



**Principals' Staff Committee**  
**Program Update**  
September 2023

**CBPO Calendar**

September 27	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
September 27	GIT Chairs Quarterly Meeting
September 28	STAR Meeting
September 28	Local Government Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
September 29	Local Government Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
October 3	Modeling Workgroup Meeting Quarterly Review
October 4	Modeling Workgroup Meeting Quarterly Review
October 4	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
October 4	Stewardship Workgroup Meeting
October 5	Watershed Technical Workgroup Meeting
October 9	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
October 11	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Meeting
October 12	Management Board Meeting
October 13	Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) Meeting
October 17	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
October 17	Wetlands Workgroup Meeting Tidal
October 18	SAV Workgroup Fall 2023 Meeting
October 18	Data Integrity Workgroup
October 18	Nontidal Network Workgroup October 2023 Meeting
October 19	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
October 19	Chesapeake Executive Council Public Meeting
October 19	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
October 20	Stream Health Workgroup October 2023 Meeting

**Program Updates**

**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's next quarterly hybrid meeting is September 28-29 LGAC meeting in Leola, PA. Members will be providing feedback on priorities including accounting for ecosystem services, PFAS, DoD external

partnerships, managing the challenge of extensive federal funding opportunities, and the role of local governments after 2025.

LGAC's Delaware representative, Don Phillips, is a member of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee.

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).

### **Stakeholders' Advisory Committee**

*The Stakeholders' Advisory Committee 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 newly named Stakeholders' Advisory Committee will hold their next quarterly meeting in Fredericksburg, VA on Sept 13-14. The theme is led by the Water Quality Subcommittee and includes updates on: Virginia's progress and insights, a briefing on the 'Charting the Course to 2025', Bay Program updates including the Beyond 2025 work, and a discussion of other recent reports like the EPA OIG and CESR. The meeting goal is to finalize the annual recommendations to the Executive Council.

This will be the first meeting with two new DC Mayoral appointments, Vaughn Perry with the Skyland Workforce Center, and Hamid Karimi, retired Deputy Director of DOEE.

The Alliance welcomed a new Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Associate (staffer) Alex LoCurto. He replaces Alexa Maione.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies.

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: Alex LoCurto [alocurto@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:alocurto@allianceforthebay.org) For program questions, contact Jess 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)

***STAC Seeking At-large Membership Nominations until August 9th, 2023***

STAC has released a call for open call for self-nominations for at-large members. At-large members provide guidance and input based on their network connections, expertise and research.

Opportunities and expectations for At-large Members include...

- Provide input on various STAC and CBP partnership activities that are related to members expertise and interests. STAC activities include (but may not be limited to) technical workshops and reviews, synthesis projects, and ad-hoc groups examining topic of interest.
- Participate in at least two of four quarterly STAC meetings. Meetings last typically 1.5 days/each.
- Serve a term of four years, with potential to be reappointed for one additional four-year term- Engage with the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership through participation in meetings, activities, and discussions that are of relevance and interest to you and to STAC

For more information and a link to the online self-nomination form, follow this link. Please share this announcement with your networks and specifically to those who you may think be interested!

### ***Upcoming September Quarterly Meeting: September 12-13, 2023***

The upcoming STAC September Quarterly Meeting will be held in-person on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Frederick Douglass- Isaac Myers Maritime Park. The meeting will center on 'STAC Reflections and Next Steps'. There will be multiple changes in membership, most notably the rotation of Chairs. Kathy Boomer (FFAR) will rotate off as STAC Chair and Larry Sanford (UMCES) will rotate on for a two-year term. STAC Vice Chair will be decided in the coming months.

If you are interested in attending either in-person or virtually, you can find more information on the meeting webpage or reach out to STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org)).

### ***June Quarterly Meeting: June 13-14, 2023***

The June 2023 STAC meeting was held *in-person* on Tuesday, **June 13th** and Wednesday, **June 14th** at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA. On the morning of Day 2, STAC took a guided hike of Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, provided by Gabriela Youngken of Potomac River NWRC. The meeting centered around the theme of using multiple models for adaptive resource management. Two panels were conducted with 2-3 invited speakers sitting on each.

Presentations and recordings are available on the meeting webpage.

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

The final STAC quarterly meeting dates are scheduled for September 12-13<sup>th</sup> and December 5-6<sup>th</sup>.

