



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
April 14, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Apr 14	Virginia Farm Tours with RA, CBPO Director and Ag Advisor
Apr 17	Pennsylvania Bar Institute Environmental Forum
Apr 18-22	National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
Apr 20	Environmental Literacy in the Mid-Atlantic Conference, Annapolis
Apr 20	STAC Workshop: Comparison of Shallow Water Models
Apr 21	Reducing Pollution Indicator Release
Apr 22	Final Bay Jurisdictions' 2016-2017 Milestones submissions
Apr 25-26	Environmental Finance Symposium
Apr 25	WQ GIT Conference Call
Apr 28	SAV abundance indicator release
Apr 30	Watershed Agreement workplans final
May 12-13	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting
May 18-19	CAC Quarterly Meeting
May 24-25	Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference, Annapolis
May 26	PSC Meeting

Updates

2015 EO Progress Report

The Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) for the Chesapeake Bay is conducting its final review of the E.O. 13508 Progress Report following comments from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Environmental Branch and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The report summarizes achievements from Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15), utilizing nearly \$513 million toward Chesapeake Bay restoration. This progress report will be the final report exclusive to the federal agencies, with significant progress made toward achieving the goals and outcomes set forth in the 2015 Action Plan. Annual reporting will now be encapsulated as part of tracking the progress of meeting the goals of the state and federal Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which incorporated the goals set forth in the federal agencies' Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The FLC is composed of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior and Transportation. When final, the report will be published on the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order website at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

TMDL Milestone evaluations

On March 29, Region 3 members of the TMDL evaluation team briefed EPA managers on the status of the draft 2014-2015 Progress evaluations and 2016-2017 Milestone submissions from the Bay jurisdictions. Based on feedback from the managers, CBPO Director Nick DiPasquale and Implementation and Evaluation Team Leader Katherine Antos shared updated versions of the evaluations in a briefing with Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin on April 5 in Philadelphia and drafts

evaluations were sent to the jurisdictions shortly afterward. Release of the final evaluations remains on track for the first week of June.

Contact: Katherine Antos, (410) 295-1358, antos.katherine@epa.gov

Adult female blue crab abundance rises 92 percent in 2016

The Chesapeake Bay's adult female blue crab population has increased 92 percent since the population was surveyed last winter. While the current adult female blue crab abundance of 194 million is well above the overfishing threshold, it remains below the 215 million abundance target.

Results of the 2016 winter dredge survey show the Bay's total blue crab population has increased from 411 million to 553 million since last winter. Results also show the number of adult females has risen from 101 million to 194 million. The number of juvenile crabs has increased from 269 million to 271 million, which is just above the long-term average.

For more information:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/blue_crab_abundance_rises_92_percent_in_2016

Ospreys thrive despite long-lasting pollutants, report finds

Long-lasting chemical contaminants may still be persisting in the Chesapeake Bay region, but the pollutants have had no significant effect on the world's largest breeding population of ospreys, according to a report from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). While the three-year study found some residue of pesticides and industrial chemicals in the Bay's tidal waters, fish, osprey eggs and osprey chicks, researchers did not find a connection between the fish hawk's exposure to the chemicals and its success in the Chesapeake region. Widespread use of DDT in the mid-twentieth century caused the Bay's osprey population to fall to fewer than 1,500 pairs before the pesticide was banned in the United States in 1972. Close to 10,000 pairs of osprey are expected to nest in the Chesapeake region this year.

For more information:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/osprey_thrive_despite_long_lasting_pollutants_report_finds

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.

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) held their annual meeting in Takoma Park, MD on March 24-25, 2016. The agenda included in-depth discussion of capital project implementation challenges, local area targets, and Phase III WIP stakeholder engagement. The committee also conducted its' annual election of Officers.

Members elected District of Columbia Council Member, Brianne Nadeau, to serve as Chair. Upon accepting the chairmanship, Council Member Nadeau said she looks forward to working with LGAC members in fulfilling the Committee's mission, which is "to share the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision-makers and enhance the flow of information among local governments about the health and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed." Leo Lutz (PA), Bruce Williams (MD), Ruby Brabo (VA) and Diane Davis (DC) were re-elected to another term as Vice -Chairs, representing their respective delegations on the Executive Committee.

