



Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team

Theme: Indicators

Thursday, January 29th, 2026
10:00AM – 12:00PM

[Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 213 754 305 350 25 | **Passcode:** fK783S44

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[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

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Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

Compromised Meeting Plan: If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

Purpose: This is the monthly meeting of the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team. As the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) moves forward with the revised Watershed Agreement, there is an opportunity for not only updating and developing new indicators but also changing the framework around communicating indicators and progress to the partnership. This meeting will highlight the existing CBP indicators framework, provide examples of indicators from external organizations, and provide time for discussion on how CBP moves forward with indicators.

Agenda

I. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements (10:00 – 10:10)

*Lead: **Ken Hyer** (U.S. Geological Survey, USGS) STAR Chair, **Breck Sullivan** (USGS) STAR Coordinator, and **Peter Tango** (USGS) CBP Monitoring Coordinator.*

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops and Webinars

- [Choose Clean Water Conference](#) – May 18-20, 2026. Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- [Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) – June 1-3, 2026. Annapolis, Maryland.
Abstracts due February 13, 2026.

II. CBP Indicators Framework (10:10 – 10:30)

*Lead: **Katie Ayers** (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA)*

Description: Katie Ayers will provide an overview of CBP's current Indicator Framework which includes information such as indicator types and definitions. She will also provide initial suggestions on changes and additions to the framework. STAR participants will have an opportunity to provide comments on the suggestions and provide their own thoughts on the framework during the discussion after the presentation and later in the meeting after hearing from all presenters.

III. Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card (10:30 – 11:00)

*Lead: **Alexandra Fries** (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, UMCES)*

Description: Brief overview of the Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card indicators (tidal and non-tidal). Review of the indicator development process we've developed and used worldwide. How to use indicators and data synthesis to tell stories and build compelling narratives for different audiences including non-scientists. Where we are going next is to expand our report card to include new indicators that align with other Chesapeake efforts like the new watershed agreement goals, CESR report, and other organization's efforts like CBF and CBP.

IV. Puget Sound Partnership, their Goals, Vital Signs, and Indicators (11:00 – 11:30)

*Lead: **Jeff Lerner** (EPA)*

Description: A brief overview of the Puget Sound Partnership, their Goals, Vital Signs, Indicators and how the partnership tracks progress for its Action Agenda.

V. Discussion on CBP Outcome Indicators (11:30 – 12:00)

*Lead: **STAR Leaders***

Description: STAR Leaders will guide an open discussion on CBP Indicators under the new revised agreement and how we can develop a story around our metrics. We will also discuss the difference between internal indicators and external indicators that might be communicated on [Chesapeake Progress](#).

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- Who is the audience for indicators?
- Does every target within the Watershed Agreement need an Indicator? If not, where do we showcase this progress?
- Are there different types of indicators? How do we tell a more cohesive story with the indicators?
- Who is the audience for ChesapeakeProgress? Does it showcase indicators only described in the Watershed Agreement, or can it show a bigger picture?
- How will the CBP adaptive management process impact/influence the development and reporting of indicators?

VI. Adjourn

(12:00)

Next Meeting: *February 26th, 2026, from 10 AM – 12 PM.*