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

### ***STAC-Sponsored Workshops***

All STAC FY22 workshops have convened, details on the STAC-funded efforts below:

The following STAC-funded workshops commenced during the second half of the project year:

1. Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model (Programmatic Workshop) commenced in-person on March 7-8, 2023, at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) in Fairfax, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to recommend ways in which local monitoring data can be used to inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model, identify gaps between modeled and monitored data, and be used to validate model predictions at the local scale.
2. Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes (Programmatic Workshop) commenced over two-and-a-half non-consecutive days: Day 1 commenced in-person on March 16, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club on Kent Island, MD; the Planning Session (Day 1.5) commenced in-person on April 18, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD; and Day 2 commenced in-person on June 6, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD. The purpose of this workshop series was to have investigators engage with stakeholders on effective application of new ecosystem services results into tools and decision making at multiple levels and to develop recommendations for an actionable workplan of how ecosystem services can be used to address multiple CBP outcomes.
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) commenced in-person on March 21-23, 2023, at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together a diverse cross-section of experts and stakeholders in the field of restoration to review and distill lessons learned from past stream corridor restoration projects to improve restoration outcomes.
4. Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality (State of the Science Workshop) commenced in-person on April 6-7, 2023, at George Mason University in Manassas, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to explore the potential impact of land use transition renewable energy within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and our ability to meet TMDL goals.
5. 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) commenced in-person on May 25-26, 2023, at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together leading expert to elevate the use of biochar in practice Bay-wide by evaluating and translating current research for integration into current Chesapeake Bay protocols. A STAC-funded technical review is underway:

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

### ***FY2023 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals***

STAC released an RFP for FY2023 workshops in January 2023 and received one proposal. During the March quarterly meeting STAC members reviewed the initial scores and comments, and voted to approve the proposal. Planning for FY2023 workshops began on June 1, 2023.

1. *Climate Change Modeling 3.0*

### ***STAC Reports***

STAC recently released the following reports:

1. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21): [Link to publication](#)
2. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21): [Link to publication](#)

### ***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. **Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model** (FY22): [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**

#### **Sustainable 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 Fish GIT will hold its summer meeting Sept 18-19 at the Phillip Merrill Center in Annapolis.
- The new Blue Crab Stock Assessment will be kicking off within the next few months.

#### **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.*

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- **HGIT WORKGROUP CHAIRS MEETING:** The HGIT Workgroup Chairs and Leadership will be meeting on Tuesday 9/19 from 12:00-2:00.

- **WETLANDS WORKGROUP MEETING – TIDAL & NONTIDAL:** The Wetlands Workgroup Meeting will be on Tuesday 9/26 from 10:00-1:00 ET. Additional information on this meeting can be found at [this link](#).

**STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP:** The FY2021 GIT Funded project, “*Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators - Phase 3A*”, will be completed at the end of August. This project is part of the final phase of a three phase Stream Health 2019 Work Plan, developed in collaboration with the USGS, to better understand the drivers and stressors affecting stream health throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. TetraTech (the contractor selected for this project) presented the draft report to the Stream Health Workgroup at the beginning of August, and the final report will be completed by the end of August. This report will be published on the [workgroup webpage](#) in September.

**UP TO 2025:** The Habitat GIT Co-chairs and Coordinator are continuing to support the draft effort for the Up to 2025 Report. The HGIT is assisting the Communications Team in reviewing and incorporating edits into the report.

**BEYOND 2025:** Bill Jenkins (HGIT Co-chair) is the HGIT Representative on the Beyond 2025 group. Gina Hunt (HGIT Co-Chair) is the Alternate Representative. They continue to be active and engaging in all workgroups to refine and/or change all Habitat Outcomes for the new agreement. Chris Guy (HGIT Coordinator) is the Alternate for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and is supporting the HGIT efforts through USFWS Management Board representation. The main focus has been on CESR report, Rising Temperature report, SRS biannual Report and the HGIT workgroup discussions.

**TIDAL WETLANDS PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC):** The Habitat GIT will continue to support the efforts on Wetland Strategic Planning with CBT. Several meetings are planned over the next several months and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

**BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) FUNDING:** The HGIT continues to support Bay Program BIL funding efforts on capacity building for wetlands and forest buffers.

