



Program Updates

Management Board

August 8, 2024

CBPO Calendar

June 27

June 27

July 1

Feedback

July 8

July 9

July 9-10

July 16

July 22

Aug. 8-9

Aug. 12

Aug. 14

Aug. 16

Aug. 22

Aug. 22

Aug. 26

Aug. 28

Sept. 5-6

Sept. 9

Sept. 10-11

Sept 12

Sept. 17

Sept. 18-19

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting

2024 Blue Crab Advisory Report

CBP Release Beyond 2025 Draft Synthesis Report for Public

Monthly FOD Meeting

2024 UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card

Modeling Workgroup Meeting

Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Team Workgroup meeting

Guest Lecture at Howard University: Lew Linker & Kaylyn Gootman

Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting (Front Royal, VA)

Interim Planning Targets: Office Hours Session 2

Goal Team Chairs Quarterly Meeting

Fish Habitat and Forage Action Teams Joint Meeting

STAR Meeting

Interim Planning Targets: Office Hours Session 3

Water Quality Goal Team Meeting

Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting

Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting (Norfolk, VA)

Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting

STAC Quarterly Meeting

Management Board Meeting

Principals Staff Committee Meeting

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Meeting

General Updates

CBPO Briefs Congress on Beyond 2025 Efforts

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Co-Chairs Martha Shimkin (EPA CBPO Director) and Anna Killius (Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission) provided a briefing on progress being made with the Beyond 2025 initiative to the US Congress's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force. The briefing took place on July 31 on Capitol Hill. The Task Force was established to build consensus around initiatives that will improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, and to enhance the quality of life of the millions of people who live and work in this region.

Contact: Matt Robinson (EPA CBPO), robinson.matthew@epa.gov

Data Collection Underway for Annual Funding Report to Congress

To help OMB generate the 2024 report to Congress under the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act (CBARA), Chesapeake Bay Program partners have been submitting their annual budget data to the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) and OMB, in advance of OMB's federal deadline of July 12 and jurisdiction deadline of August 1. As of August 2, five of the seven Bay watershed jurisdictions had submitted their data. Every year, in addition to generating EPA's CBARA submission, CBPO helps OMB implement the CBARA process, including coordinating jurisdiction participation, reviewing the draft report, briefing Bay Program leadership, and maintaining a [CBARA funding page](#). Thanks to unprecedented investments by EPA and other federal agencies, and championing by state leaders, the 2023 CBARA report revealed a record federal and state operating budget of \$2.2 billion, including \$231 million in IJIA funds.

Contact: Keith Bollt , Bollt.Keith@epa.gov

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Coverage Increases by 7% in Chesapeake Bay in 2023

On Wednesday, July 31, CBP partners announced that an estimated 82,937 acres of underwater grasses were distributed throughout Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries in 2023, marking a 7% increase from the previous year. The SAV Restoration and Monitoring Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) directly mapped 79,234 acres of underwater grasses using aerial and satellite imagery, while an additional 3,703 acres were estimated to occur in areas along a portion of the Potomac River that was unmapped due to security restrictions. This marks a 45% attainment of the ultimate goal of achieving and sustaining the 185,000 acres of underwater grasses needed for a restored Bay, and a 61% achievement of the target to restore 130,000 acres by 2025. Grasses increased in the tidal fresh, mesohaline, and polyhaline areas of the bay, while the oligohaline areas showed a sharp decrease. A copy of the press release can be found [here](#).

Contact: Greg Allen (EPA CBPO), allen.greg@epa.gov

Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT1: Fisheries

Bailey Robertory will be leaving his role as Fish GIT Staffer on Friday, August 9th to take a new position with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences. He is grateful to the Bay Program for this wonderful opportunity and enjoyed his time as a staffer. He looks forward to continuing work in the state of Maryland and his new position may allow him to remain involved in the Bay Program. Bailey would like to thank all of his fellow staffers for all of their hard work and assistance. The Fish GIT has already begun the process of hiring a new staffer (job has been posted) and will hopefully have someone onboard late summer/early fall. In the meantime, please direct all questions to Bruce Vogt. Thank you.

