

**Chesapeake Bay Program Update
Management Board Meeting
Thursday, August 2, 2012**

CBPO Calendar

Sep 11-12	STAC meeting (Annapolis)
Sep 20	GIT Chairs meeting
Sep 27-28	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Shepherdstown, WV)
Sep 28-30	2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, WV)
Oct 1 (tent)	USGS Monitoring trends data
Oct 4	AFBF lawsuit oral arguments (Harrisburg, Pa)
Oct (TBD)	Principal Staff Committee meeting
Oct 8-10	Center for Watershed Protection conference (Baltimore, Md.)
Oct 10	Management Board meeting proposed
Oct 20-25	Restore America's Estuaries conf (Tampa, FL.)
Oct 29-31	2012 Ag Netwrk Forum (Staunton, Va.)
Oct 31	EO '13 Action Plan - public comment
Nov (TBD)	Cost analysis out for peer review
Nov 20 (tent)	EO '13 Action Plan release/media

Updates

Trading and Offsets Update

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL sets an expectation for each of the Bay jurisdictions to establish offset and trading programs to account for new and expanded loads. Nutrient credit trading and offset programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed must provide credible, effective and economical tools to meet water quality goals where trades are verified, trading partners are accountable and the process is open and transparent.

In 2011 and 2012, EPA assessed the Bay jurisdictions' offsets and trading programs to determine their consistency with the TMDL and the Clean Water Act. The final assessments were transmitted to the jurisdictions in February 2012. Each of the assessments included a set of jurisdiction-specific recommendations and a set of nine recommendations common to all of the jurisdictions. EPA expects the jurisdictions to develop a plan of action for the jurisdiction-specific recommendations by the end of calendar year 2012 and address the common recommendations by the end of calendar year 2013. EPA is working with the jurisdictions to address the assessment recommendations and has increased its resource commitment to this issue.

EPA has developed a comprehensive workplan for our work on trading and offsets, which was developed in coordination with the Chesapeake Bay Program Trading and Offsets Workgroup. A major component of our work is developing a series of technical memoranda to assist the Bay jurisdictions in implementing their action plans and strengthening their programs. The memoranda also will provide EPA and the jurisdictions with a framework for determining whether program elements meet expectations. The memoranda will be shared, as appropriate, with the jurisdictions and the Trading and Offsets Workgroup.

Contact: Darrell Brown (410) 267-5716; brown.darrell@epa.gov

Draft Executive Order 2013 Action Plan

The Chesapeake Bay Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) is in the drafting stage of the FY2013 Action Plan, required by Executive Order 13508 on the Chesapeake Bay. The FY12 Action Plan outlines a list of next steps to be taken by Federal agencies in support of the Executive Order based on the FY13 Presidential budget. Some initiatives are continuations of projects started in FY 2011 and 2012, others are new initiatives that build on earlier work. The Action Plan will highlight a comprehensive database of key actions and initiatives to be accomplished in FY2012. A final draft will be released for public comment in late October, 2012.

Contact: Jim Edward, 410-267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

Report on Extent and Seriousness of Toxic Contaminants

The STAR Action Team is progressing with a Report on the Extent and Seriousness of Toxic Contaminants, due as final in November 2012. A preliminary draft was sent to jurisdiction contacts familiar with the Integrated Assessment Reports from which the team pulled information on impairments and fish advisories. The WQGIT will be briefed on preliminary findings and recommendations in early October. Additional opportunities for formal review by CBP partners will occur in October. The report will likely make recommendations for goals to be established for a limited number of pollutant classes for which there is data on widespread distribution and environmental concentrations that are likely to effect the Bay's living resources. Recommendations for monitoring and research will be made for other pollutant classes.

Contact: Scott Phillips, swphilli@usgs.gov; Greg Allen allen.greg@epa.gov

Sediment Reservoirs in Lower Susquehanna Reach Capacity

A report released in late August by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) found that sediment reservoirs near the mouth of the Susquehanna River are filling up faster than researchers expected, posing a new obstacle for improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. As the holding areas behind the lower Susquehanna's three dams reach capacity, their ability to trap up-river sediment and the phosphorous wanes, and the sediment that is held grows more and more likely to flow out of the reservoirs and into the river.