**FY2021 & FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** The Chesapeake Bay Trust has facilitated the securement of contracts for the FY2022 and select FY2021 GIT Funding Proposals. Contractors were selected based on proposals received from the advertised scopes of work for the following projects. More information on the updated timelines of these Habitat GIT projects will be made available soon.

- **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 so it was 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 throughout the Delmarva Peninsula*”; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
- **FY2022:** “*Protecting Chesapeake Bay SAV Given Changing Hydrologic Conditions: Priority SAV Area Identification and Solutions Development*”; submitted on behalf of the SAV Outcome.

- **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](mailto: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 August 28, 2023, and discussed the following topics:

#### **Confirming new workgroup leadership**

The Wastewater Treatment and Forestry Workgroups recently each confirmed new Co-Chairs. Nominees in attendance had an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves. Under WQGIT and CBP governance, the GIT was asked to concur with the appointment of workgroup leadership.

- WWTWG Co-Chair nominees: Justin Carl (Alexandria Renew Enterprises); Jamie Mitchell (Hampton Roads Sanitation District)
- FWG Co-Chair nominees: Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR); Kesha Braunskill (USFS)

**DECISION:** The WQGIT confirmed the new Co-Chairs for both the WWTWG and the FWG.

#### **Riparian Forest Buffers Outcomes Fund**

Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) staff presented work on a GIT-funded project to develop and initiate a Riparian Forest Buffer Outcomes Purchase Fund. The plan works to deeply understand current barriers and create an approach that mitigates them using a strong understanding of conservation finance and business plan development.

#### **WQGIT Changing Leadership and Next Steps**

Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator, reviewed the WQGIT governance and next steps regarding the process of nominating new leadership. The WQGIT had the opportunity to raise any concerns with the proposed path forward. James Martin, GIT6 co-chair, agreed to look into the governance documents regarding the vacancy to confirm the path forward.

#### **Unaccounted additional loads**

Gary Shenk, USGS-CBPO, briefed the WQGIT on the “unaccounted additional loads” concept as it is being presented to the management Board. This was intended to help WQGIT members who may need a refresher or update to help brief their Management Board members ahead of their September 5th meeting. This was in addition to the office hours available to the MB on Aug. 22 and 23.

#### **Updates from Beyond 2025 Committee**

Joe Wood, CBF, gave verbal updates to the WQGIT about the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee status and latest actions.

#### **Cover crop surveys enhancement project**

Mark Dubin, UMD-CBPO, briefed the WQGIT on the enhanced methodology approved by the AgWG in 2022 for cover crop identification, reporting and verification. This presentation was for informational purposes only.

#### **Briefing: Manure application and timing in CAST**

Chris Brosch, DDA, summarized the manure application eligibility and timing issue currently under discussion at the AgWG in Phase 6 CAST (CAST-2023). If you are interested in learning more about this issue or sharing your thoughts, feel free to attend the September 21 AgWG meeting.

The WQGIT will hold their next meeting on Monday, September 25, 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: Sophie Waterman ([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*



- Work has begun on the Stewardship Network Study & Asset Mapping “Scope 9” GIT Funded Project with contractors from Local Concepts LLC. The project aims to assess and develop a visualization (a “map”) of the network of networks supporting stewardship work in the watershed, in order to use networks more effectively to strengthen collaboration and increase progress toward our shared goals and outcomes – both under the Stewardship GIT as well as those outcomes that can benefit from increased stewardship efforts (such as tree canopy, riparian buffers, etc). A project kickoff meeting was held in July and the first Advisory Team meeting is to be held on August 18th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup held a quarterly meeting on July 20th, introducing the workgroup to Local Concepts LLC who provided a presentation about the power, principles and practices of networks. Interaction with workgroup members following the presentation was used for collecting preliminary input to contribute to shaping the approach for the Scope 9 project, and recruiting additional participants for the project’s Advisory Team.

#### *Education Workgroup*

- A kickoff meeting was held on the GIT funded project entitled, “How Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes,” referred to as “Scope 7.” Preliminary organizing on this project will continue throughout August with project leads from Notre Dame of Maryland University and Towson University.
- Preliminary work has begun with contractor WE Strategies on the Workforce Landscape Assessment “Scope 8” GIT funded project. The first convening of the advisory committee is aiming to be held in late August.
- Planning for the biennial Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit is progressing well and is set to be held on November 1st, with Maryland as the host state this year. Locations and speakers are being finalized. The two theme topics for the event are “High Impact Environmental Actions for Sustainable Schools” and “Building Green Career Pathways.” This event is an opportunity for high level leadership from both environmental agencies and state education agencies to convene to discuss opportunities to work together to advance environmental literacy goals and outcomes.

