



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee**
December 17, 2020

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 11 | Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Meeting |
| Jan 12-13 | Fisheries Goal Team Winter Meeting |
| Jan 14 | BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call |
| Jan 21 | Management Board meeting |
| Jan 22 | Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Steering Committee Meeting |
| Jan 25 | Water Quality Goal Team Conference Call |
| Jan 28 | Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting |
| Feb 3 | Communications Workgroup Meeting |
| Feb 11 | Management Board Meeting |

Updates

Review of Water Quality Milestones

Jurisdictional and Federal partners were reminded last week that the PSC approved a two-year water quality milestone schedule in January 2020. EPA will conduct check-in meetings regarding the current milestones progress in the January-March 2021 timeframe. In preparation, EPA expects the Bay jurisdictions and federal agencies to submit, by January 15, a written progress report for the two-year milestones (Note: no written EPA evaluations are provided in the "interim" year of the two-year milestones). There are three types of 2020-2021 milestones impacted: 1) numeric 2) programmatic and 3) best management practice (BMP)-specific. Per the CBPO Grant Guidance, the numeric progress is due December 1 of each year.

For more information, contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov; or Suzanne Trevena, trevena.suzenne@epa.gov.

Public Comment Period Extended for Conowingo WIP

The 60-day public review and comment period for the draft Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) has been extended by an additional 30 days, ending on January 20, 2021, at the request of and to ensure effective outreach to impacted stakeholders. The deadlines for the CWIP financing strategy are not impacted by this extension. The CWIP Steering Committee is currently reviewing the revised schedule for the finalization of the CWIP.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 443-863-0657

EPA Evaluating Amended NY Phase III WIP

EPA Regions 2 and 3 are evaluating an amended Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) submitted to EPA by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). New York's amended WIP is intended to demonstrate meeting the Chesapeake Bay Partnership 2025 targets for

nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. The link to the amended WIP on EPA's Bay TMDL website: <https://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl>.

Contact: Lee McDonnell (CBPO), 410-267-5731

NFWF Solicits Letters of Interest for \$7M-10M in EPA Bay Grant Funding

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with EPA and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is soliciting Letters of Interest by Jan. 15, 2021 for the 2021 Stewardship Fund—the Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants program and Small Watershed Grants Program. NFWF is soliciting proposals for collaborative efforts of sustainable, regional-scale partnerships to implement proven water quality improvement practices more cost-effectively. These programs benefit the communities, farms, habitats and wildlife of the Chesapeake Bay region. NFWF estimates awarding \$7-10 million in grants through the INSR program in 2021, contingent on the availability of funding. Major funding comes from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, with other contributions by Altria Group, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More information: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-bay-stewardship-fund>

Estimate 2020 Dead Zone: Seventh Smallest in 35 Years

Strong winds from Hurricane Isais aerating Bay waters in August 2020, as well as cooler-than-normal air temperatures in May and September, created the perfect conditions for a small 2020 dead zone—the smallest in the last 35 years. Those conditions were further enhanced by pollution-reducing strategies put into place over the years by dedicated government agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals. The U.S. Geological Survey reported normal river flows entering the Bay at an average of 77,655 cubic feet per second, which is slightly below the long-term average of 79,000 cubic feet per second. These average river flows, along with cooler temperatures in May and September, provided the perfect conditions for a smaller dead zone.

More:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/thanks to the weather and efforts to reduce pollution the 2020 dead zone re](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/thanks%20to%20the%20weather%20and%20efforts%20to%20reduce%20pollution%20the%202020%20dead%20zone%20re)

EPA Celebrates 50th Anniversary

As part of EPA Region III's 50th Anniversary celebration on Wednesday, December 9, CBP's Lew Linker, modeling coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Program, will describe how advances in Bay Program modeling have helped EPA and its partners steer a course ahead in restoring the Bay and local waters. Modeling at the Bay Program is part of a broader toolkit that includes research and monitoring to gain the highest possible level of accuracy.