The Susquehanna delivered more phosphorous and sediment into the Bay last year than it has in more than three decades of monitoring. The past 15 years have seen a 55 percent increase in phosphorous entering the Bay from the river and a 97 percent increase in sediment. And, while nitrogen flow has dropped, it shows a jump during large storms--like Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 or Hurricane Ivan in 2004--and the flooding that follows. A previous USGS report cited improvements in nutrient and sediment trends as a sign of improving Bay health. The USGS has seen significant reductions in nutrient and sediment concentrations upstream of the reservoirs, which reflect the positive impacts of conservation efforts in the Susquehanna watershed. But the filling reservoirs behind the Safe Harbor and Holtwood dams in Pennsylvania and the Conowingo Dam in Maryland overshadow the pollution reduction progress that is being made. For a copy of the report: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5185/>

2012 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Awards Announced

More than \$9.2 million in funding aimed at restoring habitats and reducing runoff across Chesapeake watershed was announced on August 28. The funding was awarded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. Half of the projects will be funded by the Small Watersheds Grants Program, which funds on-the-ground restoration, conservation and community engagement. Twenty-one more will be funded by the

Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program, which funds the reduction of nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment in local waterways. In all, this year's projects will engage 9,000 volunteers; restore 176 miles of streamside forests and 158 acres of wetlands; and establish 170,000 square feet of green roofs and rain gardens.

For a full list of grant recipients, visit the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund website: <http://www.nfwf.org>

National Park Service Funds Education, Employment and Environmental Access

The National Park Service (NPS) has given a financial boost to two dozen projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, putting \$1.3 million toward education, employment and environmental access. The 24 projects that span four Bay states and the District of Columbia will bolster three NPS trails: the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, which connects more than 160 parks, museums, trails and more; the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail; and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The routes that form these latter trails offer teachers, students and families on-the-ground opportunities to experience the region's land, water and history. By funding trail development, NPS is advancing public access goals set forth in the Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which calls for the addition of 300 new public access sites where people might boat, swim, fish, observe wildlife, walk trails and strengthen their connection with the outdoors. For a full list of grant recipients, visit the Chesapeake Bay Gateways at: <http://www.baygateways.net>.

Conservation Innovation Grants Awards Announced

On August 24, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the award of \$2.5 million to five Bay organizations to improve the infrastructure behind water quality trading markets. From better determining demand for credit to improving outreach to hundreds of eligible farmers, the planned improvements aim to benefit both the land and those who work it. Watershed recipients of Conservation Innovation Grants program funding include the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Borough of Chambersburg, Pa. The Conservation Innovation Grants program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This year, an additional \$23.5 million has been awarded to more than 50 recipients across the nation for innovative and conservation-minded agricultural practices, from improving soil health to increasing on-farm pollinator habitat. For more information:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig>

Living Shoreline Projects Announced

Sixteen homeowner associations, non-profit organizations and towns will receive funding through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Living Shorelines program, a multi-state effort that promotes the installation and understanding of living shorelines throughout the watershed. More than 6,800 feet of living shoreline will be coming to the Chesapeake Bay, thanks to \$800,000 in federal, state and private funding announced in late August. Living shorelines provide coastal landowners with an erosion-control alternative, as grasses and trees replace hardened bulkhead and riprap to stabilize the shoreline and provide vital habitat to fish, crabs and other wildlife. Now in its seventh year, the Living Shorelines program has awarded more than \$4 million to 68 Maryland and Virginia projects, creating 28,000 feet of living shoreline and 18 acres of wetland habitat. This year marks the largest amount ever awarded to support this restoration technique.

For more information:

http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5457537/k.B2A2/Living_Shorelines.htm

CBPO Congressional Field Briefing

The Chesapeake Bay Program Federal Office Directors held their annual summer recess field briefing for Congressional staff on August 30. Reflecting the shift from planning activities to local restoration implementation, the briefing took place in one of Washington, DC's premier natural settings: Rock Creek Park. The half-day session included updates on implementation of the 2010 Executive Order Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

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

Advisory Committee Updates

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee will hold its quarterly meeting in Annapolis, Md. Tuesday and Wednesday, September 11-12, in Annapolis, Md. Among other items, the proposed agenda includes a VIMS review of potential nitrogen removal oysters, a monitoring/modeling study of chlorophyll-a in the James River, a presentation on Watershed Model Simulations by Sigma Space Corp, a discussion on ecological production function for the CB Benefits study, a review of the CB Benefits study Stated Preference Analysis, the STAC Marcellus Shale Workshop report findings, an update on the STAC Goal Line Workshop report, and discussion on STAC's role in developing water quality trading goals.

STAC is currently planning a number of workshops for the upcoming months. These workshops include:

1) Lag Times in the Watershed and their influence on Chesapeake Bay Restoration –

This workshop will be held on October 16th and 17th in Annapolis, Maryland at The Sheraton Annapolis Hotel. The workshop will investigate how lag times between implementation practices and nutrient reductions in water bodies are simulated in the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Participants will develop a set of recommendations that will guide the Chesapeake Bay Program's future consideration of lag times.

2) Multiple Management Models in a Regulatory Setting – This workshop will be held in January of 2013 at a location yet to be determined. The purpose of the workshop will be to gather stakeholders, modeling experts and regulatory experts to discuss how multiple models have been applied in management situations around the nation, and analyze whether the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort may benefit from multiple models in the future.