#### *Public Access Workgroup*

- The Public Access Workgroup held a quarterly meeting on July 19th, focusing on reviewing the Strategy Review System (SRS) process and steps to prepare for the next progress review scheduled for February 2024, and to check in with workgroup members on the status of new public access sites for the year 2022. The data on new public access sites showed significant progress towards achieving the goal of 300 access sites, continuing on track to be met by 2025.
- The GIT-funded Benefits and Barriers Research project by contractor Steve Raabe of OpinionWorks is in the final draft stage and was presented to the workgroup at the July meeting for feedback and input from meeting participants. This project aimed to understand how residents in the watershed use public access sites, to determine if there is a relationship between use and stewardship, and to identify barriers that prevent underserved communities from using public access sites. The group shared the final findings, which included prioritizing investments in infrastructure, experimenting with education and engagement programs,

extending a sense of welcome and belonging, and gaining an understanding of who is visiting and who is not.

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

- The Protected Lands Workgroup has received an update on the Protected Lands Indicator for data through 2022. Currently, the data is being presented internally and will be shared once communication and outreach efforts are coordinated.
- The Protected Lands Workgroup held its monthly meeting on July 26th, 2023, where members discussed the possible timeline adjustment for the upcoming fourth cycle of the Strategy Review System (SRS) and the process for creating a new Logic & Action Plan. USGS provided an overview of the Protected Lands Indicator, which has just been updated, and the group considered next steps for communicating the new data.
- At a previous meeting, the Protected Lands Workgroup proposed the creation of a GIS action team. The purpose of this action team will be to focus on improvements, refinements, and opportunities, specifically when it comes to the process for collecting annual data for the Protected Lands Indicator. We are looking to fill this action team with established State Data Stewards who could serve as GIS contacts. In addition to creating the GIS action team, there would also be an effort to establish state-specific linkages between PLWG members and State Data Stewards, to assist with potential streamlined workflow or improved communication.

#### *Diversity Workgroup*

- The Diversity Workgroup will be holding its next meeting on August 25th from 10am to 12pm. Planning for the meeting is underway and tentative agenda topics include (1) presentations related to career-building opportunities (the Diversity Workgroup's C-StREAM intern Lena Mayhoub and their work with Arlington House; and from Anacostia High School Junior Firebirds, completing their summer Justice 40 internship with the Department of Interior); and (2) a presentation by contractors who developed a new resource hub to assist those applying for grants. The resource hub is a final deliverable from a GIT funded project through the Diversity Workgroup that provided a four-part virtual workshop series focused on building capacity for equitable grant funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. 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.
- The Diversity Workgroup has been looking into the process and timing for restructuring and growing the capacity of the Steering Committee and Workgroup membership, along with redefining the roles within these groups. This restructuring effort aims to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the workgroup as a whole. There is also an effort to reach out to state DEIJ coordinators from several jurisdictions in order to broaden the group's membership

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.*

### **Strategy Review System (SRS) Planning Team**

On June 12, 2023, a proposal was submitted to Management Board members via email, seeking to adjust the SRS 4<sup>th</sup> cycle starting point that was originally set for August 2023. Twenty-three responses were received. **Responses largely supported the straightforward acceptance of the proposal**, and no rejections of the proposal were received. Four respondents expressed a desire to discuss this proposal at the July Management Board meeting and supported delaying the initial date of the first 4th cycle QPM to November 2023 to accommodate this discussion.

The SRS Planning Team **discussed details of the proposal** with Management Board members at the July Management Board Meeting. While we continue to evaluate the timelines for the first Quarterly Progress Meeting, we anticipate **adjusting the SRS 4<sup>th</sup> cycle starting point to November** to accommodate these discussions.

