



**Principals Staff Committee**  
**Program Update**  
April 6, 2023

**CBPO Calendar**

April 10	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
April 11	Education Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
April 12	Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup
April 12	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Meeting
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Management Board Meeting</b>
April 14	Agricultural Modeling Team
April 18	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
April 19	Plastic Pollution Action Team Meeting
April 19	Nontidal Workgroup April 2023 Meeting
April 20	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
April 20	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
April 21	Stream Health Workgroup April 2023 Meeting
April 24	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
April 25-26	Habitat GIT Spring Meeting
April 26	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
<b>April 27</b>	<b>STAR Science Needs Meeting</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Management Board Meeting</b>

**Program Updates**

**Congressional Representatives Amplify Support for CBPO Infrastructure Investments**

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) provided \$1 million in Infrastructure funding to the Chesapeake Bay Trust to invest in on-the-ground activities as follow-up to the wetlands and forest buffers workshops that took place last year. This funding level was supported by proponents of the infrastructure law to make sure the Chesapeake Bay Program Office could invest in areas other than water quality and to accelerate attainment of CBP goals by 2025. Press releases from Senator Van Hollen's office and others picked up this news and amplified it this week.

Press release: [Van Hollen, Cardin, Sarbanes Announce Over \\$1 Million in Federal Funding to Support Chesapeake Bay Restoration | U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland \(senate.gov\)](#)

Contact: Holly Waldman ([waldman.holly@epa.gov](mailto:waldman.holly@epa.gov))

**Chesapeake SAV (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation) and Climate Change**

At the March 15, 2023 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Workgroup meeting, Marc Hensel of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences and collaborators presented their latest findings on the impacts of climate change on SAV. Dividing the Bay's SAV into four communities, the researchers estimate that the two largest SAV communities (Oligohaline/Tidal Fresh and Rupia) continue to increase in biomass and

area under the Phase 3 WIPs. However, if nutrient levels remain as they are currently, the areas of these two communities will plateau at recent acreages. The other two SAV communities, Mixed Mesohaline found in the mid-Bay and Zostera in the lower Bay, are estimated to decline under future climate change conditions, although the declines are ameliorated by the Phase 3 WIP nutrient and sediment reductions. The work is based on an advanced model of SAV that has successfully estimated how past environmental conditions have affected the major communities in the Bay. The initial results described here will be finalized in a report out in April.

Contact: Lew Linker ([Linker.Lewis@epa.gov](mailto:Linker.Lewis@epa.gov))

### **Management Board Concludes Third Cycle of Strategy Review System and Looks forward to 2025**

The CBP Management Board (MB) concluded its third two-year cycle of the CBP's Strategy Review System on March 9 with an assessment of the two Land Use outcomes: Land Use Methods and Metrics and Land Use Options Evaluation. In response to the workgroup's request, the MB agreed that continued high-resolution land use monitoring is a priority for the partnership. As a follow-up, the Land Use Workgroup will refine its proposal for continued monitoring funding and return to the MB in April to give a detailed presentation on what is needed and an outline of options for funding that work. The MB meets next on March 22. The small group established to develop a plan for communicating the Partnership's progress on reaching the Watershed Agreement Goals and outcomes will give an update on their progress and their expectations for the next few months. The partners will also continue discussing the options for organizing and beginning the work to develop recommendations for "2025 and Beyond." CBP staff will also provide an update on the Partnership's work related to the three PSC decisions related to CAST. Meeting materials for the March 22 meeting are posted at:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/management-board-meeting-march-22-2023>

Contact: Greg Barranco ([barranco.greg@epa.gov](mailto:barranco.greg@epa.gov)).

### **30 Year USGS Veteran Science Coordinator Retires**

Having served as the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Chesapeake Bay Coordinator for nearly 30 years, Scott Phillips has been privy to countless projects that have helped to protect and improve the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The USGS became an official partner of the Chesapeake Bay Program in 1984, just a year after the partnership was formed, serving as one of its leading scientific agencies. The USGS's work in the Bay watershed has grown from a few water quality monitoring projects to an integrated effort addressing toxic contaminants, reducing pollution, changes in the watershed's geography and the health of our wildlife.

