



**Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting**  
**10AM – 12PM December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18393/>

**Participants**

Mark Bennett – USGS/STAR Co- Chair	Peter Tango – USGS/CBPO	Amanda Pruzinsky – CRC/CBPO	Greg Allen – EPA
Brianne Walsh – IAN Science Communicator	Beth Zinecker – USGS	Bruce Michael – MD DNR	Mike Land – NPS
Jackie Johnson – ICPRB/CBPO	John Wolf – USGS	Katie Foreman – UMCES/CBPO	Scott Phillips – USGS
Mike Mallonee – ICPRB/CBPO	Bill Angstadt – DE MD Agribusiness Association	Jennifer Greiner – USFWS/CBPO	

**MINUTES**

**Welcome/Introductions and Updates – Mark Bennett (STAR Co-Chair) and Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)**

**NEXT MEETING**

Date: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 10AM – 1PM

Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) CBPO Annapolis, MD

Event Calendar: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18394/>

Topic Suggested: Enhance Use of Monitoring Information to Assess Progress

- Requires participation from the Nontidal and Tidal Work Groups.
- Progress will be judged by: implementation of practices, trends in the watershed, and assessment of progress towards water quality standards.
- The work plan is due to the WQGIT in February.

**Update on Toxic Contaminant Report – Scott Phillips**

Scott Phillips discussed the findings and release of the Toxic Contaminant report.

To view this presentation:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/18393/toxic\\_contaminants\\_phillips\\_and\\_all\\_en\\_dec\\_6.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18393/toxic_contaminants_phillips_and_all_en_dec_6.pdf)

**Discussion and Questions**

- Are hydrofracking fluids included in this report?
  - No, limited to recent published information.

- There are other groups that are researching the topic. For example, Maryland Marcellus Shale Advisory Committee and Susquehanna River Basin Commission.
- **ACTION:** Debrief interior departments: USFWS, USGS, etc.
- **RELEASE:** Early January

### **USGS Report: WRTDS – Mark Bennett**

Mark Bennett discussed the findings and release of the USGS report on the Weighted Regressions on Time, Discharge, and Season (WRTDS) Model.

- The WRTDS model estimates trends in loads to the Bay, while the current estimator model calculates loads to the bay and trends in concentration, but not trends in load.
  - The report has a detailed comparison between the methods.
    - Nitrogen trends are similar, but phosphorus and sediment trends are not always.
    - USGS is working with CBP to understand this new information.
- USGS is in the process of briefing the jurisdictions.
  - There will be a summary document released at the same time as the report to help managers explain the new model.
- USGS has already met with WQGIT and will be revising the documents to reflect their comments.

### **Responding to Major Storm Impact: Hurricane Sandy Impacts on Chesapeake Bay & Delmarva Coastal Bays – Brianne Walsh (IAN Science Communicator)**

Brianne Walsh discussed the IAN/UMCES report. To better understand the impacts of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, a comparison with previous storms was made, in particular, Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. The timing of Hurricane Sandy and the position of Chesapeake and Delmarva Coastal Bays ameliorated the impacts of the storm in this region.

To view this presentation:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/18393/bwalsh\\_star\\_dec11.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18393/bwalsh_star_dec11.pdf)

### **Discussion and Questions**

- **ACTION:** Jennifer Greiner will send Brianne Walsh USFWS Refuge Manager contacts.
- **ACTION:** Clarification – 1996 Blizzard, rapid warm-up, heavy rain.

- **RELEASE:** Final assessment is to be submitted to NFWF Friday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### **Conowingo Dam Relicensing & LSRWA – Bruce Michael**

Bruce Michael discussed the relicensing schedule and issues in the Susquehanna and give an overview of the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment (LSRWA) goals, tools, progress, and next steps.

To view this presentation:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/18393/bruce\\_michael\\_-\\_star\\_lsrwa\\_pres\\_12.11.12.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18393/bruce_michael_-_star_lsrwa_pres_12.11.12.pdf)

### **Discussion and Questions**

- **ACTION:** LSRWA has requested STAR's help with outreach and coordination.
- **ACTION:** Mike Land will contact the CBP Communication Workgroup for a possible video to introduce and discuss this issue and next steps.
- **ACTION:** The Executive Order requires annual action plans and progress reports from the Federal Partners. Jennifer Greiner is currently working on the habitat section of the Fiscal Year 2012 Progress Report. Bruce Michael will send a brief summary of this project to Jennifer Greiner.
- **ACTION:** The next LSRWA quarterly meeting is February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013. STAR Members and other interested parties are invited to attend. Please see their website for more information:  
<http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/LSRWA/index.cfm>

### **WQGIT response to Conowingo work plan – Scott Phillips**

The WQGIT has identified STAR as the lead on priority "Trapping capacity behind dams, esp. Susquehanna, and greater capture of local impoundments and reservoirs." Scott Phillips presented the work plan.

To view this document:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/18393/mpa\\_priority\\_workplan\\_conowingo\\_reservoir\\_and\\_greater\\_representation\\_of\\_reservoirs\\_star\\_draft\\_dec\\_3.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18393/mpa_priority_workplan_conowingo_reservoir_and_greater_representation_of_reservoirs_star_draft_dec_3.pdf)

### **Discussion and Questions**

#### **ACTIONS:**

Overall

- STAR members will review the work plan and send suggestions to Scott Phillips.

- STAR will help with communication and outreach – Particularly, with stakeholder buy-in for the recommendations from LSRWA – Partners: UMCES, JHU, Communications Workgroup
- Scott Phillips will adapt the work plan to reflect today's meeting.

Under objective 1 of the proposed STAR Midpoint Assessment Work Plan addressing sediment in the Conowingo Reservoir and other dams in the Bay watershed.

- Bruce Michael will be the contact for Objective 1 regarding USACE (Use results and new models from the USACE study to address any remaining issues about Conowingo for the mid-point assessment).
- Peter Tango will be the contact for Objective 1 regarding TMAW (Analysis of changes in the upper bay related to water-quality standards and what might we expect to see.).
- USACE will brief the WQGIT of this study and provide updates of recommendations.
- Contact Bill Dennison with UMCES about working on the “Communication of how large events impact the Bay.”
- “Are there some activities about fish passage that were listed in the relicensing studies that still need to be addressed as far as impacts of sediment on habitat that should be reflected in this work plan?” Scott Phillips will send this question to Jennifer Greiner in an email and she will pass it along to the Fish Passage Work Group.

#### Objective 2

- Mark Bennett will be the contact for Objective 2 regarding the Modeling Workgroup and CBPO Modeling Team.
- Scott Phillips will contact Sediment and Stream Coordinators from the Center for Watershed Protection

#### Objective 3

- Mark Bennett will be the contact for Objective 3 regarding the Modeling Workgroup and CBPO Modeling Team.