*SRS Contact: Sarah Brzezinski (Coordinator), [Brzezinski.Sarah@EPA.gov](mailto:Brzezinski.Sarah@EPA.gov)*

**2022 GIT Funding Program** – For the 2022 GIT Funding Program, 11 projects were identified by CBT to be funded. The GIT Funding RFP was released on February 10, 2023 to 2,300 recipients including the organizations specified by tech leads and MBE/WBE/DBE firms and HBCUs in the watershed. The RFP application deadline was March 23, 2023 and the applications are currently under review by CBT. Contractor work for the projects began May 15, 2023. The 2023 GIT Funding Program is on hold until further notice.

**Governance Document Action Team (GDAT)** – The GDAT meets regularly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GDAT presented the Governance Document at the December 14, 2022 GIT 6 meeting with the approved edits from the October Executive Council Meeting regarding roles of staff and grammatical edits to EC Leadership language. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making. An updated Governance Document version 5.0 can be found on Chesapeakebay.net.

**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 ([ksaunders@umces.edu](mailto:ksaunders@umces.edu))*

**Budget and Finance Workgroup** - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Quarterly Meeting took place on August 16, 2023 as a conference call. Meeting topics included a presentation by Amy Guise on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cost-shared programs, and State Reports on Key Legislation and Legislative Outcomes. The BFWG will hold its next quarterly meeting on November 22, 2023 as a virtual meeting.

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 August 29, 2023 as a hybrid meeting at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Meeting topics included showcasing the new website which hosts the educational modules developed in A Local Government's Guide, an introduction to four new educational modules, a discussion on "Train the Trainer," and a discussion on new federal funding opportunities. The LLWG will hold its next quarterly meeting on November 14, 2023 as a virtual meeting.

Contact: Cara 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: Cara 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 August STAR meeting was a working discussion of the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report. The meeting began with a brief reminder of the key findings and implications of CESR. The first discussion topic focused on identifying which science is needed to address the key findings and implications of the CESR report. The second discussion focused on responding to the Chesapeake Bay Commission's request of the CESR team to reimagine most effective basins to focus on shallow waters by targeting five areas in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, with at least three areas in Maryland and Virginia being tidally influenced. STAR discussed which criteria might be used in this reimagining of most effective basins for shallow waters. The next STAR meeting is on September 28th, 2023.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its quarterly review on June 20th and 21st, 2023. The June 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the Phase 7 suite of models in development. The 15 presentations ranged from updates on the BMP optimization approaches, to a case study on the benefits of a decarbonized economy for nitrogen reductions to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The new multiple tributary model (MTM) team for the Rappahannock River was introduced and they presented their initial workplan. The Request for Assistance to select the Patapsco River and Choptank River MTM teams closes July 3rd. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on October 3rd and 4th, 2023.

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

The August ITAT meeting featured presentations on the Rappahannock River watershed and a presentation on ecosystem vulnerability analysis in the Everglades. Adam Lynch, a representative from

local stakeholder group Friends of the Rappahannock, presented their report card for the Lower Rappahannock River and actions their organization takes to advocate for the Rappahannock River. Anoosh Tauqir, an intern in the Chesapeake Student Recruitment, and Early Advisement, and Mentoring (C-StREAM) program, with ITAT this summer, then presented on a story map she developed for communicating water quality status and trends in the Rappahannock to policy and decision-makers. ITAT has worked with Friends of the Rappahannock to increase the utilization and communication of CBP water quality monitoring data through this story map. The meeting concluded with a presentation from Laura D'Acunto of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Wetland and Aquatic Research Center on the Everglades Vulnerability Analysis. Comparing how the Chesapeake Bay and other restoration programs model ecosystem condition facilitates peer learning and applications for Chesapeake Bay science. The next ITAT meeting will take place on September 27th, 2023.

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) 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 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration. 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 July 19th. The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, community science monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, and blind audits. Much of the meeting focused on a presentation from Doug Moyer (USGS) on the decision rules for total phosphorus and total nitrogen in the nontidal network. A follow-up meeting to discuss these decision rules with individual labs and other interested groups took place on August 23rd. The next quarterly full session meeting has not yet been scheduled.

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

The BORG team met on August 28th to provide a round robin of updates on the 4D interpolator development. The ORISE announcement through EPA ROAR is live. The PI and student will support analysis of shallow water data for the 4D interpolator. Tetra Tech has recently compiled data and re-organized it for inputting into the 4D model. They are also making progress on building the framework of the model to scale up and apply to all sub estuaries of the Bay. Independent contractor Elgin Perry is working on the wavelet analysis to explore the continuous monitoring data and understand the impact of tidal cycles and other patterns.

