**Chesapeake Bay Program**

**Management Board Meeting**

**November 12, 2015**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Nov 16-18 NFWF Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Networking Forum

Nov 19-20 CBP Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (North Beach, MD)

Dec 3 CBP STAR meeting (CBPO)

Dec 3-4 CBP Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Winchester, VA)

Dec 8-9 CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting (Annapolis, MD)

March TBD CBP Principals’ Staff Committee meeting (TBD)

**Program Updates**

**Draft 2016-2017 Federal Agency Water Quality milestones in Interagency Review**

On November 2, Chesapeake Bay Watershed jurisdictions received for review the draft federal agency Water Quality programmatic milestones for the 2016-2017 milestone period. EPA and other federal agencies completed an interagency review prior to sharing with the jurisdictions. Once the jurisdictions have had an opportunity to review the milestones, they will be released for a 30-day public comment period (expected to start in mid-November).

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

**James River Earns B- on Report Card**

The river scored a 61 percent which was based on four indicators: fish and wildlife populations, habitat, pollution reduction and restoration and protection actions. The score is a 4 percent increase since the report was last issued in 2013, and it marks the first time the historically-polluted waterway has scored in the B range. However, much more work is needed, particularly relating to sediment pollution in the waterway. Sediment pollution in the James has shown little improvement over the past several years, and it continues to pose a significant threat to long-term health of the river. Virginia however, has made significant strides in reducing nutrient pollution as the state works to meet limits set by the TMDL.

For more information visit: <http://www.jamesriverassociation.org/stateofthejames/>

**Businesses for the Chesapeake Bay**

CBPO Director Nick DiPasquale gave a presentation on connections for businesses to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement on November 10 in Baltimore. Sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Businesses for the Bay brings together large and small business leaders to network and learn more about environmental sustainability goals, challenges and successes, identify needs, and develop sustainable solutions. Other speakers include former Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and Maryland Environmental Secretary Ben Grumbles.

**Advisory Committee Response Letters**

Response letters to the Advisory Committees were signed by Molly Ward and electronically sent out on Wednesday October 28, 2015. The letters were distributed to the GIT Chairs, CBPO Director, deputy and associate directors, and the advisory committee coordinators and were on behalf of Governor Terry McAuliffe and the Chesapeake Executive Council. The letters acknowledged the Citizen’s Science, Local Governments and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committees for submitting their 2015 Annual Report and Recommendations. In addition, the three letters individually expressed the importance of each advisory committee as well as future expectations of how the Management Board will help work on additional recommendations.

Contact:  Greg Barranco, Barranco.greg@epa.gov, (410) 267-5778

**Chesapeake Conservation Partnership’s Annual Meeting**

On October 5-6, 2015 the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership held their sixth annual meeting in Shepherdstown, VA. The record breaking attendance of about 120 consisted of people from non-profits, American Indian tribes, land trusts and federal and state agencies. Updates during the meeting included the recent submission of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal for the 2017 fiscal year, preservation efforts on Tangier Island, VA, the successful acquisition of the historic Campbell Tract in the George Washington National Forest, and the improved safety and public access at Brookwood Point on Ostega Lake. The meeting also set the stage for action in the coming year, including continuing progress toward achieving the protected lands outcome of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. To learn more, visit <http://www.chesapeakeconservation.org/>

**Advisory Committee Updates**

**Local Government Advisory Committee**

*The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.*

LGAC will meet December 3-4, 2015 in Winchester, VA. Agenda items include the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP. Lucinda Power and Frank Dukes will attend to discuss findings of the Stakeholder Assessment and solicit the Committee's input on the Phase III WIP expectations Action Plan. Jurisdiction liaisons are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. The full agenda is available on LGAC's Meeting page at Chesapeakebay.net. Contact Amy Robins at [arobins@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:arobins@allianceforthebay.org) to RSVP.

Contact: Mary Gattis, [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org)

**Citizens’ Advisory Committee**

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

The Citizens Advisory Committee will be holding their next quarterly meeting on November 19-20 in North Beach, MD

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

**Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee**

*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.*

STAC will hold its third quarterly meeting of FY 2015 on December 8-9, 2015 at the O’Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at [kellyr@si.edu](mailto:kellyr@si.edu)

FY 2015 Workshops: Planning for the seven workshops below has been underway for several months. The majority of workshops are scheduled to take place in the Winter/Spring of 2016.

* Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
* Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality
* The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments
* Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making
* Optimization for TMDL Implementation Planning
* Enhancing Capacity to Support the Chesapeake Agreement Outcome though Increased Integration of Regional Science and Management Efforts
* Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at [dixonra@si.edu](mailto:dixonra@si.edu) or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php>

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

* Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals.
* Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?
* Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.

Finally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. STAC received the Chesapeake Bay Criteria Addendum review request on July 31st. STAC provided feedback to the proposed review questions and is now waiting for the revised questions. The remaining reviews requests are expected in the coming months. The STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Midpoint Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews is below.

* Proposed revised James River chlorophyll a water quality criteria
* Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanation s and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
* Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder
* Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
* Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
* Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For additional information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at [gardnern@si.edu](file:///C:\Users\gbarranc\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\D0G80XMY\gardnern@si.edu) or visit the STAC review webpage at: <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php>

**Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

**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.*

* The Sustainable Fisheries GIT submitted their blue crab, oyster, forage, and fish habitat workplan drafts to the CBP after meeting with individual workgroups and task groups to discuss the performance goals and incremental actions needed to achieve these goals within the two year time frame.
* The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and GIT staff hosted a workshop on cownose rays which functioned to convene scientific experts, fisheries managers, and interested members of the public to discuss the latest research on cownose rays. Topics included cownose ray life history, fishing effort, ecosystem interactions, and population dynamics. The Sustainable Fisheries GIT is currently drafting a report based on the information shared at the cownose ray workshop.
* A literature review and analysis project on fish habitat has been initiated with Tetratech. GIT staff and Fish Habitat Team members identified species which were lacking comprehensive fish habitat analysis for this project. Tetratech will compile information on habitat requirements, habitat functions, and threats or stressors to those habitats for the identified species in a literature review. The project will be completed by December 31, 2015.
* The Sustainable Fisheries GIT will be hosting their semi-annual meeting with the full Sustainable Fisheries GIT in December. They will review oyster restoration progress, blue crab research, forage indicator study and other topics. Information for the meeting can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23179/>

Contact: Bruce Vogt, [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov)

**Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

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

The Habitat GIT held its biannual meeting on October 14, 2015 at the FWS CBFO in Annapolis, MD. Draft workplans and new management tools were shared with over 50 participants, though we lacked representation from DE and NY. Chair Mike Slattery, FWS, began a 60 day detail as manager of the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex on Monday, 10/19. During this time, Jana Davis, CBT, is serving as acting Chair and Mike Slattery is serving as acting Vice-Chair of the GIT. Nominations for the next GIT Chair are being accepted through November 30th by phone or email to Jennifer Greiner or Jana Davis. As the past two chairs have been federal representatives, the next chair would preferably represent a watershed state.

Coordinator Jennifer Greiner will attend the Black Duck Joint Venture meeting at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge on November 4th & 5th to present on collaboration opportunities between the BDJV and work toward the CBP’s Black Duck outcome. Preliminary data from summer Brook Trout sampling funded by 2014 HGIT funds is being analyzed by partners at UMass-Amherst; this data will be a useful addition to the Brook Trout story map being planned with the GIS team to inform partners of the progress and upcoming work related to the Brook Trout outcome.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, [Jennifer\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_greiner@fws.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 a conference call on October 13:

* The WQGIT selected their six at-large members and approved the Agriculture Workgroup’s membership definition.
* The WQGIT discussed recent work on water quality monitoring, including analysis of trends in water quality criteria attainment, the use of General Additive Models (GAMs) for detecting and describing trends in estuarine waters, and an introduction to the USGS’s analysis of trends in nutrient and sediment loads from the WRTDS model.
* The WQGIT has convened a small group to develop an Action Plan based upon the recently released draft Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment findings. A draft of the Action Plan will be presented to the WQGIT at their December meeting.
* The Oyster BMP expert panel held their open stakeholder meeting on November 1.
* Jurisdictions will submit their revised BMP Verification Program Plans to EPA for review on November 15, 2015.

Upcoming WQGIT Topics for November 9 conference call:

* Overview of Federal 2016/2017 Water Quality Milestones.
* Review of “Draft 2017 WIP, 2025 WIP and Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome Management Strategy Workplan”.
* Update on Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment Action Plan development.
* Demonstration of BayTAS 2.0.
* Overview of Phase 6 land use review methodology, website, and website usability study proposed for Pennsylvania.
* Planning for December WQGIT Face-to-Face meeting.

