**STAC Activities – Update to the Management Board 3/6/12**

**Recently completed reports**

**Review - Evaluation of the Effectiveness of SAV Restoration Approaches in the Chesapeake Bay**

Recommendations:

1. Discontinue efforts aimed at widespread direct restoration of SAV until environmental conditions improve.
2. Continue targeted restoration efforts, both to establish viable beds and to further understand site selection criteria.
3. Develop SAV restoration strategies that are responsive to climate change.
4. Incorporate full adaptive management into restoration decision making.
5. Build on the successful research into restoration techniques.

*The SAV Workgroup submitted a response to this review to STAC and the CBP in January. STAC hopes to bring a representative of the SAV Workgroup and a representative of STAC to the next Management Board meeting to discuss the SAV review and response.*

**Workshop** – **Integrating the Social Sciences into Chesapeake Bay Restoration – March 2011**

Recommendations:

1. Continued dialogue, communication and institutional support are necessary to convert the new interest in the social sciences into a sustained social science research effort.
2. Managers should continue to explore the variety of social science research available by creating organizational and program opportunities to utilize regional social science expertise.
3. Bay leaders and others need to begin truly valuing what the social sciences can offer in terms of helping to provide an understanding of human behavior and how to affect human behavior change.  This will require both increased intellectual and financial support for social science research throughout the region.

*CBP response pending*

**Workshop and following letter - Chesapeake Bay Hydrodynamic Modeling – June 2011**

Recommendations:

1. Future hydrodynamic/water quality models should be selected through quantitative skill assessment and an independent peer review process.
2. Funding should be directed each year to the modeling community to develop and run multiple hydrodynamic/water quality models.
3. Routine comparison of output from multiple models with the EPA regulatory model output will: 1) provide a cone of uncertainty for the regulatory model; 2) enable effective adaptive management of the regulatory model; 3) build confidence in the regulatory model amongst scientists and the general public.

*EPA-CBPO responded to STAC’s recommendations, and STAC continues to work with Director DiPasquale and the CBP modeling team to ensure these recommendations are fully considered.*

**Upcoming reports**

**Workshop - Beneficial Effects of Healthy Watersheds on Pollutant Fate and Transport – March 7-8**

*Purpose: To examine and discuss how important attributes such as natural variation within a feature class, anthropogenic degradation, management status, and spatial factors (e.g., hydrologic connectivity, location in watershed.) affect  how nutrient and/or sediment retention/loading rates are assigned to natural landscape features (wetlands, forests, riparian buffers, and streams, including hyporheic zones) within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.*

*STAC hopes to release workshop report in June.*

**Workgroup - Exploring how the CBP’s Watershed Model Simulates P Inputs and Transport**

*Purposes: To gain an in-depth understanding of how the CBP watershed model currently simulates phosphorus loads from cropland, and whether the current simulation approach is consistent with the latest scientific consensus regarding phosphorus transport mechanisms.*  *To make recommendations regarding how the CBP modeling approach should be restructured to more accurately reflect the latest research findings regarding phosphorus transport processes and what data inputs will be needed to support calibration and verification of a restructured modeling approach.* *Output from this workgroup has the potential to bring the phosphorus component of  the CBP watershed model more into line with current understanding of phosphorus transport processes which, in turn, will help drive implementation of more effective phosphorus control strategies and the collection of data sets needed to verify progress toward meeting phosphorus load reduction goals.*  
*STAC hopes to release report in May*