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

The August 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting included updates on small agricultural watershed monitoring sites, 5 of which are funded through EPA for one year, while discussions are underway with multiple partner agencies in MD, VA, PA and DE to find additional funding sources. An update was also provided on the work to reconstruct the historical and current data sets in a single database. This was completed in late July and will be followed by review with each jurisdiction as well as the lab partners in the Data Integrity Workgroup. Peter Tango provided an update on the effort to find funding for field audits. The rest of the meeting focused on budgetary planning for the nontidal network in FY24. The next NTN

Workgroup meeting is scheduled for October 18th, 2023, as the group now operates on a bimonthly meeting schedule.

### **Hypoxia Collaborative Team**

The [Hypoxia Collaborative team met in June](#). Three hypoxia continuous monitoring stations have been deployed in the Mid-Bay, lower Choptank and lower Potomac, with some sensors still needing to be added. Up to 10 total stations will be out by 2025. The collaborative team will continue to have an advisory role. Data from the sensor arrays are posted on [IOOS's Environmental Sensor Map](#). There are some improvements being worked on to the data viewing including standardization of color ramps, automated and manual flagging, and potentially an API for querying and downloading data. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) is working on analysis methods for the data for use in the 4-Dimensional Interpolator and criteria assessment. Marjorie Friedrichs (VIMS), Pierre St-Laurent (VIMS) and Aaron Bever (Anchor QEA) shared applications of the hypoxia continuous monitoring data in improvements of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecasting System (CBEFS). The next meeting of the Hypoxia Collaborative has yet to be scheduled.

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

The [July 2023 CAP Workgroup meeting](#) focused on three major discussion topics facilitated by Peter Tango (USGS). The first item involved discussion on the merits of adjusting dissolved oxygen criteria for the Bay given warming water temperatures, and which analysis and products the CAP workgroup might put together to support a recommendation. The second discussion topic was a consideration to revise the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (WQSAM) outcome language of the 2014 Watershed Agreement for the CBPs "Beyond 2025" Action Team and its upcoming considerations for updating Goal and outcome statements by the end of 2025. The final discussion topic was developing decision rules on dissolved oxygen criteria attainment that utilize the output of the new 4-D interpolator under development. The CAP workgroup will next meet on September 14th, 2023.

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

The STWG met on August 14th to discuss indicator development projects. The meeting involved a review of current indicator development projects and associated action teams, as well as the official indicator development process and how it has proceeded with recent indicators. This was followed by a discussion on potential edits to the indicator development process. The workgroup will next convene as needed in the fall while individual teams meet to work on new indicator development.

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

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's [August Meeting](#) focused on sharing the tidal recommendations from the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop, hearing presentations on marine heatwave research and fish habitat research related to changes in environmental conditions and discussing ideas for a marine heatwave-fisheries alert, which addresses a recommendation in the workshop report.

Jamileh presented on the tidal findings from the [STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop](#). These findings include management implications, recommendations, and their associated science needs, which all aim to address increasing water temperatures in the tidal portions of the Chesapeake Bay. Julie Reichert-Nguyen presented recent efforts to support the Rising Water Temperature STAC Workshop recommendation focused on development of a Marine Heatwave Alert Indicator that incorporates living resource considerations. These efforts include: reviewing current research on defining and quantifying marine heatwaves and identifying environmental thresholds of key fisheries species; meeting with

experts to discuss their perspectives on defining marine heatwaves in the Chesapeake Bay and considerations for relating to fish impacts; and working with existing definitions to identify marine heatwaves in NOAA's buoy data for integration in seasonal summaries. Mary Fabrizio (VIMS) her research focused on understanding the environmental thresholds and habitat suitability of key fisheries species in the Chesapeake Bay. She will be highlighting her recently funded proposal to build habitat suitability models using physiological thresholds for several species of fishes and white shrimp. Tom Parham (MD DNR) presented his work focused on incorporating environmental thresholds for striped bass into fishing guidance. This research utilizes dissolved oxygen and water temperature data to characterize suitable habitat for striped bass. Nathan Shunk (VIMS) presented his research investigating spatial and temporal patterns of marine heatwaves in the Chesapeake Bay and how they are connected to water quality parameters (e.g., dissolved oxygen).