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 held its quarterly meeting virtually on December 3-4, 2020. Topics for discussion include jurisdiction and local focus on outdoor recreation as an economic resource. Representatives from Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Chesapeake Conservancy shared efforts and benefits and Members talked about the opportunities for outdoor recreation. In addition, the CAC and STAC Chairs discussed their Advisory Committee priorities and support the Committees can provide to each other. Emily

Trentacoste, CBP staff, presented restoration efforts needing local government support and LGAC provided suggestions on the best means to communicate and engage. Shannon Moore, Chair of the Local Leadership Workgroup, received feedback on the Workgroups two-year workplan and Carin Bisland received input on Bay Program efforts needing local government involvement.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at 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 CAC held their quarterly meeting virtually on Dec 3-4. The agenda included: a briefing on Virginia's leadership of the PSC and EC; a panel discussion on Chesapeake Bay Congressional Priorities for the next Congress and new Administration; a presentation on the draft Conowingo WIP and stakeholder perspectives, and Chesapeake Bay Program updates.

The CAC will welcome a new cohort of 4 new members by the end of the year. New member onboarding will begin in January.

There are still 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies, 3 MD gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy. CAC held officer elections during their December meeting. The new officers are: Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), Vice-Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org and or program questions contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

FY2021 STAC Workshop RFP

STAC released the FY2021 STAC Workshop Request for Proposals on December 1st. Proposals are due to STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey by February 16th, 2021.

[STAC FY2021 Workshop RFP](#)

Quarterly Meetings:

The next quarterly meeting for STAC will take place virtually on December 14-15, 2020. STAC will meet for an altered schedule on these days to accommodate the challenges of meeting virtually. Both meeting days will be from 1-5pm.

[Meeting Agenda](#)

STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2021 Quarterly Meetings.

March 23-24, 2021

June 15-16, 2021

September 13-14, 2021

December 7-8, 2021

FY2020 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2020, listed below. Planning is underway for all of these activities and details will be released as planning continues.

1. *Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations*
2. *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption*
3. *Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens*
4. *Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap*

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

STAC COVID- 19 Review and Potential Workshop

A subcommittee of STAC members is in the process of planning a STAC-led effort to examine the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Chesapeake Bay. COVID-19 has created impacts and changed dynamics for the Bay and its watershed. The purpose of this review and workshop is to identify impacts, changing dynamics, and novel insights that may have come from COVID-19 to inform current and future efforts to reach management targets for the Chesapeake Bay.

This effort is focused on both short term and longer-term dynamics. For the short term (months), we are looking for whether there is scientific data to gather now while the impacts of COVID-19 are currently being felt across the watershed and estuary. In addition, there may be management actions that can be taken now. For the longer-term (years), we seek to better understand the impacts, changing dynamics, and novel insights that may come from COVID-19.

STAC asked for feedback from the Management Board at the October 2020 meeting. STAC also released on [online survey](#) to solicit additional feedback from the entire partnership.

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following six reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)

3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
6. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)
7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)
8. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program (FY2019)

STAC Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Assessment of System Response and Science Needs

STAC members are continually working to produce a report to outline system response and science needs, sectioned into three focus areas—living resources, estuarine, and watershed. Each workgroup for these sections is in the process of producing drafts, collecting comments and revisions, and presenting products to the entire membership. The subcommittee leading this effort are considering utilizing a facilitator in the process of connecting each of the three sections into one, cohesive report. The effective communication of the report findings and recommendations is an ongoing priority and STAC will work with the Communications Workgroup to achieve successful outreach.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac
 Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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.

Fisheries Goal Team Winter Meeting:

- Our biannual membership meeting is scheduled to take place January 12th-14th of 2021. The meeting will focus on progress toward our outcomes, results of research connecting water quality, habitat and fisheries, and discussions about how we can further advance ecosystem science and management for fish and oysters. An agenda and calendar invite will be distributed in the coming weeks. Any questions about this meeting can be directed to Justin Shapiro (justin.shapiro@noaa.gov).

Fish Habitat Action Team Meeting

- The Fish Habitat workgroup convened for a quarterly meeting on November 5th. Along with several guest presentations, the team discussed outstanding action items and the future

directions of this broad and diverse team of stakeholders. As part of action item updates, the Bay Program GIS Team presented on their progress towards the creation of a shoreline hardening GIS layer, for use by local planners. The Virginia data layer is completed and posted, while work continues on a Maryland shoreline layer. We will work to ensure these impressive products are available to local partners.

Invasive Catfish Workgroup Subcommittees

- As a next step to the recently published management strategy, the ICW has created subcommittees to lead and implement specific approaches outlined in the document. Any questions about specific subcommittees, or leadership, can be directed to Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@noaa.gov).

Contact: Bruce Vogt; bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

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.

