



Workgroup Updates

Caroline Kleis, CWGT Co-Staffer
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Guardian of the North – Christopher Szumlanski (second Place Fall Winner- 2026 MD DNR Photo Contest)
View all the winning photos from the MD DNR photo contest [here!](#)



Agenda at a glance

- Welcome & Announcements
- Business & Workgroup Updates
- Debrief on Decision-Making Process
- Land Use Change Model- **DECISIONAL**
- 4D Interpolator Primer
- BREAK
- Model Review and Timeline Update
- Flex Time
- Wrap-Up & Adjourn

Business, News, and Reminders

- CWGT Staffer Transition
- A call for nominations for 3 CWGT at-large positions (Jan 2027-Dec 2028) will be distributed following the meeting. Re-nominations and self-nominations welcome.
- The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science released the [2026 Chesapeake Bay & Watershed Report Card](#). Both the Chesapeake Bay and the Bay watershed received a C+. This was the highest score ever for the Bay over the report card's 20-year history.
- PSC Meeting [Nov 5th](#) to approve MS for public feedback. The Monitoring Strategy Report, which addresses vulnerabilities and proposes recommendations to sustain the Chesapeake Bay Program's core monitoring networks, has been finalized and will also up for approval at the Nov 5th meeting.

Business, News, and Reminders

- Local Government Leadership Workgroup is accepting nominations for a new Vice Chair/Chair to serve a two-year term (2027 - 2028), serving the first year as Vice Chair and the second year as Chair. Nominations are due to Laura Cattell Noll (lnoll@allianceforthebay.org) by COB on Wednesday November 4th, 2026.
- The final STAC report from the February 24-25, 2026 workshop, *Healthy Forests: Proactive Strategies for Managing Threats and Promoting Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, has been published. You can [download it here](#) and access it on the [STAC Publications page](#).
- Phase 7 input data visualizations now available. You can view the input data here: [Phase 7 Input Dataset Review](#).
- Updated CWGT/CWGT Workgroup membership list to be posted following the meeting.

A peek at proposed 2027 meeting dates

- January 25th
- February 22nd
- March 22nd
- April 26th (tentative hybrid meeting)
- May 24th
- June 28th
- July 26th
- August 23rd
- September 27th
- October 25th
- November 15th (moved up due to Thanksgiving)
- December 13th (moved up due to holidays)

Workgroup updates

Full workgroup updates provided in later slides; please consult posted slides at your convenience

Workgroup Updates (summary)

open to Chairs or Coordinators to add more

Agriculture

Canceled October meeting. Next meeting: November 19th 10AM-12PM. The group is currently in the process of selecting their December meeting date, which is expected to be hybrid and focused on Workgroup Workplan development. At-Large members have been selected.

Watershed Technical

Met Oct 1: Approved nominations for at-large, discussed CAST update frequency and revisions to Expert Panel Protocol, did initial brainstorming for Workgroup Workplans. Next Meeting: November 5th. Will work to finalize recommendations for CAST Model update frequency. Full agenda posted.

Urban Stormwater

Conducted email vote to approve the final forecast of utility scale solar for the “Business as Usual” land use scenario for Phase 7. A few updates were shared at the Oct 20th meeting and the decision was finalized. Also discussed Clean Streets = Cleaner Water Initiative, CSN’s soil health work, model review expectations, and draft list of high-level workplan activities. Next meeting: Nov 17 from 10am-12pm.

Wastewater

WWTWG met on Thursday, October 22nd to review workplan development and brainstorm high-level ideas and activities. WWTWG will meet again November 19th to review workplan “high level ideas.”

Modeling

Approved final signatory and at-large members. Next meeting: [October 28th](#) to review progress made on the Main Bay Model and the different Multiple Tributary Models. Approval of the Phase 7 Watershed Model has been rescheduled for [December 8th](#) and the [January Quarterly](#) has been scheduled for January 26th-27th.

Workgroup Updates (summary)

open to Chairs or Coordinators to add more

TCW

Met Oct 14th to discuss workplan development. Members shared updates on current work and ideas for activities on each of the three Management Strategies in TCW's scope. Next Meeting: TBD.

PPoW

PPoW held their first meeting as a workgroup on Thursday, October 1st. The group discussed the Clean Water Management Strategy, nominations for at-large membership (nominations finalized), a presentation from RTI on the pollution source reduction strategy, and heard updates from PPoW members on projects in the Bay Watershed.

Monitoring

Monitoring Workgroup has finalized their at-large members. Serving a two-year term as an at-large member will be Cassia Pianca (VIMS), Becky Monahan (VA DEQ), Kelly Krock (EPA) and Carly Maas (USGS). Serving a one-year term as an at-large member will be Jerry Frank (UMCES), Dong Liang (UMCES) and Matthew Kierce (IWLA/CMC).

DAR

[Final At-Large membership](#) has been confirmed and will be presented at the October 28, 2026 meeting. Workplan high level ideas under discussion. Next meeting: [October 28th](#) from 10AM-12PM.

BORG AT

At their September meeting, Peter Tango shared information on how the action team should be structured in correlation with the GMF. Then, Rebecca shared the 4D interpolator flow chart that will be used to communicate how the tool works and be included in the documentation. Update provided on the interpolator documentation, which they plan to finish and share with STAC at the beginning of November.