The September Meeting will be held on September 25th, 2023 from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM and will focus on the CBP's Reaching 2025 and Beyond efforts and the CESR report.

CRWG Contacts: Julie Reichert-Nguyen, [julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov](mailto:julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov) (Coordinator); Jamileh Souidan, [jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov](mailto:jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov) (Staffer)

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) (Coordinator), Amy Goldfisher (Staffer); [agoldfisher@chesapeake.org](mailto:agoldfisher@chesapeake.org), Alex Gunnerson (Staffer); [gunnersona@chesapeake.org](mailto:gunnersona@chesapeake.org)

### **September 2023 Management Board Indicators Update**

#### **September MB Indicators Update**

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

- Average air temperature indicator (2021 data)
- Annual precipitation indicator (2021 data)

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

- Reducing Pollution Indicator (2022 data)
- N,P,S loads and river flow indicator (2021 data)
- Water Quality Standards and Attainment Indicator (2021 data)
- Public Access sites (2022 data)

Additionally, work has progressed for a release of the following new indicators by the end of 2023:

- Wetlands created and enhanced (2022 data – will inform the wetlands and black duck outcomes)
- TMDL indicator (2021 data – 2025 WIPs outcome)

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

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

In August, core members of the Strategic Engagement Team met on August 1 to do a deeper dive into the CESR report with Denice Wardrop, Chesapeake Research Consortium, to help foster engagement with non-profit partners; on August 15 to prepare for our upcoming quarterly meeting on September 5;

and on August 29 to follow-up more with Denise, as well as Katie Brownson, U.S. Forest Service, to offer suggestions for communicating their upcoming Forestry Story Map.

The next quarterly Strategic Engagement Team meeting will be held on September 5 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and we'll be meeting with the outcome leads that we've worked with over the past year to assess our progress and lessons learned.

### **Communications Office**

- The Communications Office will hold their next webinar on Wednesday, September 6, entitled, *Jump Start Your Green Career in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. The webinar will feature different career programs available for college students or recent graduates, including the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps, the Environmental Management Staffer Program, C-STREAM Internship Program and the Young Professionals of Color Program. Attendees can register for the webinar at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HVFowPF\\_TfCpXfSJqblQNw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HVFowPF_TfCpXfSJqblQNw#/registration)
- On August 16, the Communications Office published a press release with the updated high-resolution land cover and tree canopy data.
  - Access the press release here: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/tree-cover-declines-throughout-watershed-while-impervious-surfaces-increase>

### **Published blogs:**

The following blogs were published in August:

- A native Chesapeake plant can prevent your poison ivy rash <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a-native-chesapeake-plant-can-prevent-your-poison-ivy-rash>
- The science and policy behind Chesapeake Bay restoration <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the-science-and-policy-behind-chesapeake-bay-restoration>
- A day well spent at Downs Park <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a-day-well-spent-at-downs-park>
- Family farm in Ronks, Pa. does all it can to help local streams recover <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/family-farm-in-ronks-pa-does-all-it-can-to-help-local-streams-recover>
- Bay Program survey reveals knowledge and capacity gaps among small communities and newly elected officials <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bay-program-survey-reveals-knowledge-and-capacity-gaps-among-small-communities-and-newly-elected-officials>
- Are we trading trees for concrete? <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/are-we-trading-trees-for-concrete>
- Three Chesapeake Gateways sites that capture the magic of the region <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/three-chesapeake-gateways-sites-that-capture-the-magic-of-the-region>



- Defending the Bay: How the Department of Defense contributes to Bay restoration  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/defending-the-bay-how-the-department-of-defense-contributes-to-bay-restoration>
- Bay scientists turn attention to ecological impacts of "forever chemicals"  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bay-scientists-turn-attention-to-ecological-impacts-of-forever-chemicals>
- Planting for change <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/planting-for-change>
- Stakeholders' Advisory Committee discusses the effects of tree loss on a local scale  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/stakeholders-advisory-committee-discusses-the-effects-of-tree-loss-on-a-local-scale>

### ***Executive Council***

Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting began on January 11, 2023. The meeting will take place at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. in October.

Contact: Marisa Baldine, ([mbaldine@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mbaldine@chesapeakebay.net)); Rachel Felter, ([rfelter@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rfelter@chesapeakebay.net))