- The Habitat Goal Team virtually hosted their bi-annual Goal Team Meeting on November 16th and 17th. The first day of the meeting focused on presentations from Chesapeake Bay Program and outside partners while the second day consisted of a discussion between goal team members about possible collaborative and leveraging opportunities, and obstacles in getting our work done.
- The Wetland Workgroup will be holding its bi-monthly meeting on December 15th. The agenda will feature a presentation from MD DNR on beaver management as a wetland restoration practice, an update on the proposed changes to wetland classification and other mapping updates, and discussions related to SRS and a STAC workshop proposal.
- At the November 12th Quarterly Progress meeting, the Wetland Workgroup and Black Duck Action Team jointly requested MB support in securing capacity and funding for a short-term Living Resource Data Manager to help address issues related to wetland restoration and enhancement tracking in the watershed model. The workgroup chairs will provide a proposal detailing the work and funding they require by the January MB meeting. The Living Resource Data Manager will also work to meet as yet unfulfilled needs identified by the Brook Trout Workgroup during their fall 2019 SRS meetings.
- The Stream Health Workgroup will be holding its bi-monthly meeting on December 11th. The agenda will feature updates on a USGS-funded stream stressor literature review, an update on the Healthy Watersheds assessment, and a group discussion on workgroup priorities going into 2021.
- The Fish Passage Workgroup is actively working to update all Fish Passage related content on the Bay Program's website, chesapeakebay.net. The workgroup hopes to have updated all fish passage webpages by early 2021.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann

(greenberg.julianna@epa.gov; ossman.megan@epa.gov)

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 November 30, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- WQGIT postponed approval of the Climate Change Narrative Document. CRWG and communications team will continue to revise the language. It will come before the WQGIT at a future meeting. The WQGIT leadership will provide an update to the MB at an upcoming meeting.
- WQGIT decided to cancel their December meeting and will reconvene at their regularly scheduled time in January.
- WQGIT endorsed the proposal for STAC workshop on ecological implications of water temperature increases in tidal and non-tidal waters of the bay watershed and actions the Bay Program can take.
- MDE briefed the WQGIT on a framework for revisiting the WIP Atmospheric Deposition accounting rules to better cover air programs that will be put in place beyond 2025.
- USGS briefed the WQGIT on factors driving nutrient trends in streams of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The WQGIT cancelled its December 28, 2020 conference call. Their next meeting will be January 25, 2021.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

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.

HWGIT is reviewing the final documents for GIT funded project, "Development of improved methodology for data collection of a Chesapeake Bay Protected Lands indicator." This project worked with the Chesapeake Conservancy; Maryland protected lands data stewards as well as CBP staff to develop the methodology, python code and ArcGIS toolboxes to "automate" the protected lands indicator reporting process for MD. The team will be expanding the project to the whole Chesapeake region under a cooperative agreement with USGS and NPS Chesapeake office.

In November, the Coordinator, Renee Thompson served on a panel for the Forever Maryland 2020 Webinar Series. The webinar was intitled "Main Current: 2020 Wrap-up - News You Can Use from The Chesapeake". The other panelists included John Griffin, Chesapeake Conservancy, Jonathan Doherty, NPS, and Jennifer Miller Herzog, Land Trust Alliance. Renee shared resources related to Land Policy BMPs in MD and demoed various web-based tools developed by various CBP teams that can be utilized

to guide land conservation groups and local decision makers to make informed decisions. The tools/resources they reviewed included the [Chesapeake Bay Data Dashboard](#), the [Healthy Watersheds Assessment](#), the DEIJ dashboard as well as a land use resources fact sheet.

HWGIT staff and contractors are continuing work on the Maryland specific healthy watersheds assessment project and CHWA Storymap. Updates on these projects were shared at the goal team [meeting](#) on Monday, December 7.

Contact: Renee Thompson; rtompso@chesapeakebay.net

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

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

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership hosted the final session of the 2020 Annual Meeting on November 17th from 9:30am -- 12pm. This was a culminating event after a series of virtual working sessions, held over the last month, which were organized around the theme of conserving land for public health, racial equity, and access to nature. Review the [Annual Meeting summary here](#).
- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform success.chesapeakeconservation.org. Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner (wisnero@chesapeake.org) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed.
- The CCP has received feedback from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on it's 2020 GIT Funded Project titled "Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of 'Green Spaces' in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities".

