

# CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

## Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Eastern Time  
Location: **Link:**

<https://umces.webex.com/umces/j.php?MTID=m8cbd1511b861d7cab90887840676b011>

Meeting number: 2630 014 7656

Password: WQGIT2024

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388

Access code: 2630 014 7656



**Chesapeake Bay Program**

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

Meeting materials: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/water-quality-goal-implementation-team-git-3-meeting-january-2024>

Written announcements or reminders (CTRL + click to jump ahead within document)

## Agenda

Topic	Start time (duration)	Item Title <i>Item description</i>	Speaker(s) or presenter(s)
	1:00	<b><u>Welcome and Introduction</u></b>  <i>We will use Webex for roll call purposes, so please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the WebEx participants list. If not, please enter your correct name &amp; affiliation in the chat box. If multiple participants are joining through the same location, please enter your names in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.</i>	Suzanne Trevena, EPA, WQGIT Chair
	(10 min)	<b><u>Welcome and intro new permanent CBPO Director, Martha Shimkin</u></b>	Martha Shimkin, EPA CBPO
	1:10 (20 min)	<b><u>Announcements &amp; Verbal Updates</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WQGIT Coordinator Updates – Jeremy Hanson, CRC</li><li>STAC Climate Modeling 3.0 workshop – Gary Shenk</li></ul>	

- Phase 7 Modeling Office Hours on February 5, 12:30pm – Lee McDonnell
- Workgroup Updates (2 min or less, open to workgroup chairs or coordinators)

<b>WQGIT Governance</b>	<b>1:30</b> (10 min)	<p><b><u>Introductions and steps to confirm WQGIT at-large members</u></b></p> <p><i>The deadline for nominations to fill three at-large WQGIT membership spots for the next two-year term (through 2024 and 2025) is Friday January 12<sup>th</sup>.</i></p> <p><i>Each nominee in attendance will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the WQGIT. WQGIT leadership will describe next steps.</i></p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Bios or other provided materials for each respective nominee (to be posted simultaneously after deadline when all nominations have been received)</p> <p><b>Action or Decision Request depends on number of nominations received by the Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. (Two received as of Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>)</b></p> <p><b>Action requested: If the number of nominees is greater than available spots then WQGIT members will be polled offline to confirm the top three nominees.</b></p> <p><b>Decision requested: If nominees are equal to or less than three, the WQGIT will be asked [live] to confirm nominees as at-large members for this next two-year term.</b></p>	<p>WQGIT Leadership</p> <p>At-large nominees</p>
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>1:40</b> (10 min)	<p><b><u>Riparian Forest Buffer Indicator and Methods</u></b></p> <p><i>Sarah and Katie will briefly summarize any feedback received since their presentation to the WQGIT in December regarding proposed updates to the riparian forest buffer indicator methods. [Note: Currently there has been no new feedback or questions.]</i></p> <p><i>December WQGIT “Action: WQGIT members are encouraged to reach out to Katie (<a href="mailto:Katherine.brownson@usda.gov">Katherine.brownson@usda.gov</a>) and Sarah (<a href="mailto:smcdonald@chesapeakebay.net">smcdonald@chesapeakebay.net</a>) with any additional questions or comments on the indicator methods. The WQGIT will revisit this topic and seek a decision at a future meeting.”</i></p> <p><b>Materials:</b> No new materials</p>	<p>Katie Brownson, USFS, FWG Coordinator; Sarah McDonald, USGS, LUWG Coordinator</p>