More about the USGS's critical role in the Bay Program and accomplishments at:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/from-the-fish-kills-to-conowingo-dam-usgs-investigates-the-bay-watersheds-most-complex-issues>

### **CBP Visits Throughout the Watershed**

**Dr. Kandis Boyd Participates in HBCU Virtual Spring Symposium:** Region 3 hosted a virtual Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Spring Symposium March 27-29, and Dr. Kandis Boyd, Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, participated in two sessions. The three-day event carved out separate days for faculty and students and one day for both together. Dr. Boyd was a presenter at the Faculty Networking Session and the EPA Alumni Roundtable discussion. The symposium is designed to provide a platform for our partner HBCUs to share accomplishments, encourage networking among the schools, and expand the conversation around the future of environmental protection and justice. Sessions included interactive and informational discussions tailored to students, faculty, state, and federal partners. **POC: Dr. Kandis Boyd** ([boyd.kandis@epa.gov](mailto:boyd.kandis@epa.gov))

**Chesapeake Bay Program Leaders Attend Networking Event:** Dr. Kandis Boyd, Director, and Martha Shimkin, Deputy Director, of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, attended the Choose Clean Water Coalition's first ever networking reception in celebration of its Young Professionals of Color (YPC) Mentorship Program on the evening of March 29 at the Woodend Sanctuary and Mansion in Chevy Chase, MD. The event was open to anyone interested in learning more about the importance of fostering mentorship and creating safe spaces for BIPOC professionals to grow their leadership skills. The reception featured a poetry reading, a panel of YPC mentees and mentors, and a facilitated networking hour. **POC: Dr. Kandis Boyd ([boyd.kandis@epa.gov](mailto:boyd.kandis@epa.gov))**

**Dr. Kandis Boyd Attends National Estuary Program Annual Meeting:** Director Dr. Kandis Boyd represented the Chesapeake Bay Program Office at the National Estuary Program (NEP) annual meeting, held on March 22 and 23 in Washington, DC and virtually. The meeting promoted collaborative networking and fosters connections among programs that can benefit the NEP. The meeting focused on NEPs' climate resiliency, restoration, and equity efforts, as well as providing approaches to leveraging funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and other government programs. Presenters were from a variety of federal agencies, as well as representatives of multiple offices with EPA's Office of Water. **POC: Dr. Kandis Boyd ([Boyd.Kandis@epa.gov](mailto:Boyd.Kandis@epa.gov))**

### **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.*

At the March 23-24 quarterly LGAC meeting Members approved a new Chair and Vice Chairs. Daniel Chao, former ANC Commissioner of Ward 6 in DC is the LGAC Chair; Brianne Nadeau, Councilmember, Ward 1 is the DC Vice Chair; Mark Dobbins, Chair of the Northeast Planning Commission is the Maryland Vice Chair; Richard Baugh, Councilmember, City of Harrisburg, is the Virginia Vice Chair; Michael Helfrich, Mayor, City of York, is the Pennsylvania Vice Chair; and Don Phillips, former Councilmember, Town of Laurel, Delaware is the At-Large Vice Chair.

On March 23rd, LGAC met jointly with the CBP Local Leadership Workgroup and discussion focused on the role of local governments getting to 2025 and looking beyond 2025 for consideration of local priorities and challenges. Zoom breakouts by jurisdiction occurred and each breakout discussed specific challenges and suggestions for action. A summary sheet of these local government priorities will be shared with the planners of the May 11-12 biennial meeting.

LGAC also heard an update on the new Watershed County Tree Sheets from the US Forest Service and the STAC local government-related recommendations from the Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures Report.

LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be June 1-2 in Havre De Grace, MD.  
LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

The Citizens (Stakeholders) Advisory Committee met in Cambridge, MD on Feb 23-24. Their local watershed context was provided by ShoreRivers when they learned about the challenges and approaches to the impacts of the Eastern Shore's industrial-scale agriculture and sediment flows from Conowingo Dam releases.

