



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2013**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

April 11-12	LGAC Meeting (Fredricksburg, Va)
April 17	PSC Conference Call
April 16-17	STAC Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats Workshop (Easton, Md)
May 14	STAC Emerging Issues and Opportunities for Improving Performance of Water Quality Credit Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Annapolis, Md)
May 16	Management Board Meeting (Annapolis, Md)
May	PSC In-person Meeting (TBA)
May 22-23	Ag Modeling Workshop (UMD)
June-Sept	EC Meeting 2013 (TBA)
May 8-10	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting
June 6-7	LGAC Meeting
June 11-12	STAC Quarterly Meeting (Annapolis, Md)

Program Updates

EO 13508 FY12 Progress Report Released

The final FY12 Progress Report, *Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay*, was published on Thursday, March 28, and was accompanied by a press release to the media within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The report highlights efforts toward reaching the Federal milestones set out in the FY12 Action Plan in support of the Executive Order for Bay restoration. For the full report, visit http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/ChesBay_ProgReport_2012_Final.pdf.

Citizens' Advisory Committee and Local Government Advisory Committee

No new updates since the last Management Board meeting.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY 2013 on June 11-12, 2013 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan on attending this meeting, please send your RSVP to Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

STAC is currently planning two workshops for the upcoming months. These workshops include:

- 1) *Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats* - This workshop will be held on April 16-17, 2013 at The Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland. The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (GIT) proposed a workshop to convene coastal wetland, living shoreline, black ducks, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration partners to discuss complementary targeting approaches that will facilitate the development of coastal habitat complexes.

2) *Emerging Issues and Opportunities for Improving Performance of Water Quality Credit Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* - This workshop is being planned for May 14, 2013 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. The purpose of the workshop will be to provide an in-depth treatment of important trading issues by utilizing state trading program managers, watershed stakeholders, and academic thoroughly familiar with the Bay watershed.

In addition, STAC held a workshop last month. Below is a description of that workshop:

Multiple Models for Management (M3.2) in the Chesapeake Bay – This workshop was held on February 25th and 26th at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop gathered stakeholders, modeling experts and regulatory experts to discuss how multiple models have been applied in management situations around the nation, and analyze whether the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort may benefit from multiple models in the future. The workshop report will be released in the next few months.

For additional information about the workshops, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

Finally, STAC held its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2012 on March 12-13, 2013. STAC reviewed seven FY 2013 workshop proposals presented to the committee. STAC members did NOT vote to approve, or disapprove the RFPs. Instead, STAC members will form an assessment group to review and develop evaluation criteria and request revisions to the workshop proposals presented at the March 2013 quarterly meeting. FY 2013 RFPs will be re-presented to STAC at the June 11th and 12th quarterly meeting.

Scientific and Technical Analysis and Reporting

STAR is meeting monthly to discuss topics of scientific interest for the Bay community. On February 28th, STAR hosted a seminar on Toxic Contaminants following the release of the Toxic Contaminants Report. STAR is currently in the process of revising the 2013 workplan.

Project highlights from workgroups under STAR are as follows:

1. 2014 Technical Addendum Support for Criteria Assessment Protocols

The CAP WG is addressing the series of priorities agreed upon by the partnership focused on short duration dissolved oxygen criteria assessment, the open water designated use assessment, indicator updates and revisions and nontraditional partner data in assessments. The SAV WG is holding a meeting to prioritize four issues as to their inclusion or not in the 2014 Technical Addendum Support for Criteria Assessment Protocols. Through topic-specific workshops we are developing pre-proposal background papers and recommendations and implications on topic decisions that will be collated and integrated into forming the Technical Addendum.

- Winter: An Ad-hoc team under the TMAW workgroup has addressed one of the short duration criteria issues.
- A spring workshop was held on April 4th reviewing the open water designated use assessment considering the role of shallow water.
- A summer workshop will review the assessment of the 1-day mean criterion.
- An autumn workshop is slated to deal with the instantaneous minimum questions.

2. Midpoint Assessment Priority Workplan: Assess and Explain Water-Quality Changes

The Nontidal Water Quality Workgroup and the Tidal Monitoring and Analysis Workgroup had a joint meeting on March 27th to develop an integrated technical approach to communicating Water Quality Trends and Nutrient Loads. A workplan is being reworked based on the meeting participant's discussion.

A "lessons learned" brochure about the effect of BMP implementation on water-quality improvements, is summarizing information from case studies in the Bay watershed and other national efforts. STAR in cooperation with UMCES is expecting to release the brochure this summer.

3. DUET/2013 NTN QA/QC Guidance

The Data Upload and Evaluation Tool ([DUET](#)) is in its first upload cycle with the Nontidal Network data providers. A new guidance for field sampling and laboratory procedures including Quality Assurance and Quality Control checks was developed and presented to the Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup to ensure quality and consistent data following the USGS protocols.

4. Brook Trout Indicator

During 2012 the Brook Trout Action Team worked to revise the goal supporting brook trout habitat. The old goal was expressed in terms of watersheds; a new goal was translated into targets based on new science involving higher resolution information on brook trout patch occupation. The new goal is being reviewed and a final decision on its acceptance is anticipated in the year ahead.