GIT2: Habitat

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Stream Health Workgroup August 2024 Meeting:** The Stream Health Workgroup will be meeting on August 16th from 10:00 – 12:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link.](#)
- **Wetlands Workgroup Meeting - Nontidal:** The Wetlands Workgroup will be having their Nontidal Team Workgroup meeting on August 20th from 2:00 – 4:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link.](#)
- **Sav Workgroup Summer 2024 Meeting:** The Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Workgroup Summer 2024 Meeting will be on August 20th from 1:00 – 5:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link.](#)

Strategy Review System (SRS) – Healthy Watersheds Cohort: The Stream Health Workgroup is in the final stages of the most recent SRS cycle. During the June 13th Quarterly Progress Meeting ([link](#)), the workgroup co-chairs presented their Outcome's findings and next steps to the Management Board. Details on Stream Health Workgroup's request to the Management Board are below more details:

- **Stream Health Request:** We ask the Management Board to support the investment of resources to achieve a more holistic approach to improving ecological integrity of streams based on sound science, coupled with land management, planning, and protection to improve and sustain stream health.
 - o **Management Board Response:** The Management Board supports the continued investment of resources from sources throughout the partnership to achieve a more holistic approach to improving ecological integrity of streams based on sound science, coupled with land management, planning, and protection to

improve and sustain stream health. Through this support the Management Board and Stream Health Workgroup seek to accelerate progress up to 2025.

- **NEXT STEPS:** Currently, the Workgroup co-chairs are working on finalizing their new 2024-2025 Workplan and updating their Management Strategy. These documents will be finalized and submitted to the SRS Team by 9/5/2024, after which the documents will be posted to the workgroup webpage.

Brook Trout Workgroup: During the December 2023 SRS process, the Management Board identified the need for large scale brook trout restoration. In response, the Brook Trout Workgroup will submit a STAC workshop proposal to provide a local jurisdictional, multi-state, and federal blueprint (i.e. restoration plan) for extant brook trout populations in persistent and stronghold patches in Maryland and Pennsylvania counties.

Fy2024 Git Funding: The following project proposals were selected by CBP Leadership for GIT Funding:

- **SAV:** *Chesapeake Bay Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program Development*
- **Stream Health:** *Phase 3B – Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators – Physicochemical Metric Analysis*
- **Wetlands:** *Increasing Effectiveness of Landowner Engagement to Accelerate Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*

Habitat GIT Staffer: The advertisement for the open HGIT Staffer position closed July 7th, and interviews have concluded. We anticipate a new staffer to be hired by the end of August.

GIT3: Water Quality

The WQGIT held a [meeting](#) on July 22nd, 2024, and discussed the following topics:

Workgroup Updates

- FFWG
 - o The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program has released their 2023 Annual Progress report, which can be viewed [here](#).
- LUWG
 - o The LUWG is seeking feedback on their new Land Use Data through the following [application](#).
- USWG
 - o [Registration](#) is open for the Chesapeake Stormwater Network's CUSP 2024 cohort,

Planning for our post-2025 approach: Milestones and Unaccounted Additional Loads

This agenda item covered two topics, Unaccounted Additional Loads and Milestones.

- Unaccounted Additional Loads

- Lee McDonnell, EPA [presented](#) on proposed Phase 3 WIP Planning Target Definitions which include the Initial, Climate Adjusted, and Interim Planning Targets, all for use with [CAST-23](#) and the 2024 version of [Progress Data](#). Lee took questions on topics like dealing with DoD facilities, and communication around the updated targets.
- Milestones
 - Lee McDonnell, EPA [presented](#) on the next steps for milestones beyond 2025. Lee introduced possible options including a three-year set of milestones for 2026-2028, a focus on adaptive management/sandboxing, and further discussion with the [Milestones Workgroup](#). The focus was on options for the remaining progress years using Phase 6 (CAST-23) until the Phase 7 model is officially released in 2028 under the [schedule](#) approved by the partnership in [late 2023](#). This would include progress year 2026, 2027 and 2028. A recommendation/decision from the WQGIT will be sought during our [August 26th meeting](#) at the earliest. Any recommendation from the WQGIT will go to the Management Board and subsequently the PSC for a final decision.