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

**Toxic Contaminants Workgroup**

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@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.*

Workplan Development:

* The GIT had a conference call on November 2nd to review the drafts of the Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Options Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics Workplans.  Representatives from jurisdictions and federal agencies shared the process they took to identify actions, performance targets and fill out their portion of the Healthy Watersheds Workplan.  In addition, participants shared feedback including what they thought was missing from the Workplan and the development process.
* The GIT submitted preliminary drafts of the Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Options Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics Workplans on November 2nd for an internal check-in and review.
* GIT leaders and staff are continuing to reach out to partners to complete the Healthy Watersheds and Land Use Workplans.

GIT Funding:

* Two GIT projects were selected and submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the FY15 GIT Funding RFP and sub-award process.  These projects are:
* Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project (Phase II) - This is the second phase of a project demonstrating the value of retaining forestland in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
* Evaluation of Land Use Policy Options, Incentives and Planning Tools to Reduce the Rate of Conversion of Agricultural Lands, Forests and Wetlands - This project will conduct a comprehensive review/study to implement one of the Management Strategy tasks in the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy: “determine the spectrum of existing policy options, incentives and planning tools currently being implemented at the local and state level.”

Contact: Tuana Phillips, [Phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:Phillips.tuana@epa.gov)

**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.*

Citizen Stewardship:

The Citizen Stewardship workgroup is preparing to field test an index that will provide a metrics for the citizen stewardship outcome, as well as soliciting actions for the citizen stewardship workplan. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy\_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy:

The Education Workgroup Leadership met on Oct. 29th to discuss the draft workplan. The workgroup is also preparing for the Environmental Literacy Summit focused on the Sustainable School outcome. The Summit is being held at NCTC on November 9 &10. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access:

The Public Access team is continuing to make progress on the Public Access site development Workplan. For more information please contact John Davy at [John\_Davy@nps.gov](mailto:John_Davy@nps.gov)

Land Conservation:

In the largest gathering to date, nearly 120 people convened at the National Conservation Training Center on October 5-6, 2015 for the 6th annual Chesapeake Conservation Partnership meeting. The spirit of the event – Growing the Partnership, Growing Our Impact – was reflected both in the increased attendance and the conversations around increasing diversity and inclusion. Partners were invited to share successes and new projects in fast-paced presentations, highlighting the tremendous collective impact of the group over the previous year. Other features included a planning session to address potential impacts from linear infrastructure projects, a panel discussion on strategies to engage with diverse audiences, and breakout sessions on key conservation focal areas. The meeting set the stage for action in 2016, including continuing progress toward achieving the Protected Lands Outcome in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. For more information contact Kate Baker [kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org)

Contact: Amy Handen, [ahanden@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ahanden@chesapeakebay.net)

**Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team**

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

GIT 6 – Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management:

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

FY 15 GIT Funding:

GIT 6 has been facilitating the process of GIT Funding distribution. The Chesapeake Bay Trust was identified as the organization to administer the funds for GIT Funding projects. A timeline and process were outlined by GIT 6 and initial proposals for projects were due from the GITs, the Climate Change Workgroup, and the Diversity Action Team on September 9. A requirement of all proposals was that they must be related to Management Strategy implementation and work plan development. The GITs prioritized their projects and the GIT Chairs made final decisions regarding projects to be funded on September 24. GITs have finalized their project descriptions and CBT plans to release their RFP by late November and have contracts in place with subawardees by February 2016. GIT 6 plans to establish the process for FY 16 funds in the coming months.

Local Leadership:

The Local Leadership Workgroup has been actively working on developing a Work Plan for the Local Leadership Management Strategy. A draft was submitted on November 2 and stakeholders continue to provide input and feedback into Work Plan activities. Mayor of College Park, MD, Andy Fellows, is now the Chair of this Workgroup. Through FY15 GIT Funding, a project to design a watershed education program for local elected officials is being funded. The workgroup will meet next in early December to finalize the Work Plan for Management Board review.

GIT Work Plan and Membership:

GIT 6 is currently in the process of establishing formal criteria for membership to present to the Management Board, per the July 2015 Governance Document revision. The GIT is also establishing a Work Plan to set a strategic plan for GIT activities in 2016.

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

**Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

Contact: Peter Tango, [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@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.*

Contact: Margaret Enloe, [menloe@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:menloe@chesapeakebay.net)

**Recent Meetings and Events**

November 19-20 CAC Quarterly meeting

December 3-4 LGAC Quarterly meeting

**2016**

**Management Board Meeting and Conference Call Dates**

**Key**: **MB** **Meeting** 10a - 3p **MB** **Call** 10a – 12p