LGAC members welcomed two new members at the meeting. Philip Pannell, who was appointed to LGAC by Mayor Bowser, is the Executive Director of the Anacostia Coordinating Council. He joins the DC

delegation. Jim Barnhart, Berkeley County (WV) Council member, who was recently appointed by Governor Tomblin, is the sole representative of West Virginia. He will participate in Maryland delegation meetings and be invited to attend Executive Committee meetings.

LGAC was pleased to hear of the Principal Staff Committee's plans to discuss local engagement at the May meeting and looks forward to working with the PSC on this issue.

LGAC's next meeting is being held June 9-10, 2016 in Pennsylvania. To be added to LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr, at jestarr@allianceforthebay.org or 804-793-8786.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@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.

CAC will hold their spring quarterly meeting on May 18-19, 2016 in Virginia Beach, VA. Members will discuss environmental literacy and education and prepare preliminary comments for the annual report to the Chesapeake Executive Council.

CAC sent a letter to the Chair of the Management Board highlighting the need for a robust policy discussion on the implications of using oysters and BMPs in the model, to help lower expectations that oysters may be the low cost solution that disincentivizes land BMPs that prevent pollution, and to work with the Communications Office to create a public friendly factsheet that explains the findings of the Oyster BMP Expert Panel.

The Bay Program Communications Office worked with Julie Lawson, CAC Member and Executive Director of Trash Free Maryland, to shoot of a video of the trash trawling in the Bay to collect and identify microplastics in the water.

CAC Member Andrew Der is a member of the Patuxent River Commission and has been working with the group to help ensure implementation of the MS4, WIP provisions and creating initiatives for public access to the Patuxent River

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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.

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY 2016 on June 7-8, 2016 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY16 Results of the STAC Workshop Request for Proposals (RFPs)

STAC agreed to support the following five workshops in FY16:

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters

FY15 Workshops:

STAC hosted six workshops so far in 2016. Information regarding those workshop is below.

1. Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality

This workshop took place on January 13-14, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the future status of the processes taking place in the Lower Susquehanna River reservoirs, so that we can predict how any particular future watershed- or reservoir-management approaches will impact the attainment of the Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria. The workshop participants discussed what would be the best approach to modeling the process by which inputs to the reservoirs are transformed into outputs in the past, current, and in future conditions. The workshop steering committee is in the process of drafting a workshop report that will be distributed in April.

2. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation

This workshop took place on January 14, 2016 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland. The workshop identified ways to enhance the capacity of the CBP Wetland workgroup by facilitating a solution-oriented discussion with the workgroup and other key parties on the 2-year workplan for wetlands, key obstacles, potential opportunities to overcome those obstacles, and other parallel and related efforts. The objective was to demonstrate a pilot process on how other workgroups might similarly enhance their capacity to meet and implement their overall goals.

3. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System

This workshop took place on February 1-2, 2016 at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices in Arlington, Virginia. This workshop developed approaches to assess uncertainty in the suite of CBP models to support the Mid-point Assessment of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The workshop (1) explored and identified drivers of uncertainty in the Bay Program Partnership's modeling system, structure, parameters, data, and assumptions; (2) assessed the available methods for conducting uncertainty analyses in the suite of models; and (3) developed recommendations and priorities for conducting uncertainty analysis of the models in support of the 2017 Mid-point Assessment model review.

4. Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation

This workshop took place on February 17-18, 2016 at The O'Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The goal of the workshop was to develop the requirements of an optimization engine that can simplify and guide Bay jurisdictions' efforts to develop Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) and Milestones that minimize implementation costs while achieving the required reductions and maximizing co-benefits. The workshop will generate recommendations for the best optimization method, key objectives, decision variables, an appropriate means of accounting for (i.e., modeling) the spatial and temporal interactions that will influence their effect on outcomes, the range to necessary constraints, and other data needs for a Bay optimization system.

5. The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments

This workshop took place on March 7-8, 2016 at The Westin Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop brought together a group of experts to join a discussion on the selection of various models, scenarios, downscaling techniques, and historical observation data to establish a framework for climate analysis in the Chesapeake Bay Program. The goal of the workshop is to assist the CBP with the selection process by addressing questions about climate variables of most concern, various approaches, climate characteristics, and climate change scenarios. The workshop steering committee is in the process of drafting a workshop summary that will be distributed in a few months.

6. Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement

This workshop took place on April 12-13, 2016 at the UMCES Horn Point Lab in Cambridge, Maryland. The workshop will focus on the Choptank River as a microcosm for the Bay system, and will focus on the barriers and opportunities for integrating monitoring efforts for several inter-related outcomes (fisheries, SAV, water quality, stream health, and toxic contaminants). Some of the major items that will be explored include: (1) supporting adaptive management (including use of models and indicators), (2) aligning monitoring program objectives, (3) modifying network designs, and (4) assessing compatibility of sampling and analytical techniques.

In addition, STAC is planning an additional workshops that will take place before May 31, 2016.

7. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

This workshop will take place on April 20-21, 2016 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Virginia. This workshop will bring together the Team PIs and other experts in the field of shallow water modeling to discuss the early results of the shallow water model comparison effort. This workshop will focus on addressing a set of three key questions: (1) How well are the pre-existing and newly developed models able to reproduce observations of water quality in the Chester River, and why are certain models better able to reproduce the observations than others? (2) What methodologies are available for sealing up this shallow water multiple modeling effort for implementation at the full Chesapeake Bay scale? (3) What specific nutrients reduction scenarios will be implemented by each modeling team, and how should these scenario results be compared?

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

Reviews:

STAC is currently sponsoring two reviews and planning for approximately six additional reviews. Details of those reviews are listed below.

1. Microbeads/Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay

At the request of the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC), STAC sponsored a technical review panel to identify (1) sources of microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay, (2) known impacts of microplastics on aquatic life and human health, (3) data gaps, and (4) policy actions to reduce microplastics. The review panel has been gathering data and drafting a review report since early November. Due to new federal legislation, the review panel recently modified the scope of this review to further emphasize the issues. Former STAC Chair, Kirk Havens presented the preliminary findings to the CBC on January 7, 2016 at their quarterly meeting. A final report will be distributed mid-April.

2. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The CBP's Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup (CAP WG), under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR), requested a STAC review of the CAP WG technical report "Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll *a* for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries 2015 Technical Addendum." A review panel has been formed and an information session has been scheduled for February 12th. The review is scheduled to be completed in early 2016.

Additionally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews are below.

1. Proposed revised James River chlorophyll *a* water quality criteria
2. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
3. Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder
4. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
5. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
6. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu or visit the STAC review webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php.

For additional information contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu

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.

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office hosted an [Oyster Summit](#) on February 18th-19th 2016 in Fredericksburg, VA. The summit convened a broad group of stakeholders, including managers, industry, scientists, nongovernmental organizations and community groups across jurisdictions to discuss shared interests in increasing the number of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. An [Oyster Summit report](#) was released which included next steps and recommendations.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team has released their March 2016 [newsletter](#), which details the efforts and accomplishments of the goal team throughout the year. The next full GIT meeting is scheduled for June 2-3rd in Richmond, VA.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science – Chesapeake Biological Laboratory released the final report on the analysis of blue crab survey data and reproductive output. This study was sponsored by 2014 GIT funding to evaluate a series of hypotheses to explain the relatively low survival of the 2011 blue crab year class and to assess causes of population variability. A summary of the work can be found [here](#).

Last year, TetraTech developed a review and synthesis of habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species under a CBP contract to support the management strategies. Fish Habitat Team members have developed a proposal that adds sculpin to the literature review and expands the matrix

to include habitat stressor and threat information for egg to larval stages of the selected species.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

- The Spring 2016 Habitat Goal Implementation Team meeting will take place May 3rd-4th at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia. The meeting will focus on the priorities of members' agencies'/organizations' habitat restoration/protection priorities and how best to align existing efforts, leverage funding sources, and apply science tools to achieve actions laid out in the 2016-17 workplans for wetlands, streams, forest buffers, fish passage, brook trout, black duck, SAV, fish habitat, and climate resilience. Representatives from the North Atlantic and Appalachian Landscape Conservation Collaboratives (LCCs) and State Wildlife Action Plan programs have been invited to participate. A meeting agenda is in development and will be distributed mid-April. Please contact Kyle Runion (runion.kyle@epa.gov) for more information.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals for the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to restore the habitats and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Proposals are due on Tuesday, May 10th. [Please visit NFWF's website for more information.](#)

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.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 conference calls on March 14th and March 28th:

