Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Project*. The workgroup is also considering options and recommendations from the draft *Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Financing Strategy* report as part of a larger effort to incorporate finance considerations into *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* outcome strategies and action plans.

Contacts: Jim Edward, edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell, elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

GIT 6 Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team

¹ This amount may vary slightly based on overhead costs, as determined by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

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.

CAP Workgroup

The most recent CAP WG meeting was held on 3/8/2019. Topics were:

- **James River chlorophyll *a* criteria updates.** The proposed updates to the James River chlorophyll-*a* criteria summarizing work from a seven year study have been published to the Virginia register of regulations <http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss11/v35i11.pdf> . Tish Robertson (VADEQ) reviewed the proposal highlighting the remaining time for input as the public review and comment period was closing on 3/22/19.
- **Status of restoration variances – dissolved oxygen.** Gary Shenk (USGS) provides a summary of the process underway documenting the most recent variances that will be needed for 303d listing assessments and therefore also updating in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards Indicator score assessments.
- **K_d Regression Updates** – In 2018, the CAP WG highlighted a desire to revisit the K_d regressions used for water clarity acres assessments. The workgroup action item is documenting the updated technique on local calibration over regional calibration.
- for producing water quality acres assessments. **Assessing possible advances in SAV acreage assessment: a STAC workshop proposal** – Brooke Landry (MD DNR, Chair of SAV Workgroup) highlighted directions for advancing new protocols and procedures through workshop support. We anticipate some members on the workgroup will be participating in those workshop meetings if the proposal is funded.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on March 19, 2019 at the Fish and Wildlife Services in Annapolis. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found here. The meeting was presided by the co-chairs; Bruce Michael, DNR and Cindy Johnson, VADEQ. Bruce provided an update on new funding and leadership changes at DNR, and renewed commitment for working towards WIP goals and the Conowingo RFP. Monitoring updates were provided by all jurisdictions. A greener approach being implemented by VADEQ for field sheets was discussed and approved by the workgroup. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager). The final audit report for SRBC was submitted and important study highlights were presented by Durga Ghosh (CBP QA Coordinator). A discussion on guidelines for incorporating non-traditional labs as a part of Citizen Monitoring was initiated by Durga with all members providing input. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup management strategy, workplan and logic table will be reviewed for final approval at June 13 management board meeting. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup recently reviewed the draft WIPS climate narratives with jurisdictional representatives during their May in person meeting. The workgroup is currently working with the water quality GIT on next steps related to addressing the development of BMPs and stormwater management to better address future climate risks.

STAR

[May STAR meeting](#) focused on next steps of CBP indicators and discussed the stream health indicator metrics and analysis and updated workgroup members on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative with a focus on benthic invertebrate monitoring. STAR has been engaging with GITs on developing potential GIT funding ideas. Next [STAR meeting](#) will be held on June 20th with update from the State of Science effort from STAC, resource assessment from SSRF, and freshwater flow and hypoxia condition of 2019.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is working to make 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 May Modeling Workgroup conference call](#) focused on the 2019 climate change assessment and refined activities needed to provide the analysis needed by climate change. The next [Modeling WG quarterly review](#) will be held on July 9 and 10.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Between April and June 2019, ITAT organizers will work with STAR to establish future priorities and activities based on outcomes from the SRS process.
- 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. December 2018 – March 2019 presentation topics included:
 - Agricultural Conservation Practice Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Dean Hively, USGS)
 - A pilot implementation of high frequency nutrient monitoring to assess effects of large storms (Lora Harris, UMCES)
 - Assessing urban BMP function, performance, and delivery of co-benefits to stream ecosystems (Rosemary Fanelli, USGS)

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

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; cwu@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:

Monthly meeting: The Communications Workgroup held our monthly meeting on June 5. We coordinated shared messaging around Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 1-9) and Pollinator Week (June 17-23). We heard updates from our Phase III WIP Engagement Action Team and Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week Action Team. We also discussed some best practices for communicating the benefits of clean water that could be shared with the Auckland City Council in New Zealand, which is dealing with

many of the same water quality problems that we are and reached out to our Director of Communications, Rachel Felter, to get some advice.

The theme of this year's Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 1-9) was "All Hands" and each day we highlighted a different group that contributes to the success of watershed restoration. The groups were: agriculture; watermen/aquaculture; small businesses; nonprofits/volunteers; local governments; stormwater/wastewater; military; recreation/sportsmen; and you. We issued a [press release](#) and shared a social media toolkit. Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week was covered by 10 media outlets, shared by more than 65 organizations on social media and was officially proclaimed in Pennsylvania and several municipalities. We also worked with the Web Team to revamp our [Attend an Event](#) page, where we posted events happening during Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. We will continue to post events to this calendar year-round.

In-person retreat: We are also planning this year's second in-person retreat. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9 at the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center on Kent Island, Md. and will be a training on how to communicate about climate change.

Communications Office and Web Team:

The Communications Office is pleased to welcome our summer intern, Carly Shonbrun-Siege. Carly recently graduated from Cornell University and has communications experience from her time with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network in Ithaca, New York.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in May:

- [Check out what's happening around the watershed](#): The Chesapeake Bay Program helps find fun events near you
- [All of us have a hand in restoring the Bay](#): Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week at an event near you
- [Recent agricultural census shows conservation practices are on the rise](#): Farmers are increasingly using cover crops, no-till and reduced tillage
- [The grade of the Chesapeake Bay remains a 'C'](#): University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science finds Bay health remains steady
- [Mr. Trash Wheel gobbles up what we feed him](#): The diet of this trash-eating machine shows us the impact of our litter
- [Record rainfall in 2018 had complex effects on the health of Baltimore waterways](#): Blue Water Baltimore releases annual report on water quality in Inner Harbor, Patapsco River and tributaries
- [A soggy 2018 leaves its mark on Maryland's Eastern Shore](#): ShoreRivers first-ever combined report card offers glimpse into the impacts of last year's record-breaking rain
- [Trees are keeping Baltimore cool](#): While reducing air and water pollution, city trees can also manage the heat island effect
- [Sugar maples face a sticky situation](#): Rising temperatures can affect the distribution of these native trees

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

May 20	Climate Resiliency Workgroup in-person meeting
May 20	Diversity Workgroup in-person (Baltimore, Md.)
May 20-22	Choose Clean Water Conference (Baltimore, Md.)
May 21-22	Habitat GIT Meeting (Havre de Grace Maritime Museum)
May 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Baltimore, Md.)
May 29	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
June 5	Land Use Workgroup in-person meeting
June 5-6	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Selinsgrove, Pa.)
June 6	Healthy Watersheds GIT in-person meeting
June 7	EPA Evaluation of Phase III WIPs released
June 11-12	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting (Blacksburg, Va.)