The members heard from a panel of Bay Funders to continue the discussion on equitable access to grants. Members are interested in further exploring examples of participatory grantmaking and model equitable grant tools.

They learned from MD DNR about MD's progress toward 2025 water quality targets and *Watershed Agreement* goals. They learned from CBPO about the various options to participate in the Beyond 2025 process and in the future will likely hear a detailed briefing on the *Watershed Agreement* indicators behind the outcomes.

Chuck Herrick of DC was elected CAC Vice-Chair.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on May 24-25 in Harrisburg, PA immediately following the annual Choose Clean Water Coalition conference.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and, Vice-Chair, Chuck Herrick (DC).

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Alexa Maione [amaione@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:amaione@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org))

Visit the STAC website at [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

### **March Quarterly Meeting: March 14-15, 2023**

The STAC March Quarterly Meeting was held virtually on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting centered around waterborne human pathogens and the Chesapeake Bay. The purpose of this themed discussion was the following: develop a system-based understanding of the occurrence of human pathogens (e.g.,

in relation to watershed conditions or environmental flow regimes affecting temperature, salinity, redox status, and nutrient status); evaluate whether waterborne pathogen concerns are adequately addressed within existing CBP goals, objectives, and management strategies; and outline critical information/research needs with respect to existing research priorities.

You can find more information on the [meeting webpage](#).

### **STAC 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates**

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2023 Quarterly Meetings. Meeting in June and September are planned to in-person.

June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, September 12-13<sup>th</sup>, and December 5-6<sup>th</sup>. Two meeting will be held virtually and two in-person with a hybrid option.

June 13-14, 2023: in-person at the [Potomac Science Center](#) in Woodbridge, VA

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Location TBA

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

### **STAC-Sponsored Workshops**

The following STAC FY22 workshops are currently in the process of being planned and will convene by May 31, 2023:

1. *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality* (State of the Science Workshop): **April 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Manassas, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
2. *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities* (State of the Science Workshop): **May 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Hershey, PA.** [Workshop webpage](#)

The following STAC FY22 workshops have already convened:

1. *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model* (Programmatic Workshop): **March 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Fairfax, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
2. *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes* (Programmatic Workshop): **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on Kent Island.** [Workshop webpage](#)
3. *The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes* (State of the Science Workshop): **March 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 in Woodbridge, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)

The following STAC technical review is in the process of being planned:

1. *Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Proposal: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in Acid Mine Drainage Impacted Watersheds*

Information regarding future workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the STAC [workshop homepage](#).

## **STAC Reports**

STAC recently released the following reports:

1. **Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed** (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
2. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21)
3. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens (FY 2020)
4. Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap (FY20)

### ***Upcoming Reports:***

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC publication page](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership.

Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.

1. **Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services** (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
2. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (FY20): [Workshop webpage](#)
3. *Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria* (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
4. *Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (FY21): [Final Workshop Session webpage](#)

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the [STAC past workshop webpage](#).

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

### **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.*

- **SRS CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY COHORT:** The **Wetland** and **Black Duck Outcomes** recently completed their 2-year review cycle. The new 2023-2024 Logic & Action Plans were approved by the Management Board in March and can be found on the [SRS Doc Status webpage](#), as well as the workgroup webpages. The two outcomes presented their science needs at the [STAC Quarterly Meeting on 3/14](#) and the [current science needs can be found at the STAR website](#).