- The WQGIT supported the recommendation to develop a data visualization tool to assist with the review of the Phase 6 Model.
- The WQGIT endorsed the recommended schedule for developing the agriculture components of the Phase 6 Model. The schedule will guide the Agriculture Workgroup and Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee's efforts throughout 2016.
- The WQGIT confirmed Ed Kee (Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, DDA) as the chair of the AgWG and Lindsay Thompson (Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association) as the vice-chair of the AgWG. Both will serve 2-year terms.
- The WQGIT approved the proposed Phase 6 Model relative land use loading rates for the tree canopy over pervious land use, and the tree canopy over impervious land use. The approval is conditional upon a future research requirement being included in the Tree Canopy Expert Panel report to more directly assess nutrient fluxes associated with tree canopy. Additional research on the impacts of tree species and leaf litter on nutrient reduction efficiencies were also requested.
- The WQGIT approved the proposed membership for the local area targets task force.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on April 11th and April 25th. A subset of the topics include:

- The WQGIT will be asked to approve the Street Sweeping and Storm Drain Cleaning BMP expert panel report.
- The WQGIT will be asked to approve the crediting framework proposed by the Oyster BMP expert panel.
- The WQGIT will receive updates on a number of action items from the December 2015 face-to-face meeting.

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.

Workplan Development:

- The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT met on March 29th.
- At this meeting, GIT members heard a presentation on the FY14 GIT Funding Project "Identifying Additional Healthy Watersheds in West Virginia." This project was done by TNC and involved using 39 metrics on GIS to assess watershed health and delineate healthy watersheds in the Potomac watershed portion of West Virginia.
- At this meeting members also agreed on the baseline of state-identified healthy watersheds, shared ideas on how to build a framework for tracking healthy watersheds, and discussed how the GIT's local engagement efforts fit among other ongoing local engagement efforts at the CBP.
- Further, members identified near term Healthy Watershed Workplan priority action items to work on for the remainder of 2016. The GIT will meet again in early May to continue this discussion.
- The GIT's FY15 project, "Demonstrating the Value of Retaining Forestland in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Phase II)" has been awarded to the Virginia Department of Forestry.
- The GIT's FY15 project, "Evaluation of Land Use Policy Options, Incentives, and Planning Tools to Reduce the Rate of Agriculture Lands, Forest and Wetlands" has been awarded to the National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland, College Park.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, Phillips.tuana@epa.gov

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.

Citizen Stewardship

- The communications sub- workgroup met on March 28th to start the process of organizing the communications and outreach surrounding the index results, as well as brainstorm threshold behaviors that could be included for a stewardship performance indicator. This group will meet again on April 19th. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy

- Current workgroup efforts include planning an meeting on April 20th with the Chiefs of Education from each jurisdiction as well as representation from the U.S. Department of Education to discuss the importance of creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms across subject areas. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access

- The Public Access team is continuing to make progress on the Public Access site development Workplan, as well as preparing for the development of the Public Access Data Quality Assurance and Application Integration project. The group has collected data on new access sites developed in 2015, reporting 22 new sites, 5 in MD, 6 in PA, 10 in VA, and 1 in DC. For more information please contact John Davy at John.Davy@nps.gov.

Land Conservation

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership mitigation work group convened in late February to discuss ongoing work to avoid and minimize impacts of linear infrastructure projects on natural, cultural, and historic resources. The group is compiling and reviewing case studies from other regions to identify lessons learned.
- Draft landscape conservation goals were released to participants for comment. The Partnership is continuing to identify new members to serve on the steering committee in 2016.
- For more information contact Kate Baker kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org

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.

Chair and Vice Chair Nominations:

The Goal Team approved the nomination of Dave Goshorn to replace Mike Foreman as Chair during their April 5th conference call. At their April 14th meeting, the Management Board will hear the nomination for Dave. If Dave is approved, he will take over as Chair before the Goal Team's May meeting. Current nominations for Vice-Chair are still being considered.

Governance Document Revisions:

Potential revisions to the Governance Document have been collected since the last update in July 2015. The GIT plans to discuss the revisions to be made at their May meeting and present a plan of action to the Management Board. Current suggestions for revisions include adding in governing for workgroups and to have each identified team review their own sections to confirm the current information is still relevant. The Governance Document is available online at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf.

Independent Evaluator:

The GIT is discussing how to support the development of the three documents needed for the next PSC meeting on May 26th. A small group is being created for anyone who is interested in helping with the charge, Q&A, and description of needed expertise. STAC and NFWF have been recommended for involvement. If you are interested in participating with this small group please contact Carin Bisland (Bisland.carin@epa.gov)

Budget and Finance Workgroup:

The Budget and Finance Workgroup was approved by the Management Board earlier in the year. A request for membership went out Friday March 18th and were due March 28th. Due to the limited amount of feedback, the workgroup has asked Management Board members to review with their internal teams any individuals who have the expertise and interest in participating with the workgroup. If you wish to provide information about potential membership, please email Nicole Lehmer (lehmer.nicole@epa.gov) and Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov)

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@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.