Partner Spotlight

As part of the recurring 'Partner Spotlight' Agenda item, Alicia Ritzenthaler, DC DOEE presented on DC's creation of a Stream Condition Index. This involved the selection of high level indicator categories, and then metrics to track the progress of each one. DOEE also created a [website](#) to allow the public to use and learn from this information, the use of which was demonstrated during the [presentation](#).

River Input Monitoring Loads and Trends

Jimmy Webber, USGS provided an [overview](#) of the monitoring data for nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended-sediment loads, changes in loads, and trends, from the Chesapeake Bay River Input Monitoring (RIM) Network stations for 1985 through 2023. Jimmy provided a summary of the RIM network, went through changes in loads and trends, and answered questions. Results included that the RIM network has a similar number of improving and degrading trend results and that monitored loads currently exceed modeled WIP loads.

Land Use Strategy

KC Filippino, HRPDC, LUWG Chair, briefed the WQGIT on the New Land Use Strategy [Document](#) which was approved by the LUWG in September 2023 and presented to the Management Board in June 2024. KC went over the five main elements of the Land Use Strategy and its approval process.

June WQGIT follow-up and SRS

Suzanne Trevena, EPA, WQGIT Chair, presented an [overview](#) of recent events and discussions regarding the WQGIT's SRS process and strategic planning, progress meeting our goals and outcomes [accomplishments for inclusion in our revised workplan], and facilitated a discussion of next steps. Participant discussion included questions on scope and overlap with the Beyond 2025 process, timing, and how the documentation created through SRS can be useful to members.

GIT4: Healthy Watersheds

There are no updates to the Management Board at this time.

GIT5: Stewardship

There are no updates to the Management Board at this time.

GIT6: Enhance Partnering, Leadership, Management

Contact Information Lucinda Power(Chair) power.lucinda@epa.gov, James E. Martin(Chair) james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov, Greg Allen (Coordinator) allen.greg@epa.gov, Erin Sonnenburg (Staffer) Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov.

Local Leadership Workgroup:

Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis - GIT Funding Proposal

The aim of the proposal is to identify local government assistance programs and conduct a gap analysis to recommend an approach to filling those gaps. The gap analysis will assist the partnership with meeting some of the other outcomes that rely on local government implementation of policies and/or practices. This includes but is not limited to: Wetlands, Forest Buffers, Tree Canopy, Land Use Options Evaluation, Healthy Watersheds, Climate Adaptation and WIP 2025. The LLWG gap analysis proposal was approved for FY2024 and the workgroup is excited to move forward with the project in the future.

Clean Water Roundtables

In partnership with LGAC and multiple local government associations, LLWG is hosting a series of smaller, regional roundtable discussions with local officials to collect additional feedback about the draft Beyond 2025 Steering Committee report. Attendees are asked to bring their success stories, share their progress, and continue the momentum of the incredible work of their local government. These conversations will help ensure the people and places local government officials represent are accurately reflected and included in watershed cleanup efforts now and beyond 2025, while informing LGAC's comments report.

As of mid August LGAC and its partners have hosted 4 roundtables across the watershed.

- Washington DC in partnership with MWCOG
- Lancaster, PA in partnership with Lancaster Clean Water Partners
- Hampton Roads in VA in Partnership with Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Shenandoah Valley in VA in partnership with VML and VACo.

In attendance were over 80 elected, appointed local officials and senior staff have participated in the conversations.

August Quarterly Meeting

- The Next LLWG Meeting: Tuesday November 20th 9:30am - 12pm
- The meeting will be completely virtual; to access the meeting link, please reach out to Erin Sonnenburg, LLWG Staffer, at Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov
- The goal of the meeting is to “Talk Toxics” with watershed-wide local officials. During the meeting, the LLWG will host:
 - o Federal representative, explaining the science of PFAs and PCBs
 - o A panel of officials from DC, MD, DE, and VA to answer questions on their state's recent efforts to mitigate against and reverse the damaging effects of PFAs and PCBs
 - o Allow an opportunity for these panelists, as well as any attending jurisdictions, to brainstorm and coordinate future cross-state endeavors on forever chemicals.
- All future meeting information can be found by accessing our [meeting webpage](#).

Budget and Finance Workgroup:

The workgroup was awarded funds for its STAC workshop proposal. The workshop will explore the natural and social sciences gaps that impede the use of market-based approaches for Chesapeake restoration. On June 28th the first meeting of the steering committee was held to discuss next steps.