- **WETLAND WORKGROUP VICE CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT:** Following the recommendations from the Wetlands Workshop, the Wetland Workgroup is reorganizing to have a Chair and two Vice Co-Chairs (one for tidal wetlands and one for non-tidal wetlands). The two Vice Co-Chair positions have been filled by Nancy Schumm (Non-Tidal Wetlands) and Tess Danielson (Tidal Wetlands)
- **WETLAND WORKSHOP & PSC MEETING PRESENTATION:** The HGIT is closing the loop on the 2022 Wetland Workshop by presenting the findings and recommendations at the upcoming April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Principals' Staff Committee Meeting.
- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
  - **CANCELED: WETLAND WORKGROUP MEETING:** The virtual workgroup meeting scheduled for **4/18 from 2:00-4:00 ET** **has been canceled**. If you have any announcements/updates that you would like to share, please send them to Wetland Workgroup Staffer, Dede Lawal (lawalh@chesapeake.org) to distribute to the workgroup.
  - **MID-ATLANTIC PANEL ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (MAPAIS):** The MAPAIS Spring Meeting will be held on **4/19 and 4/20**. This will be a hybrid meeting with the in-person meeting location at the CBP Office in Annapolis. More information on this meeting can be found on the MAPAIS website.
  - **STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP MEETING:** The Stream Health Workgroup will be meeting virtually on **4/21 from 10:00-12:00 ET**. More information on this meeting can be found on the CBP Calendar webpage.
  - **HGIT SPRING MEETING:** The Habitat Goal Implementation Team Spring Meeting will be held on **4/25 from 09:00-12:20 ET and 4/26 from 09:00-12:00 ET**. This will be a hybrid meeting, with the in-person meeting location at the USFWS office in Cortland, NY. More information on this meeting can be found on the DAY 1 and DAY 2 webpages on the CBP Calendar.
- **FY2021 & FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** the Scopes of Work (SOW) for the following projects were advertised and the RFP deadline was March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The proposals are currently being reviewed and contract decisions will be made at the end of April.
  - **FY2021:** *"Understanding and Addressing the Impacts of Wetland Mowing to Facilitate Meeting the Chesapeake Bay Wetland Enhancement Goals"*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome. (This project was funded in 2021 but did not receive bids on the SOW which is why it's being readvertised with the 2022 projects.)
  - **FY2022:** *"Mapping non-tidal wetlands in areas with outdated wetland maps"*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
  - **FY2022:** *"Monitoring vegetation condition through the Delmarva peninsula"*; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
  - **FY2022:** *"Determining the local effect of flow/stormwater runoff on SAV density and acreage and options for targeting BMPs that protect priority SAV areas"*; submitted on behalf of the SAV Workgroup.



- **FY2022:** “Literature Review: Building climate resilience of stream restoration practices”; submitted on behalf of the Stream Health Outcome.

Habitat GIT Contact: Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

### **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 meeting on March 27, 2023, and discussed the following topics:

### **Approval of the Integrated Watershed TMDL Indicator**

Gary Shenk and Qian Zhang returned to the WQGIT to present the Integrated Watershed TMDL Indicator for WQGIT approval. They also previewed some of the capabilities of the associated [shiny app](#) that can display associated information for particular nontidal monitoring stations. Members voiced their support for the indicator and requested additional communication tools to help convey the overall message and takeaways to local governments and other stakeholders. Gary and Qian will work with the CBPO communications/web team and Status and Trends WG to add this to Chesapeake Progress in addition to existing indicators, such as the “reducing pollution indicator” for TN, TP and TSS that is the primary indicator for the 2025 WIP Outcome.

### **Revisiting Schedule and Road Ahead for Phase 6 CAST**

The PSC approved the Phase 7 development timeline in March 2022. Since then, the status of CAST21 and other factors may warrant amending the timeline plans for Phase 6 CAST updates. Lee McDonnell described the context and pros/cons for a proposed change to the timeline. Members raised various concerns with the proposed timeline, such as introducing new datasets into the model too close before the 2025 evaluation, the duration of the review period for CAST-21, and the timing of the release of the updated land use dataset.

### **Eutrophication Units and CAST**

In recent months the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) has discussed adding a new feature to CAST that would allow users to more easily use existing information that combines nutrient reductions in terms of dissolved oxygen. This information already exists through the exchange ratios, which are available on CAST (see [Planning Targets excel workbook](#) available on the [Planning Targets](#) page), but the requested feature may prove helpful for jurisdictional or other partners. The WTWG supports this feature, and its addition is not expected to impact other CAST priorities. Currently the feature is expected by the end of 2023. Since the information is not novel and this can be accommodated without impacts to other CAST priorities a WQGIT decision was not requested. Bill Keeling (VA DEQ) described the information using Virginia as an example and allowed the GIT to ask clarifying questions. In general, members were supportive of this information being added to CAST.