3) Targeting Restoration of Coastal Habitat Complexes - This workshop will be held in the Spring of 2013 at a location yet to be determined. The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (GIT) proposed a workshop to convene coastal wetland, living shoreline, black ducks, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration partners to discuss complementary targeting approaches that will facilitate the development of coastal habitat complexes.

In addition, STAC recently held a workshop at the end of August. Below is a description of this workshop:

1) *Research-Based Best Practices for Environmental Education* – This workshop will be held on August 27th and 28th at the O'Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, MD. The workshop identify characteristics of effective environmental education programs from around the region and nation, and discuss metrics for assessing programs within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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

CBP Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Sustainable Fisheries

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

The Executive Committee of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team joined the Chesapeake Bay Commission for their 2 day meeting on the Northern Neck of Virginia for a field-focused agenda that included sites of interest in the tidal portion of the Bay as part of a discussion on Living Resources on the Rebound: Reinvigorating Ecology, Economy and Culture. The collaboration of the fishery managers with state legislators was highly successful and led to preliminary ideas about potential legislative changes that could further support fishery resources, including consistent penalties for poaching in the tidal jurisdictions as well as the need for continuing to supporting sound science for fishery management decisions.

The Shad Indicator Development Team has met once (8/29) and is working to develop the new CBP shad indicator. This group, comprised of members from the US FWS, PA Fish and Boat Commission, ASMFC, MD DNR, STAR, Habitat GIT, Decision Framework Implementation Workgroup, and the Fisheries GIT, is working to incorporate habitat and fish recovery efforts into a new shad indicator.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force will be meeting in October to begin implementing the invasive catfish policy adopted by the Fisheries GIT "to examine potential measures to reduce densities and limit range expansion, and to evaluate possible negative ecological impacts." - The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee will be meeting in October to develop male specific reference points for blue crabs. The Fisheries GIT adopted new female specific reference points for the 2012 season and identified the need to also set clear male targets. The plan is to have male targets developed and adopted by the 2013 season.

The Fisheries GIT and NOAA presented an all day symposia at the 2012 American Fisheries Society Symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota on land use impacts and their effects on habitats and fisheries. The symposia included researchers from VIMS, UMD, and staff from MD DNR and NOAA. It was well attended and very effective at getting people engaged in thinking about how we can be more influential in effecting land base decisions.

The next full Fisheries GIT meeting will be December 6-8th at Port Isobel off Tangier Island. The meeting will be a targeted discussion between stakeholders and managers on critical fishery management issues like long term blue crab economic and ecological sustainability.

GIT 2 – Habitat

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

The Habitat GIT is currently working with STAR and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to translate the brook trout outcome from a subwatershed level to a catchment scale by December 2012. Peter Tango (STAR) and Katie Foreman (WQ GIT/Non-Tidal) are leading the Brook Trout Task Group that is currently working on obtaining data on the new science of patch-metrics. This data will be reviewed by STAR in order to redefine the Brook Trout outcome.

Bernie Marczyk (Wetlands Action Team, Ducks Unlimited) and Natalie Gardner (STAC liaison) are leading a steering committee for a STAC-funded workshop titled "Targeting Restoration of Coastal Habitat Complexes" that is scheduled for March 2013. An initial Steering Committee call took place and the next is scheduled for Monday, September 24.

The Habitat GIT is in the initial stages of producing video messages with help from Josh Davidsburg (DNR Communication Team) and Steve Droter (CBP Communication Team). Two short video messages are being developed focusing on Brook Trout and Black Duck. The Brook Trout film will involve messages about stream restoration and habitat for Brook Trout and the Black Duck film will focus on Wetland habitat. The purpose of these messages is to engage the public and local decision makers and educate them on land-use and the species involved with the different habitats. These videos will be able to be shared on youtube, CBP Blogs, Habitat GIT website, etc.

Upcoming Events

- September 14- Habitat GIT meeting with SAV and Fish Passage workgroup chairs
- September 17-Habitat GIT meeting with Wetland Action Team chairs
- September 25-Brook Trout Indicator Action Team Conference call (2pm)
- September 27 – Habitat GIT Steering Committee conference call (1 pm)
- October 16 - FWS led Designing Sustainable Landscapes pilot workshop in Nanticoke/Pocomoke
- November 28 – fall meeting of Habitat GIT with theme on regulatory impediments to restoration (*premiere Brook Trout video message*)
- December – Phase 1 (scoping) of STAR streams workshop; apply to STAC for Phase 2 funding
- January 2013 – revised Brook Trout indicator, associated monitoring recommendations to STAR
- February 2013 – revised Brook Trout indicator, associated monitoring recommendations to MB
- March 2013 – Targeting Restoration of Coastal Habitat Complexes workshop (before field season/ report due to STAC 90 days after)
- May 2013 – Spring meeting of Habitat GIT (*premiere Black Duck video message*)

