



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

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
10:00AM – 12:00PM

[Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

**Meeting ID:** 213 754 305 350 25 | **Passcode:** fK783S44  
**Call:** +1 469-208-1525 | **Conference ID:** 184 608 47#

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Gabriel Duran at [gduran@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:gduran@chesapeakebay.net).

**Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:**

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

**Compromised Meeting Plan:** If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

**Purpose:** This is the monthly meeting of the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team. In this meeting, Breck Sullivan and Ken Hyer (USGS) will be presenting the updated governance and structure for the Bay Program and explaining how these changes will impact STAR's workgroups and function. Next, Kelly Somer (EPA) will be presenting on the Plastic Pollution Action Team and their work. Lastly, Breck Sullivan and Peter Tango (USGS) will be sharing the presentations and discussion topics for upcoming STAR meetings.

## Agenda

**I. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements**

**(10:30 – 10:45)**

Lead: **Ken Hyer** (U.S. Geological Survey, USGS) STAR Chair, **Breck Sullivan** (USGS) STAR Coordinator, and **Peter Tango** (USGS) CBP Monitoring Coordinator.

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops and Webinars

- [Choose Clean Water Conference](#) – May 18-20, 2026. Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- [Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) – June 1-3, 2026. Annapolis, Maryland.
- [Restore America's Estuaries' 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit](#) – September 22-25, 2026. San Francisco, California.
- [Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#) – November 13-15, 2026. Shepherdstown, West Virginia.  
*Session proposals are currently open and due May 27. More information can be found [here](#).*

**II. STAR Workgroups and Updated Governance and Structure (10:45 – 11:15)**

*Description:* The Chesapeake Bay Program is currently producing a new governance and structure to align with the Revised Watershed Agreement. In this presentation, Breck Sullivan and Ken Hyer will discuss some of these changes and how it will impact STAR's workgroups and functions. On Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Lee McDonnell will be giving a similar presentation to the [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#). STAR participants that want to give feedback are encouraged to share at that meeting.

Requested Action: Informational, discussion.

Lead: **Breck Sullivan** and **Ken Hyer** (USGS)

Materials: Presentation can be found on the [meeting webpage](#).

**III. Updates from the Chesapeake Bay Program Plastic Pollution Action Team (11:15 – 11:45)**

*Description:* The Plastic Pollution Action Team (PPAT) was formed in 2020 to begin to address the issue of plastic pollution to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The PPAT has provided technical support and oversight of several projects to address plastic pollution including an ecological risk assessment on juvenile striped bass, a monitoring framework and a science strategy. This presentation will share highlights of the last 6 years of PPAT support and discuss new projects and potential opportunities for collaboration.

Requested Action: Informational, discussion.

Lead: **Kelly Somers** (EPA)

Materials: Presentation can be found on the [meeting webpage](#). PPAT publications can be found [here](#).

**IV. Upcoming STAR Presentations (11:45 – 12:00)**

Requested Action: Informational.

Lead: **Breck Sullivan** and **Peter Tango** (USGS)

Materials: None.

**V. Adjourn (12:00)**

**Next Meeting:** *May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 10 AM – 12 PM.*