The WQGIT will hold their next meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023 – agenda and topics are TBD.



### **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.*

The HWGIT has been actively involved with the SRS process for the Land Use Options and Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes. Both outcomes presented on their last two years of adaptive management at the March 9 Management Board Meeting. Both land use outcomes and the Local Leadership workgroup are currently updating their Management Strategies and Logic and Action Plans; those documents will be posted for a public review period beginning in May.

The HWGIT is sponsoring two GIT funding projects that are well on their way. The CHWA 2.0 project is in the process of refining the CHWA and updating it with the latest data. The CCP Habitat Scoping Project is in the process of meeting with stakeholders through a workshop aimed at getting feedback on how a new habitat dataset would be used and other considerations for the update.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net); [swaterman@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:swaterman@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

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

#### *Stewardship Workgroup*

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust launched its Request for Proposals (for bids to conduct the GIT Funding projects) on February 10th. The Stewardship Workgroup's project is Scope 9 "Stewardship Network Study and Asset Mapping." Requests close at 4pm on March 13th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently reviewing its Logic and Action Plan following the example set by the Diversity Workgroup to gauge progress and find areas where resources can be focused to move items forward.
- The next full Stewardship Workgroup meeting has been shifted from its planned date of April 27 to occur on May 5, to avoid a conflict with the new Management Board schedule. The agenda will include presentations from other Outcome areas that are relevant to engaging stewards – tentatively regarding tree canopy recommended actions as well as messages and best practices for audiences resulting from the STAC Rising Water Temperatures report.

#### *Education Workgroup*

- The Education Workgroup facilitated a debrief of the Environmental Literacy Forum & Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN) partner meetings held in January at the National Conservation Training Center. Discussions centered on the relationship between the Workgroup and ROLN (a state-centered stakeholder effort aligned with CBP priorities that was launched with GIT funding). These conversations are ongoing.

- The Education Workgroup and National Park Service are working on a refined version of the Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative for this year. Feedback from those involved in last year's program noted that a highlight was engagement of youth with CBP leadership as a means to learn more about CBP priorities and about career options. This year's program will incorporate this feedback and look to draw in participants from existing youth leadership programs across the watershed.
- NOAA partnered with Pennsylvania partners to hold virtual and in-person workshops focused on the new PA science standards. Over 200 representatives from across Pennsylvania's school districts joined in to discuss implementation of MWEEs into environmental literacy standards.
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Request for Proposals launched on February 10th includes the Education Workgroup's two GIT-funded projects: Scope of Work 7, "Determining Evidence-Based Criteria to Highlight how Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes;" and Scope 9, "Career and Workforce Programming Landscape Assessment," which will serve multiple Outcomes.
- Staff are in the process of updating the [Bay Backpack website](#) with the environmental literacy planning toolkit for school districts and their partners.

#### *Public Access Workgroup*

- The Public Access Workgroup has convened its initial meeting of the year on March 27th, 2023 to review upcoming goals and actions. The agenda for the meeting included a presentation on the conclusive results of the Benefits and Barriers Research, which was completed in February. Additionally, the workgroup will provide an update on the status of public access sites for the year 2022 by the first week of May.
- Longtime Public Access Workgroup member Lisa Gutierrez, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has stepped up to serve as the new chair of the Workgroup, in place of Jackie Kremer, NPS, who retired at the end of 2022.

#### *Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)*

- An active effort to recruit members for the Protected Lands Workgroup from each of the Bay jurisdictions has resulted in interest from multiple individuals. Representatives from most states have agreed to join the Workgroup, though we are still working to identify participants from New York. The first meeting for the workgroup took place on March 29th, 2023 and members were able to introduce themselves as well as get more information about workgroup responsibilities and conservation concerns from other States. The Workgroup will soon work on assessing, prioritizing, and mobilizing more of the planned actions to help address state needs to accelerate land conservation.
- Based on the CCP meeting in November, preliminary discussions and research have begun in an effort to help partners become more aware of available funding with specific connections to geography. This effort would involve identifying land conservation programs or grant programs that lend themselves to conservation with criteria that imply eligibility based on mappable features. These funding programs may be from different sources such as federal and/or state. Initial research has been focused on compiling a comprehensive list of grant programs and identifying the geographic criteria that could be used to create GIS layers, and eventually to produce a useful tool to help partners find funding to match where they're working on priority projects.