GIT 3 – Water Quality

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

The Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) continues to make progress on several fronts to assess the actions necessary to meet the Partnership's water quality goals. The WQGIT is in the process of collecting and organizing Partnership input regarding the 2017 Midpoint Assessment priorities and guiding principles. This input will largely guide the agenda for the October 22-23rd WQGIT meeting, to be held at the Liberty Mountain Conference Center in Carroll Valley, PA. The goal of the October meeting will be to discuss process

recommendations for the midpoint assessment, which will take stock of the latest science, data, the range of available tools, and progress. The assessment will inform the Phase III WIPs, which will identify strategies and practices that will be in place by 2025 to reduce pollution and achieve water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), clarity and chlorophyll-a in the Bay and its tidal tributaries.

Additionally, the WQGIT and associated Workgroups continue to move forward on tracking progress toward meeting the Bay TMDL, developing verification principles, conducting reviews of Best Management Practices, and devising and implementing Workgroup Decision Framework documents.

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT (GIT4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. GIT4 activities in 2012 include the following:

The Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT4) collaborated with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to convene a workshop in March, 2012 to consider whether there is a scientific basis for changing Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model nutrient and/or sediment processing rates that are assigned to natural landscape features. Changes to more accurately reflect the functionality of features such as riparian forests and wetlands may be possible based on their ecological health/condition, management status, and/or landscape position. A draft report of findings and recommendations will be presented to STAC on September 11 for STAC review, following which substantive recommendations for action may be forwarded to the Water Quality Steering Committee for action.

GIT4's Communications Workgroup has collaborated with the coordinating committee of the Chesapeake Watershed Forum to include a Healthy Watersheds session in the Forum's 2012 program. The session will include discussion of the benefits of healthy watershed protection, progress in healthy watershed identification and tracking, and watershed health assessment.

GIT4's Healthy Watershed Tracking Project is well under way. John Wolf (USGS, and CBP GIS Team Leader) and Anna Stuart Burnett (CRC Staffer to GIT4) have been working with state agency contacts in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland to compile, based on existing state agency data, healthy watershed identification maps and other related geographic data layers. Future efforts will compile watershed health assessment data and explore capabilities to characterize the protection status of identified healthy watersheds against threats to their health. Once compiled and published by the CBP (some of it is already published by the states), these data could be used in advocacy communications for the promotion of local-scale healthy watershed protection, in land conservation targeting, in program accountability and for adaptive management.

GIT 5 – Foster Stewardship

The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.

Public Comment Period for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan - The public review and comment period for the draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan has

been extended until September 14, 2012. The plan is a product of the *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, developed in response to President Obama's Executive Order 13508, which aims to increase public access to the Bay and tributaries by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025. The plan:

- Summarizes the demand for public access in the Chesapeake watershed
- Outlines the process, steps, and definitions used for developing this plan
- Establishes the baseline of existing public access sites
- Depicts specific potential public access sites that can be developed in the future, as well as areas and stretches requiring additional attention
- Describes planning challenges to be considered in adding new access sites
- Summarizes findings and sets out next steps for implementing the plan and increasing access

Large Landscape Conservation in the Chesapeake Watershed Workshop

Over the past 30 years, the Congress, the Executive Branch, and the states have set out mutually complementary goals for conserving resources and landscapes in the Chesapeake watershed. To continue the process of focusing and advancing these landscape conservation efforts a strategic and collaborative way the National Park Service and the Chesapeake Conservancy hosted a Large Landscape Conservation in the Chesapeake Watershed Workshop on August 16 – 17, 2012 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This well received workshop brought together state, local, non-governmental and federal partners to consider how to strategically focus and advance the conservation of the cultural and natural landscapes of the Chesapeake Watershed. A report summarizing the workshop proceedings and highlighting recent, innovative land conservation case studies throughout the watershed is currently being developed.

Environmental Literacy Best Practices and Metrics Workshop

The CBP Education Workgroup, STAC, NOAA, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust convened a highly successful Environmental Literacy Best Practices Workshop on August 27 – 28, 2012. This workshop brought leading national experts to Annapolis, MD to discuss key aspects their environmental education research with members of the Workgroup. Presentations and conversations related to teachers, green schools, and student environmental literacy and meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs) will be used to develop a set of research-based best practices related to each of these topics. These best practices will be used to develop revised metrics to track progress towards the MWEE commitment of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Recent Events

Sep 6-7	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
Sep 11	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting (Annapolis, Md.)