Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT)

Monday, March 23rd, 2026
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 232 740 964 777 9   **Passcode:** kA6Ga3X4
Call: +1 202-991-0477   **Conference ID:** 673128683

Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.

Announcements & Reminders (CTRL + click to jump ahead within document)

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on "Turn on live captions" (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Petra Baldwin at baldwin.petra@epa.gov.

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 Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT). Meeting topics will include updates on the Phase 7 timeline, hydrologic period and E3 Scenario development as well as educational presentations on bioreference curve, the 4-D Interpolator, the Main Bay Model and the Multiple Tributary Models.

Agenda

I.   Welcome and Announcements   **(1:00 – 1:05 PM)**
Please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the participants list. If not, please enter your correct name & affiliation in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally. See top of the agenda for details on new meeting security settings.

Lead: CWGT Co-Chairs

II.   Business, Workgroup & Phase 7 Decision Updates   **(1:05 – 1:15 PM)**
Jeremy will share updates from WQGIT workgroups with a focus on recently completed and upcoming Phase 7 related decisions. Jeremy will update members on plans for the hybrid June meeting and affirm new AgWG and WTWG Chairs.

Requested Action: Informational.
Lead: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator
Materials: Workgroup Updates Presentation

III. Phase 7 Timeline   **(1:15 – 1:30 PM)**
Lee will provide further detail and guidance for the tasks needed by the Clean Water Goal Team and workgroups through the coming years for review of the model and the beginning of planning target development.

Requested Action: Informational.
Leads: Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO
Materials: Presentation

IV.   Reference Curves and Interpolator Primer   **(1:30 – 2:20 PM)**
Members of the Monitoring Team will provide a presentation on reference curves and the 4-D interpolator to ensure WQGIT members understand how these components of criteria assessment work and relate to water quality standards assessments.

Requested Action: Informational.
Leads: Kaylyn Gootman, Peter Tango, Rebecca Murphy and Breck Sullivan
Materials: Presentation

V.   Break   **(2:20 – 2:30 PM)**

VI.   MBM and MTMs Primer   **(2:30 – 3:20 PM)**
Members of the Modeling Team will provide a presentation on the Estuarine Main Bay Model and Multiple Tributary Model to ensure WQGIT members understand the workings of how these components of the model are developed and related to the rest of the Phase 7 suite of models. Members will also hear an overview of upcoming Tracer and Geographic Influence Scenarios.

Requested Action: Informational.
Lead: Lew Linker, Richard Tian and Gopal Bhatt
Materials: Presentation

VII. Hydrologic Period Update   **(3:20 – 3:35 PM)**

Robin and Lew will share an update on the analysis of an updated hydrologic period for the Phase 7 model. WQGIT will continue to receive updates on this and we will hold a longer time for presentation and discussion at upcoming meetings.

Requested Action: Informational.
Leads: Robin Glas, USGS and Lew Linker, EPA CBPO
Materials: Presentation

VIII. **E3 Scenario Development Update** **(3:35 – 3:55 PM)**
Auston will provide an update on E3 Scenarios after presenting to each of the sector workgroups in the past month. He will also provide an overview of considerations for choosing the base year for E3 Scenarios.

Requested Action: Informational.
Leads: Auston Smith, EPA CBPO
Materials: Presentation

IX. **Wrap-Up** **(3:55 – 4:00 PM)**
Lead: Petra Baldwin, WQGIT Co-Staffer

X. **Adjourn** **(4:00 PM)**

Next Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2026

Announcements & Reminders

- **The Bay Program released the annual Bay Barometer.** This year's report is important as it shares progress for the final time on the outcomes in the 2014 *Watershed Agreement*. The full press release website also has many supporting materials, including a blog and individual jurisdictional fact sheets. The full report can be found here.

- **The Chesapeake Bay Commission released their 2025 Annual Report**, highlighting work and achievements from the past year. Read the report here.

- **CBP is collecting information about users' experience with ChesapeakeProgress.com through Friday, April 10**. If you have used ChesapeakeProgress in the past and would like to provide feedback about this site and inform potential product improvements, we encourage you to complete this feedback form.

- **The next CRC Roundtable, "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Advance Chesapeake Bay Research and Management," is Wednesday, March 18th at 12pm.** Artificial intelligence (AI) and associated machine learning (ML) applications have emerged as powerful tools for analyzing large, complex datasets. How can these tools strengthen monitoring, modeling, and decision-making across the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Join the roundtable to learn more about key insights from a 2025 STAC Workshop on practical opportunities, challenges, and research gaps for AI/ML applications to the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Register here.

- **Chesapeake Stormwater Network is hosting two upcoming webinars** on **March 19th** and **March 26th**: "Assessing and Managing Stormwater Impacts of Solar Installations in Virginia and Central Pennsylvania" and "Where Clean Water Meets Community: Showcasing Innovation at

the Wetlands at Long's Park." Register for upcoming webinars and view past webinar recordings from the series here.

- **Restore America's Estuaries is accepting proposals for the 2026 Coastal and Estuarine Summit until Friday, March 13th.** The conference is September 22-25, 2026 in San Francisco, CA. If you have interest in submitting a presentation, session and poster, learn more here.
- **The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is seeking self-nominations for At-Large member positions through Monday, March 16th.** Please consider submitting a nomination or sharing this solicitation with others who may be interested and well-suited to contribute to STAC's work. Questions may be directed to Meg Cole, STAC Coordinator, at colem@chesapeake.org. Learn more and submit your nomination here.
- **The 2026 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) is soliciting pre-proposals until Tuesday, March 31st.** NFWF, in partnership with NOAA, Occidental, and Shell are soliciting pre-proposals for investments in nature-based solutions to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards while improving habitats for fish and wildlife. Read the RFP and learn more here.
- **NFWF, EPA and CBP are soliciting proposals for the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program until Thursday, April 2nd and Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) program until Thursday, April 9th.** Interested applicants may schedule virtual project consultations with NFWF staff and recordings from informational applicant webinars are posted. Learn more about SWG and WILD if you are interested in submitting a proposal.
- **The PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program (CWPP) is accepting proposals until Wednesday, April 22nd.** The program supports the installation of best management practices to help Pennsylvania achieve the most current TMDL limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Learn more and watch the program overview recording here.

Acronyms

AgWG: Agriculture Workgroup
BMP: Best Management Practice
CAST: Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool
CWGT: Clean Water Goal Team
CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program
E3: Everything by Everyone Everywhere

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
MB: Management Board
STAC: Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
WTWG: Watershed Technical Workgroup
WQGIT: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team