### *Diversity Workgroup*

- The Workgroup is exploring options to utilize a small budget (funds from National Park Service Chesapeake) to support advancing its work. The Diversity Workgroup staff team is reviewing its Logic & Action Plan for a current progress check as well as to see which action items could be benefitted by funding to enable additional services, in particular as a move toward equity. If effective, this pilot could be spread to other workgroups. After this review, the action items that were considered for utilizing the small budget were brought forward to the larger workgroup to get their input and gauge their interest in accomplishing tasks identified. Their feedback has been collected and is being looked at to see how to move forward with the new small budget.
- The Diversity Workgroup's quarterly meeting was held from 1pm-3pm on March 16th and featured a guest presentation from Rona Kobell of the Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative.
- The Diversity Workgroup is hosting a four-part virtual workshop series focused on building capacity for equitable grant funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed which concluded in the last week of March. The virtual workshop series was designed to help improve awareness about equitable funding challenges, best practices, experiences of under-resourced communities, and strategies for funders to measure their progress in improving equity in grantmaking. Over the fall of 2022, consultants interviewed under-resourced organizations and government and foundation funders to (1) understand the challenges communities face when applying for grant funding; and (2) understand equitable changes funders in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are currently making to grantmaking. These workshops have been designed to respond to the challenges heard during the interviews, and to build community among grantmakers and between grantmakers and community-based or community-serving organizations. Workshops 1 & 2 were for funders only, and workshops 3 & 4 were open to funders, nonprofits, intermediaries, and technical assistance (TA) providers working in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Registration numbers were high for all four of the workshops.

GIT 5 Contact: Britt Slattery, [britt\\_slattery@nps.gov](mailto:britt_slattery@nps.gov) (Coordinator); Wuillam Urvina, [urvinaw@chesapeake.org](mailto:urvinaw@chesapeake.org) (Staffer); Jimmy Looper, [looperj@chesapeake.org](mailto:looperj@chesapeake.org) (Staffer)

### **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.*

**Organizational Analysis** – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in 2023.

*Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov); and Kristin Saunders ([k Saunders@umces.edu](mailto:k Saunders@umces.edu))*

**Budget and Finance Workgroup** - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Winter Quarterly Meeting took place on February 28, and highlighted funding opportunities under Chesapeake WILD. To

receive a summary of the meeting and a document outlining eligibility criteria for the grant programs discussed, please reach out to Greg Allen ([allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)).

Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), [shimkin.martha@epa.gov](mailto:shimkin.martha@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)

**Local Leadership Workgroup** - The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its Fall Quarterly Meeting on November 15, 2022 as a conference call. The meeting was focused around strategic planning and the SRS process. Meeting topics included a discussion on the LLWG baseline survey results and development of the indicator, a look back at the past 2 years, and a planning for the 2023-2025 Logic and Action Plan. **The LLWG will hold its next meeting on March 23, 2023** as a joint meeting with the Local Government Advisory Committee.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Michelle Edwards (Chair), [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org); Martha Narvaez (Vice Chair) [mcorrozi@udel.edu](mailto:mcorrozi@udel.edu)

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@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.*

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)**

The [March STAR meeting](#) had a living resources theme. The meeting began with a review of STAR's updated scope and purpose document, followed by a conversation on membership. Kenny Rose (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science) then presented the living resource component the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report, before starting a discussion on the implications of these findings. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the new hypoxia vertical profilers and how they will help assist with fish habitat and water quality criteria assessments. The next STAR meeting is on April 27th, 2023.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its [quarterly review on January 10th and 11th, 2023](#). The January 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the Phase 7 suite of models in development. The 12 presentations ranged from the modeled consequences of climate change on striped bass habitat and SAV habitat, to discussions on proposed refinements to the summer hypoxia forecasts and the developments in model optimization efforts. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on April 4th and 5th, 2023.