Contact Information: Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair) elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; Khesha Reed (Co- Chair) reed.khesha@epa.gov

Strategy Review System Workgroup:

At its last meeting, the Management Board decided to postpone the Clean Water Cohort's Quarterly Progress Meeting from September 2024 to November 2024. However, the MB's November 14th meeting conflicts with the Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting, creating participation challenges for multiple members. The SRS Coordinator, MB Coordinator and MB Staffer have identified November 7th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM as a potential date for the Clean

Water Cohort's Quarterly Progress Meeting and are soliciting the availability of MB members prior to scheduling the meeting.

In June, coordinators and staffers of the Living Resources Cohort were notified of the 180-day mark for the Living Resources Cohort's second Quarterly Progress Meeting (QPM) of the Strategy Review System 4th Cycle. The Management Board will host this QPM on December 12, 2024. The SRS Workgroup anticipates that the Wetlands, Black Duck, Fish Habitat, and Forage Fish outcomes will complete the full SRS process. Other outcomes in the cohort have the option to present brief updates at the QPM.

The Strategy Review System (SRS) Workgroup is soliciting nominations for Chair and Vice/Co-Chair. Experience with the science and practice of adaptive management, public policy or the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance and structure are valued. After new leadership is confirmed, the SRS Workgroup will revisit the team's purpose and scope of work to ensure progress is being thoughtfully made on key priorities. Please contact SRS Coordinator Sarah Brzezinski, Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov, to self-nominate or to recommend a colleague for consideration.

Scientific Technical Assessment & Reporting Updates

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)

The [June STAR Meeting's](#) theme was Beyond 2025. The meeting opened with the fire alarm in the Chesapeake Bay Program Office going off, but once that was resolved, Ken Hyer (USGS) provided an overview of ERG's Report on Beyond 2025. This was followed by a discussion of the report's findings and considerations. Then, Breck Sullivan (USGS) gave an overview of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee's Draft Report. STAR participants discussed each of the draft report's recommendations and provided feedback on the recommendations, which will be summarized and provided to the Steering Committee for their consideration. There was no July STAR meeting, and the next STAR meeting will be [August 22nd, 2024](#).

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup held its Quarterly Review on [July 9th](#) and [July 10th](#), 2024. On the first day of the July 2024 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review, presentations included a review of the STAC Climate Change 3.0 Workshop, an overview of the Phase 7 Watershed model, an update on CalCAST development, an update on progress on Phase 7 WSM model development, a presentation on Development of Efficient Multi-Objective Optimization Procedures, and a

presentation on Stormwater Management in a Changing Climate SWM & AG BMPs. The day also featured a discussion on Updating and Improving Loading Sensitivity to Inputs, Phosphorous Loading Processes, and Related Activity Update. Day 2 included an update on the Main Bay Model, a Phase 7 update of Model Criteria Assessment, discussion on Whole Bay Criteria Assessment, Decarbonization Sensitivity Scenarios on atmospheric chemistry models, a review of CBP Multiple Tributary Model (MTM) Work and Progress on the East Coast Tracer Model, a presentation on the Documentation of Algal Temperature Correction for Algal Growth, and updates on MTM progress. Day 2 concluded with a discussion of climate change impacts in the Chesapeake region beyond mid-century.

Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

The [June ITAT meeting](#) began with a progress update on the UMCES Nutrient Limitation project funded by EPA. Tom Fisher (UMCES) showed bioassay data that has been collected so far for the project. Then the River Input Monitoring (RIM) loads and trends, updated through 2023, were presented by USGS. Finally, workgroup members took some time to debrief the Chesapeake Community Research Symposium and share any insights that are relevant to ITAT's work. The next ITAT meeting will take place [on August 28th, 2024](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute the Tributary Summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan (bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net) and Kaylyn Gootman (gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov).