**DECISION request: WQGIT concurrence of the workgroup-approved methods.**

	1:50 (15 min)	<u><b>Upcoming USGS products for loads and trends</b></u> <i>In FY24, the USGS will publish new water-quality load and trend estimates through water year 2023. We expect to release RIM loads and trends in early summer and NTN loads and trends by the end of the FY. The purpose of this update is to make the WQGIT aware of the new monitoring-based information that will be released in FY24.</i>  <b>Materials:</b> Slides  <b>Informational.</b>	Jimmy Webber, USGS
<b>Indicators</b>	2:05 (15 min)	<u><b>New indicator release for Chesapeake Progress</b></u> <i>Gary will refresh the WQGIT on the new “Total Maximum Daily Load indicator” that will be added to Chesapeake Progress in late January under the Clean Water (Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring outcome) page. Gary will also share a look at the corresponding online tool (Rshiny app).</i>  <b>Materials:</b> Slides  <b>Informational.</b>	Gary Shenk, USGS
<b>Note: we switched the order of Gary’s presentations from the original agenda</b>			
	2:20 (10 min)	<u><b>Break</b></u>	
<b>Phase 7 model development</b>	2:30 (30 min)	<u><b>Uncertainty in the models</b></u> <i>Gary will discuss uncertainty quantification potential in the Phase 7 watershed model and recap previous conversations with the WQGIT. This includes time (~15 minutes) for questions and discussion.</i>  <b>Materials:</b> Slides  <b>Informational. This will connect with subsequent Phase 7 development discussions.</b>	Gary Shenk, USGS
<b>Beyond 2025</b>	3:00 (30 min)	<u><b>Beyond 2025 Steering Committee: Clean Water Small Group Updates</b></u> <i>The co-leads for the clean water small group (Jill, Lee, and Joe) will summarize the latest information and next steps.</i>	Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP; KC Filippino, HRPDC; Joe Wood, CBF; Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO

*Please note: the approach and content of this item is still in flux and may change. We greatly appreciate the efforts and flexibility of the speakers, as well as the patience of WQGIT members/participants.*

**Materials:** Slides or materials TBD

**Request(s):** TBD. Requests, if any, will be articulated in advance and/or in the recap.

Beyond 2025	3:30 (25 min)	<p><b><u>Flex time for additional Beyond 2025 Small Group updates</u></b></p> <p>Given the fluid, evolving details and plans for our discussion, we are reserving this extra block of time to allow for updates and requests from other small groups as time and participation allow: Climate; Healthy Watersheds; Shallow Water; Habitats; People.</p> <p><i>Please note: the approach and content of this item is still in flux and may change. We greatly appreciate the efforts and flexibility of the speakers, as well as the patience of WQGIT members/participants.</i></p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Slides or materials TBD</p> <p><b>Request(s):</b> TBD. Requests, if any, will be articulated in advance and/or in the recap.</p>	TBD
	3:55	<b><u>Recap of Actions and Decisions</u></b>	Sushanth Gupta, CRC
	4:00	ADJOURN	

## Written announcements or reminders

- **Announcements or upcoming opportunities**

- The next **Submersion Series** will be [Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:00AM-12:30PM](#) and discuss “Technical Assistance and Capacity at the Local Level.” Information is available on the [CBP calendar page](#). Register [here](#).
- **CAST webinar:** This month, we will discuss which federal agencies are included in CAST and what land uses they are associated with. Then, we will look at the Bay jurisdictions' watershed implementation plans to see what the load targets are for each of these agencies. Finally, we will use CAST to track the progress being made toward these goals over time.
  - Topic: Federal Agencies
  - Time: January 18, 2024 at noon EST
  - [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

