



**Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting
10AM – 1PM November 5th, 2012**

Event webpage <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18391/>

MINUTES

Participants

Bill Dennison – UMCES/STAR Chair	Mark Bennett – USGS/STAR Vice Chair	Peter Tango – USGS/STAR Coordinator	Amanda Pruzinsky – CRC/STAR Staffer
Liza Hernandez – UMCES/CBPO	Mike Mallonee – ICPRB/CBPO	Jacqueline Johnson – ICPRB/CBPO	Adam Davis – CRC
Bruce Vogt – NOAA	Ben Sherrouse – USGS	Ashley Samenisky – UMCES	Lewis Linker – EPA/CBPO
Lucinda Power – EPA/CBPO	Debra Hopkins – FWS/CBPO	Bruce Michael – MD DNR	Margaret Enloe –
Jennifer Greiner	Nita Sylvester – EPA/CBPO/Indicators WG Coordinator	John Wolf – USGS	Elizabeth Zinecker
Katherine Antos – WQGIT Coordinator	Larry Merrill – WQGIT Chair		

Welcome Introduction and Updates – Bill Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)

- **Next STAR meeting will be Tuesday December 11th, 2012 10AM – 1PM at the USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive Annapolis, Maryland 21401.**
 - <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18393/>
- Hurricane Sandy update
 - Reached flood stage briefly on the Potomac and not at all on the Conowingo.
 - Flows barely reached the thresholds for additional scour.
 - NFWF will be assessing impacts of Sandy and Lee.
 - NOAA CBP Article Tracking wind and storm surge (www.chesapeakebay.net).
 - NOAA – Since this was a dry year, salinity was higher for this time of year and rainfall during Sandy was less than expected, so the impacts of the salinity drop don't seem to be significant.
- Robert Hirsch's report on the Conowingo and Tropical Storm Lee was released
 - "Flux of nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended sediment from the Susquehanna River Basin to the Chesapeake Bay during Tropical Storm Lee, September 2011, as an indicator of the effects of reservoir sedimentation of water quality"
 - <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5185/>
- MD Trust Fund – Published Best Management Practice
 - http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/funding/trust_fund.asp

- Baltimore Healthy Harbor Report Card was released.
 - <http://healthyharborbaltimore.org/uploads/file/Healthy%20Harbor%20Report%20Card.pdf>
- STAR Staffer update – Lea Rubin is the new STAR Staffer and will begin working on November 19th, 2012.
- The Tidal Monitoring Workgroup has written up a letter requesting funds to continue the phytoplankton study in Maryland. The letter will be sent to NOAA (Peyton Robertson), EPA (Rich Batiuk), and USFWS (Mike Slattery).

Update on October 10th Management Board Meeting – Margaret Enloe

Margaret Enloe updated STAR regarding the outcomes of the October 10th Management Board meeting and any follow-up actions that will be taking place to formulate a revised plan for 2013 "How CBP will be accountable and communicate assessment information to the public in 2013."

To view this presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18391/margaret_enloe_-_2013_communications_plan_star.11.5.12.pdf

Discussion and Questions

- STAR will begin to ask members for quick monthly updates of significant papers and research and then inform the Communication Workgroup.
- **ACTION:** Final indicator data for 2011 is due November 21st, 2012.
- **SUGGESTION:** February story on Wintering Waterfowl – Build in the Annual Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey.
- **ACTION:** Fisheries GIT would like to discuss the timing and information that is being produced.
 - For example, oyster restoration is occurring in spring and summer, but the public is concerned in the winter months (when they are being consumed), so the communication is timed to public attention.
- **SUGGESTION:** Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Meeting November 6 – 8th, 2012 Port Isabel Island.
- **SUGGESTION:** UMCES Report Card will be released in April.
- Human Health Dimension – Linking to other research and cites.

Social Science Action Team Update – Lucinda Power

Lucinda Power updated STAR regarding Social Science Action Team (SSAT) activities, thinking and directions. The purpose of SSAT is to identify, evaluate, and develop opportunities for applying social science methods and research findings into the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.