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held a meeting on [June 13, 2024](#). Mike Mallonee (ICPRB) presented the split sample data from the coordinated split sample program. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the next steps for labs that are switching out their instruments for new instruments. Some labs have already made the switch and started running paired samples. Statistician Elgin Perry contributed ideas on how to ensure that the data from the new instruments is consistent with data from the previous instruments and between the labs. Durga and Elgin will continue to collect information from the labs on their minimum required protocols for instrument switches, as well as data from labs who have started to run their paired sample analysis. Elgin will use this information to determine what level of replication is needed, and the group will meet again later in the summer to solidify this framework and share

updates on this issue. The next Data Integrity Workgroup Meeting will be in September, exact date to be determined.

Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator

The Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) met for their quarterly public meeting on [May 20, 2024](#). Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) provided an overview of the process used to pull data into the 4-Dimensional interpolator tool development for, including a comprehensive overview of what data sets are used for exploring patterns to inform development; development and testing; validation; and application. Following this, Elgin Perry gave an overview of how he was approaching stochastic components of daily mean and small scale variability in the interpolator development. Both presentations included a thorough question and answer period. The meeting wrapped up with more discussion on topics such as the interpolator grid, and areas lacking data. The BORG met for an internal development team meeting on July 15, mainly discussing concerns and questions that partners have raised around the 4-D interpolator, and sharing best strategies around communicating what it does and the value it adds. The next BORG meeting will be a development team meeting in August but a portion of the [Criteria Assessment Protocol Work Group meeting](#) on August 13 will be devoted to discussing the 4-Dimensional interpolator.

Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup

The Nontidal Network (NTN) Team of the Integrated Monitoring Network Workgroup met on [June 20, 2024](#). The workgroup shared updates on a number of topics including Goal Implementation Team funding, the historical database reconstruction effort, and the small agricultural watershed monitoring sites. Doug Chambers (USGS) shared an update on potential bias in the Suspended Sediment Concentration analysis for NTN stations in karst watersheds. Doug will bring this issue to the Data Integrity Workgroup at a future date so that they can weigh in on the best way to proceed. The meeting wrapped up with Jimmy Webber (USGS) presenting on the River Input Monitoring (RIM) loads and trends, updated through 2023. The next Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting will be [August 21st, 2024](#).

Hypoxia Collaborative Team

The Hypoxia Collaborative Team met on [March 4, 2024](#). Partners shared updates on their ongoing work. Then, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (NCBO) team shared the proposal for the 2024 hypoxia station deployment locations with justification for the proposed placements. This proposal was followed by a robust discussion of the proposed two geographical areas. The collaborative was given an additional week to provide feedback or follow-up thoughts on the proposed locations. Peter Tango (USGS) then went over a proposed model-assisted optimization analysis for a high frequency sensor water quality sampling design strategy for long term and near term to support bay habitat and criteria assessment at the segment scale. This analysis was proposed for GIT funding and this project was selected to be funded. The scoping meeting for this GIT funded project will occur on July 11th, 2024. The Hypoxia Collaborative Team will meet next in October.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The CAP workgroup met on [June 18, 2024](#). The meeting began with Peter Tango (USGS) sharing which GIT funded projects were funded, and participants expressed interest in being involved with the Sampling Strategy and Design for Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment GIT funded project. Peter, Richard Tian (UMCES) and Tish Robertson (VA DEQ) led a discussion of the state boundary layers in the current 3-D interpolator. Some of the VA interpolation cells were misplaced based on the current stated boundary; Richard and Tish are fixing that, and Richard will also be checking that the same issue isn't present with MD interpolation cells. The group discussed whether it made more sense to use the US Topo Boundary or the US Census 2020 layer. Ultimately, they decided to go with the US Topo Boundary, and all were in consensus on this decision. Peter then brought to the group the proposal of having a new workgroup or action team that would focus on water quality standards. Participants shared that they didn't feel a totally new workgroup would be appropriate, and that their priorities should be chlorophyll narrative criteria, making use of all the data, and supporting the monitoring design GIT funded project. There may be workshops for other questions that come up that CAP can lend expertise to, and CAP can delegate things that don't fit within their mission. The next CAP Workgroup meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual on [August 13th, 2024](#). The in-person location will be at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

The [STWG met on January 29th](#) to foster cross-outcome learning and discuss STWG plans for 2024. The meeting began with a presentation on the [Forage Status and Trends Report](#), which synthesized all research findings and projects completed since 2014 in support of the Forage Outcome. This was followed by a presentation and discussion on the ongoing conversation to develop the Oyster outcome post 2025. The meeting wrapped up with an overview of the STWG plans and objectives for 2024. The full workgroup will next convene as needed while individual teams continue to meet to work on new indicator development projects. The sea level rise indicator team had a broader discussion with partners at the tidal convening of the [Wetlands Workgroup on May 21st, 2024](#).