Upcoming STAC workshops:

April 12-13, 2016- Integrated Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement

April 20-21, 2016- Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-Making

Approved FY16 STAC Workshops:

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change Impact and Trend Analyses and Adaptive Management
- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing BMPs
- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup: had its first meeting on April 7, 2016, after being re-formed from the previous Indicators Workgroup, to review the new workgroup's mission and scope, discuss priorities for 2016, and decide ongoing workgroup meetings' frequency and schedule. The Status and Trends Workgroup will be the keepers of the Indicator Framework, approved by the Management Board in November 2015. The Framework provides a way to describe our information needs as they relate to adaptively managing progress toward each outcome in the 2014 Agreement. The workgroup will use the Framework to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, and identify gaps, as well as ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

Citizen-based and Nontraditional Monitoring Update:

This effort now has a new moniker: **Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative.**

The citizen-based and nontraditional monitoring integration project is producing a Prioritization Report to catalogue and prioritize 100 monitoring groups in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for integration into the CBP Partnership based on opportunities to fill information gaps for outcomes of the Partnership. These information gaps continue to be identified in collaboration with the Integrated Networks WG (INWG). The first step to establish how the citizen-based and nontraditional monitoring community can fill some of these information gaps is to take an inventory of what monitoring is taking place. To ensure

we are collecting the best information to accomplish this task, the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative project team would like feedback from the INWG on the survey questions going out to the over 550 monitoring groups in the watershed. A beta version of this survey was sent out the last week in March. The final version of the survey is anticipated to be released in mid-April.

New Project Manager for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: Anne Dunckel. Anne grew up in San Antonio, Texas, swimming in the Guadalupe River and eating tacos for breakfast. She received her bachelors in geology with a focus in hydrogeology from the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Her coursework included researching thermal gradients of microbial mats at hot springs in the Chilean desert. After completing her undergraduate degree, Anne worked as an Americorps conservation crew member, building trails and removing invasives in Texas parks. Following that stint in the wilderness, she completed a Masters in Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, where she was a Jefferson and NSF graduate research fellow. She focused on researching how nitrogen pollution from agricultural fields turns into a greenhouse gas in nearby streambeds. She recently worked at Streamwatch (now Rivanna Conservation Alliance) as the monitoring program manager, overseeing the citizen science water quality monitoring program. Her love of volunteer work extends beyond her daily work, as she is a Board Member of Charlottesville Community Bikes and volunteers at a local community bike shop, radio station, and during trail building days.

Contact: Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

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.

The CBP Communications Office awarded a contract to The Hatcher Group to assist in the office's strategic planning process, which officially kicked-off on March 22nd. Next steps include reviewing the office's internal audit, finalizing a list of stakeholders and beginning stakeholder interviews and surveys. The strategic plan is expected to be final on or before July 31, 2016.

Upcoming press releases:

- April 18th: Reducing Pollution Indicators
- April 21st: Environmental Literacy Summit
- April 28th: SAV numbers
- Week of May 9th: Public Access

At the April Communications Workgroup meeting, the group discussed results from a member survey about participation, the role of the workgroup and professional development opportunities. The meeting also featured a presentation by Dave Jasinski of Chesapeake Environmental Communications. He spoke about CEC's climate change project with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and its different communications products.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff, jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

March 16	PSC Meeting
March 14	WQGIT Meeting
March 15-16	STAC Quarterly Meeting
March 17	Draft Evaluations of 2016-2017 TMDL Milestone Submissions
March 24-25	LGAC Meeting
Apr 11	WQGIT Meeting
Apr 14	Reducing Pollution Indicator release
Apr 14	Virginia Farm Tours with RA, CBPO Director and Ag Advisor
Apr 17	Pennsylvania Bar Institute Environmental Forum
Apr 18-22	National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
Apr 20	Environmental Literacy in the Mid-Atlantic
Apr 22	Final Bay Jurisdictions' 2016-2017 Milestones submissions
Apr 25-26	Environmental Finance Symposium
Apr 30	Watershed Agreement workplans final