To view this presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18391/lucinda_power_-_star_social_science_action_team_presentation_11_5_2012.pdf

Discussion and Questions

- Speaker Series
 - In person with webcast availability. Still working on the location.
 - 1 hour total presentation (including the talk and discussion)
 - Webcast views are higher and discussion seems to be richer with about 15 minute presentations.
 - **ACTION:** STAR offered to host the SSAT Seminar Series on the STAR Seminar Series webpage.
- To make a change in the Bay, we must change the views and values of the public.
 - Can we quantify the effects of the public's current values? (Green lawns, gold courses, etc.)
 - It is difficult to quantify behavioral change.
- The Habitat GIT is currently working on the decision framework for wetlands. Part of that process is creating a list of factors that affect wetlands. One of the factors is the price of corn. The price of biodiesel is very attractive, so planting more corn is attractive. We want people to invest in biodiesel, but what does that mean for wetlands?
- Climate Change
 - The public is becoming more aware of climate change.
 - **SUGGESTION:** Collect and post relative climate change survey data to the web.
 - CAUTION: Often times, when you put a figure or number on an issue such as this one, you can lose the meaning behind it.
 - **SUGGESTION:** Impacts of climate change on island communities.
 - Tom Horton, who wrote "An Island Out of Time," would be a person of interest on this subject.
- **SUGGESTION:** Elizabeth Van Dolah – Current research is focused on understanding how communities respond to harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Chesapeake Bay region and how associated risks, concerns, and issues impede or mobilize mitigation efforts.
- **ACTION:** SSAT will be meeting with the GITs over the next few months and will update STAR with the future plan of actions.

Social Values for Ecosystem Services (SolVES) – Ben Sherrouse (USGS)

Ben Sherrouse presented the USGS Social Values for Ecosystem Services (SolVES). The model is a GIS application for assessing, mapping, and quantifying the social value of ecosystem services. It helps decision makers consider tradeoffs among them with the human attitudes and preferences that express underlying social values.

To view this presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18391/ben_sherrouse_-_solves_star_meeting.pdf

Discussion and Questions

- Clarification: SolVES is not a survey tool, it is a tool to analysis survey data.
- Must determine the social values that are appropriate for the Chesapeake Bay
 - For example, distance to the Bay.
- The survey questions are determined using expert opinion.
- There are different survey, database, and analysis techniques that can be used for competing social issues.
- An analysis of social demographics and relative values could help target media.
- North Atlantic LCC – Designing Sustainable Landscapes.
 - **ACTION:** Work with USFWS to explore applying the SolVES Model to the Nanticoke-Pocomoke River Model.
 - For additional information:
http://jamba.provost.ads.umass.edu/web/lcc/NALCC_documentation_phase1_report_pocnan.pdf
- SolVES team is currently working on building interest to create web interface.
- **ACTION:** Contact Ben Sherrouse (bcsherrouse@usgs.gov) for more information and/or suggestions for resource, partnership, and data connections.
- **ACTION:** Ben Sherrouse and Lucinda Power will be in contact for SSAT and SolVES.

Midpoint Assessment Priorities – WQGIT Leadership

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Leadership updated STAR on the outcomes of the October WQGIT Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to reach agreement on a process, priorities, and a working schedule and plan for conducting the mid-point assessment. The work plan includes assignment of mid-point assessment priorities to WQGIT, workgroups, and staff, as appropriate.

To view this presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18391/wqgit_star_presentation.pdf

Discussion and Questions

- STAR was tasked lead on high priority: “Trapping capacity behind dams, esp. Susquehanna, and greater capture of local impoundments and reservoirs.”
 - Potential to continue work with USGS and US Army Corp of Engineers.
- Comments on the characterization of priorities:
 - Instead of naming them “high” and “low” priorities, may want to consider “long term” and “short term” priorities.
 - EPA and other groups are the leads on some of these priorities, so “low priority” does not mean that they are not being worked on.
- Scott Phillips will write up the work plan for the December 3rd, 2012 WQGIT deadline.
- The work plans will be presented to the WQGIT at their next meeting December 10th, 2012.
- Modeling Workgroup requested to remain attached to STAR, but also attached to the WQGIT in order to help facilitate direct communication between the Modeling WG and WQGIT.
[This request was discussed outside of meetings and it was determined that a formal attachment to the WQGIT was not necessary]