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup presented their Climate Adaptation Outcome Progress update to the Management Board at the [July Meeting](#). The presentation highlighted successes and challenges in making progress towards meeting the outcome, including current efforts the workgroup is supporting (e.g., Marsh Adaptation, Community Resilience, and Nature-Based Solutions) and needs that can help the workgroup make progress towards the outcome. Based on the discussion and feedback from the Management Board, the workgroup will be exploring outcome language that includes quantifiable metrics for Beyond 2025.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's [August meeting](#) will be held on August 15, 2024 from 1:30-3:30 PM. Topics include Equitable Resilience Builder, saltwater intrusion and water supply decision support tools, and updates on the GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation Project

Strategic Engagement Team & Communications Office Updates

Strategic Engagement Team

In July, the Strategic Engagement Team held two bi-weekly meetings discussing the Community Response to Land Use Changes Project as well as the Watershed Data Dashboard. Both discussions focused on how SET can help distribute data and information to the right audiences, how they can get better stakeholder engagement and how they can make their work more accessible. The next SET bi-weekly meeting will take place on August 13 for a discussion on hardened shorelines.

Communications Office

The Communications Office is helping to support the Beyond 2025 effort through public engagement efforts. On July 1, they released a blog announcing the public feedback period, an FAQ and recorded a webinar. They will help collect comments through the public feedback period, which ends on August 30. These products can be found on www.chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025.

Executive Council:

The Executive Council meeting will take place on December 10 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Annapolis, Md. The Executive Council planning committee continues to meet bi-weekly to discuss possible agenda topics as well as further details regarding logistics. The planning committee is currently looking at the following actions for EC members to take: signing a directive to create the Agriculture Advisory Committee, charging the partnership to undertake the next steps/implementation of Beyond 2025 recommendations, a directive codifying the roles and responsibilities of the existing three advisory committees and a resolution re-confirming the signatories commitment to the partnership. The planning committee is looking at the possibility of bringing in a guest speaker for the public meeting.

Press Releases:

The following press releases were issued in July:

- Underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay continue upward climb
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/underwater-grasses-in-the-chesapeake-bay-continue-upward-climb>

Published blogs:

The following blogs were published in July:

- Help the Chesapeake Bay Program chart the next phase of Bay restoration
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/help-the-chesapeake-bay-program-chart-the-nextphase-of-bay-restoration>
- Visa workers are helping reach critical tree planting goals here in Maryland, thousands of miles from where they were born <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/visa-workers-are-helping-reach-critical-tree-planting-goals-here-in-maryland-thousands-of-miles-from-where-they-were-born>
- Annual blue crab report highlights need to maintain focus on female, juvenile blue crabs
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/annual-blue-crab-report-highlights-need-to-maintain-focus-on-female-juvenile-blue-crabs>

- Black history revived at a historic Chesapeake Bay beach
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/black-history-revived-at-a-historic-chesapeake-bay-beach>
- Chesapeake Bay receives highest health grade in over 20 years
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake-bay-receives-highest-health-grade-in-over-20-years>
- Out of 123 Chesapeake Bay beaches - here are six not to miss
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/out-of-123-chesapeake-bay-beaches-here-are-six-not-to-miss>
- Being an influential pollinator is no sweat for these bees
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/being-an-influential-pollinator-is-no-sweat-for-the-se-bees>
- Stakeholders' Advisory Committee chair says equity and inclusion is needed for a restored Chesapeake Bay <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/stewardship-committee-chair-says-equity-and-inclusion-is-needed-for-a-restored-chesapeake-bay>
- Trash traps, clean teams, and other solutions for a trash-free Anacostia River
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/trash-traps-clean-teams-and-other-solutions-for-a-trash-free-anacostia-river>
- My Clean Water Story: Sophie Waterman
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/my-clean-water-story-sophie-waterman>
- Bay grasses continued to rise in 2023, much to the delight of fans like me [Bay grasses continued to rise in 2023, much to the delight of fans like me \(chesapeakebay.net\)](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bay-grasses-continued-to-rise-in-2023-much-to-the-delight-of-fans-like-me)

Advisory Committees Updates

Local Governments 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.