CAP AT

No updates. November 9 meeting cancelled.

Detailed Workgroup Updates

Comprehensive Workgroup updates; consult summary slides above for a high-level overview

Workgroup updates – more details

Agriculture

- The AgWG canceled their October meeting and will meet again on November 19th.
- The group is currently in the process of selecting their December meeting date, which is expected to be a hybrid meeting focused on Workgroup Workplan development.
- At-Large members have been selected. Final list will be included in the CWGT membership spreadsheet.

Urban Stormwater

- USWG conducted a vote by email to approve the final forecast of utility scale solar for the “Business as Usual” land use scenario for Phase 7. A few updates were shared at the Oct 20th meeting and the decision was finalized. A vote tracker is posted.
- USWG met Oct 20 to hear updates on the CBLCM solar forecast approval, Clean Streets = Cleaner Water Initiative, CSN’s soil health work, and an overview of model review expectations. They also discussed a draft list of high-level activities for their workplan.
- Next meeting: Nov 17 from 10am-12pm

Workgroup updates – more details

Modeling

- The Modeling Workgroup has approved final signatory and at-large members. Members can be found on the [MWG webpage here](#).
- Next meeting: [October 28th](#) to review progress made on the Main Bay Model and the different Multiple Tributary Models.
- Approval of the Phase 7 Watershed Model has been rescheduled for [December 8th](#) and the [January Quarterly](#) has been scheduled for January 26th-27th.

Wastewater Treatment

- WWTWG met on Thursday, October 22nd to review workplan development and brainstorm high-level ideas and activities.
- WWTWG will meet again November 19th to review workplan “high level ideas”

Workgroup updates – more details

Watershed Technical

- The WTWG met most recently on October 1st. Agenda items included the approval of the nominations for WTWG at-large positions, a continued discussion on CAST update frequency, an update on Expert Panel Protocol revisions, initial brainstorming for workgroup workplans, and a very brief overview of the CWGT September presentation on the Phase 7 Model review process. You can view the materials [here](#).
- The WTWG will meet again on November 5th. This meeting is one of the quarterly meetings where Federal Facility participants are invited to join. The agenda will include relevant announcements, a discussion on the potential creation of a Federal Facilities Action Team for target development, finalization of recommendations on CAST Model update frequency, an overview of Phase 7 translation assumptions for Phase III WIPs, an update on Workgroup workplan development, and a follow up on BMP cost profiles. To view the current list of options the WTWG is considering for CAST Model update frequency, you can view the upcoming presentation [here](#).

Workgroup updates – more details

Monitoring

- The Monitoring Workgroup has finalized their at-large members. Serving a two-year term as an at-large member will be Cassia Pianca (VIMS), Becky Monahan (VA DEQ), Kelly Krock (EPA) and Carly Maas (USGS). Serving a one-year term as an at-large member will be Jerry Frank (UMCES), Dong Liang (UMCES) and Matthew Kierce (IWLA/CMC).

Data, Analysis and Reporting

- Final At-Large membership has been confirmed and will be presented at the October 28, 2026 meeting.
- Workplan development and generation of “high-level ideas” are under discussion.
- Next meeting: October 28th from 10AM-12PM.

Workgroup updates – more details

Bay Oxygen Research Group

- In October, the Bay Oxygen Research Group accepted nominations for at-large members.
- At their September meeting, Peter Tango shared information on how the action team should be structured in correlation with the GMF. Then, Rebecca shared the 4D interpolator flow chart that will be used to communicate how the tool works and be included in the documentation. Lastly, Rebecca gave an update on the interpolator documentation, which they plan to finish and share with STAC at the beginning of November.

Criteria Assessment Protocol

- No updates. November 9 meeting cancelled.

Toxic Contaminants

- TCW met Oct 14th to discuss workplan development. TCW members shared updates on current work within their jurisdictions or organizations and ideas for activities on each of the three Management Strategies in TCW's scope.
- Next meeting: TBD

Workgroup updates – more details

Plastic Pollution

- PPoW held their first meeting as a workgroup on Thursday, October 1st 1-4pm .During the meeting, the group:
 - Discussed the Clean Water Management Strategy and associated documents.
 - Discussed nominations for PPoW at-large membership positions. A membership nominee list has been finalized and submitted to CWGT for approval.
 - Received a presentation from RTI, EPA contractor developing the plastic pollution source reduction strategy. A facilitated discussion was also held with PPAT members on what the strategy needs to contain to be actionable, which pathways or sectors may warrant priority attention, and where greater coordination might be needed
- Heard updates from PPoW members on projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Highlights included:
 - Marine Debris Foundation recently announced a new RFP funding projects focused on plastics and debris in estuaries, coasts, and oceans. Awards will range from \$30K-\$50K.
 - VA DEQ partnered with VIMS and Tetra Tech on analyzing fish gut samples from the Bay for microplastics.
 - VA DEQ working on the third iteration of their Marine Debris Reduction Plan.
 - PA DEP recently finalized a report on the 2025 microplastic sampling protocol project. The project will continue annually for the next five years.
 - PA DEP is developing a multimetric trash data index. The assessment method will be open to public comment during winter 2026/2027.
 - UMCES is developing a new method to merge AI with microscopy to analyze microplastic samples.