Citizen Stewardship Team

- The Citizen Stewardship workgroup has received feedback from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on it's 2020 GIT Funded Project titled "Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development" which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Stewardship workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- The Education Workgroup hosted a full membership meeting on December 7th focusing on strengthening the implementation of Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) and Strategic Engagement to Support Systemic Environmental Literacy.
- Since its Quarterly Progress Meeting in May, the Education Workgroup has been updating the Logic and Action Plans for the Student, Sustainable Schools, and Planning Outcomes of the 2014

Watershed Agreement. The updated plans were available for public feedback and are going before the Management Board at the December meeting.

- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- The Education Workgroup is working to finalize the Stroud Tool. The tool is meant to bring environmental literacy and environmental protection/restoration priorities closer together while highlighting disparities and encouraging equity. It will provide data at both the school district and school building level.
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

Public Access

- The Public Access Workgroup put out its annual call for data to track public access site development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- The Public Access Workgroup has received feedback from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on its 2020 GIT Funded Project titled “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites.

Fostering Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; wisnero@chesapeake.org

Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup submitted the final Table 2 document for the FY21 GIT-Funding project titled, *Cultivating and Strengthening Partnerships with Underrepresented Stakeholders*. The Chesapeake Bay Trust is in the process of converting the Table 2 into an RFP, which will be advertised from mid-December through mid-January. With Jim Edward’s retirement, the workgroup will soon be seeking a new chair or vice-chair. The next Diversity Workgroup meeting will occur in late January or early February.

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; phillips.tuana@epa.gov

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.

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS).

[ChesapeakeDecisions](#) is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay Program’s [Goal Implementation Teams \(GITs\) and Management Board members](#) through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward

the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The Local Action cohort will be the next cohort to undergo the process—starting on December 9th. The SRS Planning Team is in the process of planning for the Biennial Meeting (Spring 2021) and 3rd SRS cycle. Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Winter 2020

The GIT 6 Winter Quarterly Meeting will take place on December 16, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System (SRS) updates, Governance Document revision discussions, and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; or Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov.

FY 2020 GIT Funding

Twelve projects have been approved for FY20. FY21 process and planning discussions are underway. Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Fall Quarterly Meeting took place on October 28, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19) and a presentation for discussion on CWSRF. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), guck.michelle@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Fall Quarterly Meeting took place on November 18, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: a review of the draft materials for the Local Action cohort Check-In meeting on December 9. Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com; or Shannon Moore (Vice Chair), SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@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.

STAR

The November STAR meeting dedicated an hour to a series of presentations on the Floodplain and Channel Evaluation Tool (FACET) and discussed potential applications to Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Outcomes. There was also an update on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) Hackathon which was a 6-week long event exploring citizen-based monitoring data of known integrity in the Chesapeake Data Explorer database on the health of the watershed. Participants explored CMC's data to

create solutions to address some of the core pollution-control and environmental assessment challenges facing the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. There was also a Cross-GIT discussion on the potential Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Workshop proposal on Water Temperature which will address management challenges associated with temperature increases in both non-tidal and tidal waters.

Data Integrity Workgroup (DIWG)

The Monitoring Program Networks are following CDC protocols to continue monitoring efforts. They are able to accomplish almost everything they were doing prior to the pandemic. In the DIWG meeting held on December 2nd, they discussed a potential STAC proposal for updating the Tidal monitoring and assessment program. Peter Tango is leading the STAC proposal effort to help the monitoring capacity issue which is influencing the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome. The workgroup also discussed the new advancement in Continuous Water Quality Monitoring and gave a 2020 summer hypoxia update. The Chesapeake Bay had the second least amount of hypoxia this summer on record, and only one cruise had above average hypoxia. This was the late July cruise, and it was the hottest July on Maryland record. The hypoxia for 2020 seems to follow the forecast. [Here](#) is a Press Release from the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP).

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The CAP WG met on November 18th. Agenda items included a discussion on Deep Channel designation in CB6 and CB7, report out on the STAC Workshop on SAV assessment via satellite imagery, issues and directions on short duration criteria assessment, and temperature-climate change-potential considerations for accommodation with criteria in the future. At the next CAP meeting, Peter Tango will discuss the development of a STAC Workshop Proposal on updating the Tidal monitoring and Assessment Program.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup will host a joint meeting with the Urban Stormwater Workgroup and Climate Resiliency Workgroup on December 9th with a focus on Chesapeake Bay climate change response and IDF curve development.