- Meeting ID: 895 8081 4833
  - One tap mobile +13126266799,,89580814833#
- **January's [CRC Roundtable](#)** on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, noon to 1:00PM, will discuss “Planning for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed of the Future” with Peter Claggett (USGS, CBPO) and Eric Leshinsky (City of Annapolis, Chief of Comprehensive Planning). Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpde2hqjgpHNNKDpujd7Qxia69sNGHKNYG#/registration>
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust - Release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Program.** The goal of this research program is to answer several key restoration questions that are a barrier to watershed restoration project implementation.
  - **Deadline:** January 25, 2024, at 4pm EST
  - **How to apply:** The RFP and link to apply is online at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/restoration-research/>
- **Enrollment open now for The Nature Conservancy's new agroforestry project: Expanding Agroforestry Production (EAP).**
  - The EAP program is focused on adding new fruit, nut, timber, and biodiversity trees and shrubs through alley cropping, silvopasture, and windbreak practices. For qualified farmers, this project will offer technical assistance, Per-Tree Installation Costs Incentive (average \$30/tree), and Transition Incentive of \$450/acre paid out in three installments. You can find more about the payments here: [Fact sheet on the Incentive Payment Program](#).
  - [Here are the FAQ's](#) about the EAP project.
- **Some additional opportunities that were not included in the original agenda:**
  - Reminder that NFWF is soliciting proposals under the [Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction \(INSR\) Grants](#) program. For 2024, this includes both **INSR Partnership Grants** supporting the coordinated and collaborative efforts of sustainable, regional-scale partnerships implementing proven water quality improvement practices more cost-effectively, as well as **INSR Infrastructure Grants** for projects working to implement critical natural and nature-based watershed restoration infrastructure at scale.
    - **All proposals must be submitted no later than February 21, 2024.**
    - **NFWF is requiring all prospective INSR applicants to consult with NFWF program staff no later than January 24, 2024** to ensure eligibility and competitiveness and to allow for NFWF program staff to provide constructive feedback to strengthen proposed projects, consistent with program priorities. Prospective applicants should schedule project consultations using [this link](#). Prospective applicants are also encouraged to contact [CBSF field liaisons](#) to vet potential project ideas prior to contacting NFWF staff directly.
  - Please share: Eight paid summer internship opportunities now available through CRC's Chesapeake Student Recruitment, Early Advisement, and Mentoring (C-StREAM) program. The program is focused on recruiting, advising, and mentoring college students from populations who have been historically excluded from the environmental field and are underrepresented in environmental research and management professions. For the purpose of this program, C-StREAM focuses on assisting students who identify as people of color and/or who are first generation college students. Visit the [C-StREAM website](#) for more information or to apply. **Complete candidate application packages must be submitted by 11:59 PM, January 28, 2024. Completed reference forms must be submitted by the candidate's reference directly as instructed below by 11:59PM, February 4, 2024.**
  - Preliminary STAC Workshop Proposals are due February 5<sup>th</sup>. View the [request for proposals](#) for more information. Accepted workshops would convene between June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025.

- USGS Fact Sheet available, “Your Land, Your Water: Using Research to Guide Conservation Practices on Local Farms in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed” available at: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/fs20233050>
- The River Network has a “State Revolving Fund Advocacy Toolkit” that may be of interest to partners and colleagues in your networks, particularly nonprofit or community organizations. The resource “aims to build the capacity of advocates to influence, improve, and access the process of securing funding for communities who need it most and have historically not been able to access SRF dollars.” It is available online here, and there is a free self-paced training series that can be found on the same page: <https://www.rivernetwork.org/connect-learn/resources/state-revolving-fund-advocacy-toolkit/>
- The final “Charting a Course to 2025” report is now available: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/charting-a-course-to-2025>

#### Additional instructions or info:

- **This meeting will be recorded for internal purposes.** Current EPA policy does not allow for distribution of the recordings.
- Closed captioning will be available for this meeting. To turn on the closed captioning, select the “cc” button in the bottom left corner of the screen. To show a live transcript of the meeting, go to the bottom right-hand corner of the screen and select “captions”.
- If you have any other accessibility concerns, please contact Jackie Pickford ([pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov)).

#### Acronyms

CAST: [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#)

CBF: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

CBPO: Chesapeake Bay Program Office

CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium

[PA] DEP: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

FWG: [Forestry Workgroup](#)

FY: Fiscal Year

HRPDC: Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

LUWG: [Land Use Workgroup](#)

NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NTN: Non-tidal Network

RIM: River Input Monitoring

STAC: [Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee](#)

USFS: United States Forest Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

WQGIT: [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)