### **Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)**

The [March ITAT meeting](#) began with a presentation from Brendan Foster (U.S. Geological Survey) on compiled tidal and nontidal trends in water quality data for the Pamunkey Tribe. Brendan utilized traditional knowledge from Pamunkey Tribal Elders and scientific data to synthesize water quality, sea

level, and ecological trends in the Pamunkey watershed and river. Representatives from Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative shared some of the [case studies](#) they have developed to showcase their monitoring and presented potential parameters and groups for Tier 3 monitoring accreditation. ITAT members provided feedback on which datasets would be most helpful to their analysis products and scientific investigations. The next ITAT meeting will take place on May 3rd, 2023.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute the Tributary Summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, and Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan ([bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net)) and Kaylyn Gootman ([gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov)).

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their [quarterly meeting on February 28th](#). The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, citizen monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, blind audits, and field audits. Elgin Perry provided an overview of the 4-Dimensional Interpolator tool being developed by the Bay Oxygen Research Group. Alex Fries gave updates on citizen monitoring and proposed the citizen science groups to prioritize moving from Tier 2 to Tier 3. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator**

The March BORG team meeting focused on results for expanding the Generalized Additive Models (GAMs) model development from the mainstem of the Bay to the Patuxent. The Patuxent was chosen to test out results because it one of the larger tributaries to help understand challenges for using GAMs and the boundary between the tributaries and the Bay mainstem. Next steps will expand to include shallow water data from Patuxent shallow water stations.

### **Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup**

The [February 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting](#) focused on NTN data updates and next steps for the workgroup. Chris Mason presented the updated 2020 NTN loads and trends, noting where data issues were discovered and how they were resolved. This was followed by a discussion of data issues. The meeting included an update on the revised NTN scope and purpose document and concluded with a brief overview of next steps in implementing monitoring recommendations for the NTN. The next NTN Workgroup meeting is scheduled for April 19th, 2023, and will operate on a bimonthly meeting schedule.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup**

The [November 2022 CAP Workgroup](#) meeting focused on prioritization and soliciting input from members on two decisions. The CAP WG reviewed and prioritized a list of topics that are being, or need to be, addressed regarding protocols for water quality criteria assessment during the months ahead. The workgroup then considered the impacts of bathymetry changes and potentially needed station change in the tidal fresh Rappahannock. This discussion included impacts on assessment due to issues of nonstationarity in the ecosystem. The CAP WG was introduced to the proposed designated use modification for CB6PH, CB7PH, and Mobjack Bay with the [analysis and results](#) produced in coordination

with VADEQ and the Modeling Workgroup. CAP WG members have been asked to review, provide comments on, and approve/disapprove of the proposal to modify the designated use boundaries for the previously mentioned segments. The next meeting of the CAP WG will be on April 12th, 2023.

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup did not hold a March workgroup meeting, as staff resources were focused on supporting current workgroup efforts (e.g., STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop and GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation Project) and finalizing the workgroup's Strategy Review System materials (i.e., 2023-2024 Logic and Action Plan and Management Strategy). During this past month workgroup staff presented the tidal recommendations and science needs that were developed during the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop to the NOAA U.S. Northeast Climate-Fisheries Seminar Series, the Sustainable Fisheries GIT Winter Meeting, the National Estuary Program Annual Meeting, and the LGAC Quarterly Meeting. Additionally, staff helped review and finalize public communication documents, which synthesized and summarized the workshop report into communication resources. The workgroup also focused on the GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation Project, helping with development of a mapping framework that incorporates resilience metrics and partner outreach strategy to aid in the selection of regional focus areas to identify projects for the partnership-building workshop. Currently, a questionnaire has been sent to partners in Maryland and Virginia to better understand the priorities and geographic focus of partner organizations working on tidal marsh adaptation projects and resilience research. Lastly, the workgroup staff and leadership are finalizing the 2023-2024 Logic and Action Plan and Management Strategy to submit in April.