LGAC recently hosted the 2024 Local Government Forum: Looking Beyond 2025 on [July 11th, 2024](#) in Ellicott City, Maryland, followed by the July LGAC Quarterly Meeting on July 12th. Actions & Decisions and meeting materials from the Forum and July LGAC meeting are available on LGAC's [meeting page](#).

If there are MB requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Laura Cattell Noll at lnoll@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staffer, Kayli Ottomanelli at lgac@allianceforthebay.org

Stakeholders Advisory Committee:

The Stakeholders' Advisory Committee will hold their next quarterly meeting in Williamsport, PA on Sept 18-19, 2024. Topics include a briefing on Beyond 2025 public feedback, an update from PA DEP, a tour of Turtle Creek stream restoration, and consensus on 2024 annual recommendations to the Executive Council.

The Stakeholders' Committee's 2024 Priorities that will drive the quarterly meetings include: (1) engagement in the Beyond 2025 work and a deeper dive into accountability for the Bay TMDL; (2) a broad understanding of the policies and incentives across the watershed for key outcomes with a focus on forest cover and land conservation with an intent to identify gaps; (3) continued engagement on equitable access to grants and capacity building; (4) intentionally learning and development of internal Committee guiding principles that advance inclusivity of all members.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies.

The Stakeholders' Committee officers are Chair- Chuck Herrick (DC) and Vice-Chair Donna Harris-Aikens (VA).

To be added to Stakeholders' Committee Interested Parties List, please contact: Alex LoCurto alocurto@allianceforthebay.org For program questions, contact Jess Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific Technical Advisory Committee

STAC-Sponsored Workshop RFP for FY2024: Proposals due Aug 16th

The Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is **accepting proposals for STAC-sponsored workshops** for the **second round** of funding for the STAC fiscal year 2024 budget cycle. Workshops are organized to gather critically needed scientific and/or technical information related to protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Workshops funded through this RFP should convene by May 31, 2025.

- [STAC Workshop FY2024 Request for Proposals](#)

STAC-Sponsored FY24 Science Synthesis RFP: Proposals due Dec 2nd

The Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) invites proposals for a STAC-sponsored science synthesis project aimed at managing climate change impacts on water quality, people, and living resources in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This project should analyze and synthesize existing data to inform climate adaptation and risk-informed decision-making, while addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) in its research approach. Proposals are due by **December 2, 2024**, with up to **\$125,000** available in phased funding. For more details, including the scope, budget requirements, and application guidelines, visit [the STAC website](#).

September 2024 Quarterly Meeting

The September 2024 Quarterly Meeting will be held in-person on **Tuesday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 11th** at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle in Howard, PA. For updates and more information as it becomes available, please visit the [September 2024 STAC Quarterly Meeting page](#).

Recently Published Reports

All STAC review and workshop reports are available for download on the STAC [Publication webpage](#). So far in 2024, STAC has published four workshop reports:

- Hegberg, C., J. Egan, C. Brosch, J. Hubbart, P. Imhoff, D. Lueckenhoff, T. Miles, W. Teel, and D. Wood. (2024). *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities*. [Download](#).
- Mason, P., G. Noe, Berlin, C., D. Clearwater, S. Claggett, D. Goerman, B. Landry, and A. Santoro. 2024. *Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services*. [Download](#).
- McPhillips, L., A. Buda, Z. Easton, W. L. Daniels, S. Fathel, J. Ignosh, C. Raj, D. Sample. (2024). *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality*. [Download](#).
- Berger, K, K. Filippino, G. Shenk, N. Goulet, M. Lookenbill, D. Moyer, G. Noe, A. Porter, J. Shallenberger, B. Thomas, and G. Yactayo. (2024). *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model*. [Download](#).
- Hanson, J., K. Brownson, E. Gilinsky, K. Gootman, B. Jenkins, R. Rossi, K. Saunders, L. Wainger, B. Williams, and S. Yee. (2024). *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of Multiple CBP Outcomes*. [Download](#).