CRWG

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) leaders recently presented on their successes and challenges over the past two years, their expected progress, and requests for action from the Management Board (MB) members for the Climate Monitoring and Assessment and Climate Adaptation Outcomes at the SRS Quarterly Progress Review MB meeting on November 12, 2020. They will continue the discussion on MB requests at the December 10th MB meeting. As part of the SRS process, the CRWG discussed their science needs list during their November 16th meeting. Their science needs have a focus on assessing BMP resilience to changing climate conditions and research related to climate change impacts on habitat and living resources. They will present their updated science needs at the December 17th STAR meeting. Also presented at the CRWG November 16th meeting were overviews of three FY20 GIT Funding proposals either supported by the CRWG or are looking to incorporate climate change issues in the project. The titles of the proposals are, "Synthesis of Shoreline, Sea Level Rise, and Marsh Migration Data for Wetland Restoration Targeting," "Modeling Climate Impacts on Submerged Aquatic Grasses (SAV) in Chesapeake Bay," and "Planning for Clean Water: Local Government Workshops." The CRWG

will begin the process of updating their Management Strategy and Logic & Action Plan which will guide their work for the next two years during their meeting on January 25, 2021.

STAR Contact: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org

Indicators

The following indicators were updated since the November Management Board meeting:

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Statement of Status/Progress</i> | <i>Link</i> |
|------------------|---|---|
| Forest Buffers | Between 2017 and 2018, about 158 miles of forest buffers were planted along rivers and streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, followed by about 83 miles in 2019. While this marks progress toward the outcome, it is 742 and 817 miles below the 900-mile-per-year target, respectively. | https://www.chesapeakeprogram.org/abundant-life/forest-buffers |

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- *Fish Passage – update with 2019 data*

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

Communications Workgroup

On December 2, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around the first day of winter and the holidays. Additional shared messaging content can be found at:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel/files/40547/12.02.20_chesapeake_bay_program_december_shared_messaging.pdf

Jay Clarke, VA Sea Grant; Kelly Donaldson, PA Sea Grant; and Rona Kobell, MD Sea Grant, presented an overview of the National Sea Grant Program, followed by information about their specific regional programs and plans for 2021. Caitlyn Johnstone, CBP Outreach Specialist with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay shared a promotional video for the Fish Consumption Advisory Project, of a recently completed joint project with the Diversity and Toxics Workgroups to improve communications to

communities at high-risk for toxics contaminants. More information about the Fish Consumption Advisory Project will be presented at our January meeting.

Communications Office

The Communications Office, in collaboration with the Fish Habitat Workgroup, recently completed a set of infographics showing the value of angling in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Data from the sale of fishing licenses, the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Sportfishing Association were used to calculate the number of jobs supported by fisheries, the amount of money spent annually on fisheries and the revenue generated from local and state taxes for Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. These four infographics can be found at:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/watershed_implementation_plan_wip_engagement_action_team (midway down page, under “Hooked on Clean Water”).

Marisa Baldine joined the Communications Office as the new Chesapeake Research Consortium Staffer on November 16, 2020. Welcome, Marisa!

The following blogs were published in November:

- To save the American chestnut, scientists turn to genetic engineering
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/to_save_the_american_chestnut_scientists_turn_to_genetic_engineering
- Centuries-old Susquehanna petroglyphs give history a personal touch
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/centuries_old_susquehanna_petroglyphs_give_history_a_personal_touch
- A military veteran’s new mission is to restore a stream and help people heal
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_military_veterans_new_mission_is_to_restore_a_stream_and_help_people_heal
- A trail system connects land and water in the Susquehanna headwaters
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_trail_system_connects_land_and_water_in_the_susquehanna_headwaters
- Schools across the Chesapeake Bay watershed continue progress towards environmental literacy goals
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/schools_across_the_chesapeake_bay_watershed_continue_progress_towards_environmental_literacy_goals
- An urban farm is filling space left uninhabitable by increased flooding
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/an_urban_farm_is_filling_space_left_uninhabitable_by_increased_flooding
- Chesapeake Bay educators continue to hone their skills virtually
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake_bay_educators_continue_to_hone_their_skills_virtually
- The greatest wildlife comeback you’ve never seen
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_greatest_wildlife_comeback_youve_never_seen
- Harbor seals are becoming a regular highlight of winter in the Chesapeake Bay

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/harbor_seals_are_becoming_a_regular_highlight_of_winter_in_the_chesapeake_bay

Contact: Rachel Felver; rfelver@chesapeakebay.net