The April CRWG meeting will be held April 20th, 2023, from 1:30 PM-3:30 PM; the focus of the meeting is to be determined.

### **Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)**

The [STWG met on March 13th](#) to discuss indicator needs and potential avenues and resources for addressing those needs. The meeting began with a brief review of the living workplan for 2023. This was followed by a presentation on the in-progress integrated watershed TMDL indicator and corresponding dashboard products. STWG members provided feedback on how to improve the communication of the indicator's content and the next steps for approval. The rest of the meeting was a discussion on how to utilize available funding resources to address common needs for indicator development and refinement. The STWG is using the time between the March meeting and the Strategy Review System Biennial meeting to individually meet with outcome teams to discuss funding options for addressing their indicators' needs.

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### **April 2023 Management Board Indicators Update**

#### April MB Indicators Update

Since the March MB meeting, we have updated the following indicators to ChesapeakeProgress:

- Forest Buffers (2021 data)

We anticipate finalizing the following additional indicator updates in advance of the May MB meeting:

- Land Use Methods and Metrics: Impervious surface cover (2013/14 and 2017/18 data)
- Local Leadership (2022 data)
- Tree Canopy (2021 data)
- Fish Passage (2021 data)

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov)

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

On March 28, the Strategic Engagement Team held their quarterly meeting, and met with members of the Local Action Cohort (Land Use Metrics and Methods, Land Use Options Evaluation, Local Leadership and Tree Canopy) to review the communications, engagement, social science, education, diversity and stewardship needs identified during their quarterly SRS review. Core members of the Strategic Engagement Team will meet on April 20 to discuss the actions and decisions from the meeting and follow-up with the Local Action Cohort outcomes on next steps.

### **Communications Office**

On February 14, the Communications Office published a press release announcing the completion of the design for the Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure (TOGI) pilot program.

- Access the press release: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-program-funding-helps-four-local-communities-in-designing-beneficial-green-infrastructure-projects>

### **Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week**

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week will take place from June 3 to 11, 2023. The theme for 2023 will be "Chesapeake Journeys."

- Learn more about Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week>

### **40th Anniversary Planning Committee**

The Communications Office is leading the 40th anniversary planning effort and convened a team of planners for each jurisdiction and federal agency. The Communications Office hosted one on one meetings with each partner and is beginning to feature blogs with each partner. To celebrate the 40th anniversary, we will host two events during Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week to highlight how the Chesapeake Bay Program has worked towards meeting the Watershed Agreement goals. The events will consist of site tours highlighting restoration work in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland. More details will be available in the coming weeks. The 40th anniversary blogs can be found below.

- Celebrating 40 years of science, restoration and partnership <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/celebrating-40-years-of-science-restoration-and-partnership>
- From the fish kills to Conowingo Dam, USGS investigates the Bay watershed's most complex issues <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/from-the-fish-kills-to-conowingo-dam-usgs-investigates-the-bay-watersheds-most-complex-issues>

### **Executive Council**

Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting began on January 11, 2023. The meeting will take place in the Washington, D.C. area in October. The planning team is currently searching for a meeting location.



The following blogs were published in March:

- Watch ospreys, eagles, otters and more with these Chesapeake wildlife cams  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/watch-ospreys-eagles-otters-and-more-with-these-chesapeake-wildlife-cams>
- Who's afraid of the big, bad wolf? <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/whos-afraid-of-the-big-bad-wolf>
- From the fish kills to Conowingo Dam, USGS investigates the Bay watershed's most complex issues <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/from-the-fish-kills-to-conowingo-dam-usgs-investigates-the-bay-watersheds-most-complex-issues>
- An outdoor recreation group for women is offered across the Chesapeake region  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/an-outdoor-recreation-group-for-women-is-offered-across-the-chesapeake-region>
- 5 LBBs (little brown birds) to see in the Chesapeake  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/5-lbbs-little-brown-birds-to-see-in-the-chesapeake>

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