Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team

Theme: Monitoring for Measures of Progress

Thursday, February 26th, 2026
10:00AM – 12:00PM

Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

Call: +1 469-208-1525 | **Conference ID:** 184 608 47#

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, outcomes may need to reenvision or establish new monitoring to track progress. The meeting will focus on examples to help build effective monitoring plans and data framework requirements to measure and track progress which ultimately supports the communication of the science and status of CBP commitments in the Watershed Agreement.

Agenda

I.   **Welcome, Introductions & Announcements**   **(10:00 – 10:05)**
     *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.
     - Restore America's Estuaries' 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit – September 22-25, 2026. San Francisco, California.

II. **Overview of Previous and Upcoming STAR Meetings**   **(10:05 – 10:15)**
     *Lead: **Breck Sullivan** (USGS)*

     Description: Breck Sullivan will be providing an overview of key takeaways from the most recent STAR Meeting on indicators to refresh meeting participants and provide context for direction of future STAR meetings.

III. **Monitoring for Measures of Progress:**
     Good Practices and Considerations in Your Work Ahead   **(10:15 – 10:30)**
     *Lead: **Peter Tango** (USGS)*

     Description: Peter will highlight fundamental guidance on progress assessment support that underpins the integrity of a good monitoring program and reporting frameworks.

IV. **Monitoring SAV in Chesapeake Bay:**
     An integrated, hierarchical, and tiered approach   **(10:30 – 11:00)**
     *Lead: **Brooke Landry** (Maryland Department of Natural Resources, MD DNR)*

     Description: An example of good monitoring program and reporting is the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) monitoring effort. Brooke will provide an overview of how the monitoring program employs a three-tiered approach to monitoring SAV in the Bay. The integrated system includes aerial surveys, volunteer monitoring, and sentinel sites.

V.   **Chesapeake Bay Program Metadata Specification**   **(11:00 – 11:30)**
     *Lead: **Data Center Representative***

     Description: Data resources are foundational to the success of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO), with effective management, quality control, publication, and use critical to its mission. A carefully formulated framework of data publishing requirements and processes helps stewards maximize resource usefulness for stakeholders. The CBP Data Governance Workgroup has prepared a document to provide clarity and consistency for Data Stewards regarding data resource documentation (metadata), and a representative will share the key components in the presentation.

VI. **Discussion on Monitoring Plans for Measuring Progress**   **(11:30 – 12:00)**
     *Lead: **STAR Leaders***

     Description: STAR Leaders will guide an open discussion on outcome monitoring plans as it relates to measuring progress and communicating the science.

     Guiding Discussion Questions:

     - Did the recap, provided by Breck, and the directions formed from this meeting resonate with participants for future STAR topics? What other topics around tracking/targets would help outcomes for STAR to cover in future meetings?
     - Where do groups stand in being able to track/measure progress for their outcomes/targets?

- Are there gaps in monitoring/analysis that need support?
- What question(s) are you trying to answer with your monitoring and data? Progress on the Agreement, progress/status of ecosystem elements, etc.?

VII. **Adjourn** **(12:00)**
Next Meeting: *March 26th, 2026, from 10 AM – 12 PM.*