5. Midpoint Assessment Priority Workplan: Addressing Sediment in the Conowingo Reservoir and other Dams in the bay

At the Modeling Quarterly Review on January 8th and 9th, Carl Cerco described the progress being made on the simulation of the Lower Susquehanna Reservoirs, including the initial linked Watershed Model and Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model scenarios being developed to examine Conowingo inflow effects on Chesapeake DO and SAV-clarity. Lewis Linker provided an update on the progress of the DO water quality standard stoplight analysis for the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment (LSRWA).

6. Nontidal WG

Katie Foreman was the coordinator of the NTWG but has moved on to a new position in Oregon. Jackie Johnson's position is ending in June 2013. Both supported the watershed monitoring program and the Stream Health indicator assessment and reporting. The NTWG is evaluating its 2013 workplan deliverables in the context of the changes in staff support.

Communications Workgroup:

Working on:

- Innovative ways to promote the 30th anniversary of CBP. Needs to incorporate messages into the presentation, not just a visual. Please contact Margaret Enloe with any ideas: 410-267-5740, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Partner Happenings:

NPS

- Working for John Smith, Star Spangled, Potomac Heritage National Scenic trail on the Potomac

River to come up with a segment plan to allow recreational opportunities and visitor experiences.

- 2012 Year in Review is now being published.

MDE

- Reclaim the Bay campaign is going on. The webpage is set up on the website which is used to promote events. Anyone is welcome to e-mail event ideas that need promoting.

Nature Conservancy

- Chesapeake Watershed Forum: Plan on building on their successful general information session from last year but want to include a second, more interactive, session that will allow local watershed representatives to get hands on and work with information that we have compiled about the local benefits from protecting and restoring local watersheds. Proposals are due at the end of this month.

CBP Comm. Office:

News/features in the works for March/ April

- Photo Essay: Living Shoreline
- Research/Reports: Executive Order Strategy is expected to be out soon.
- Press: SAV/Underwater Grass news release due out mid-April.
- Press: Reducing Pollution data due out at the end of April.

Recent News/Features

<i>Original Features</i>	<i>Partner-related news stories – linked out</i>
Video: Harris Creek Oyster Restoration	More wintering waterfowl counted in Maryland in 2013
Critters: Tessellated Darter	Restoration partners share progress
REPORT: N/A	Bay Journal and Bay Journeys launch updated websites
Indicator posted: Bottom Habitat	Chesapeake Quarterly Online
Feature: Poplar Island Photo Essay	

Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Fisheries

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee has met twice, February, 25th and March 18th, since the previous Management board meeting. These meetings each had a science briefing from some current important work going on throughout the Bay. The February presentation, by Greg Garman (VCU), discussed a new telemetry receiver array at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay being put on by the Navy. The Fisheries GIT hopes to develop ways this array can be used for fisheries monitoring for sturgeon, striped bass, and invasive catfish. The March presentation from Sean Corson (NOAA) was on a new GIS tool for fisheries protection, restoration, and prioritization.

Other pertinent Fisheries GIT actions since the previous Management Board meeting are bulleted below:

- The Fisheries GIT submitted a comment letter to the Charles County Board of County Commissioners in regards to the current comprehensive planning process. The proposed development has the potential to negatively affect fisheries resources and habitats within Mattawoman Creek and the Wicomico River, which are two tributaries the Fisheries GIT has identified as priority areas for protection and conservation efforts.
- The Fisheries GIT submitted a proposal for a STAC funded workshop to develop communications and outreach strategies to improve conservation of critical habitat and fisheries through land use planning processes across the Bay. If accepted, we will be holding the workshop in the fall of 2013.
- The Invasive Catfish Taskforce met on March 19 where they developed an Action Plan outline and assigned drafting teams to produce a report highlighting current efforts and recommending clear actions jurisdictions can take to control spread and mitigate impacts of invasive catfish. A Final Draft Plan is due in May 2013 to the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee.
- The American Shad Indicator Action Team has been meeting monthly for the past five months to develop a new Baywide indicator for the Chesapeake Bay Program public reporting. This new indicator will hopefully incorporate more tributaries and better represent ongoing American shad restoration efforts.

GIT 2 – Habitat

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

The Habitat GIT and STAC will be hosting a workshop on April 16-17 in Easton, MD entitled “Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats.” The workshop will focus on three themes; 1.) Ecosystem Components of Coastal Habitats 2.) Capacity of Coastal Habitats to Support Flora and Fauna 3.) Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats in the Face of Human Development, Climate Change, and Sea Level Rise.

A potential stream focused workshop has been proposed to STAC. The proposed workshop will focus on methods for designing sustainable restoration projects, identify best practices, and document agreement.

The Habitat GIT is working on initiating wetland focused discussions in VA and MD to determine potential priority restoration projects. Initial meetings have been scheduled for April.

GIT 3 – Water Quality

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

Implementation of the high and low priority midpoint assessment work plans continues through the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Workgroups. Several of these Workgroups have submitted workshop proposals to STAC as a path forward for addressing these modeling and other decision support priorities. In addition, progress is underway in planning for the two-day agricultural modeling workshop in late May 2013.

The WQGIT welcomes new Chair, Russ Baxter/VADEQ and Vice-Chair, Jenn Volk/University of Delaware. We are also pleased to announce that David Foster/Riverkeeper, Chester River Association has accepted the position of Chair of the Trading and Offsets Workgroup.

Finally, the WQGIT approved on March 11th the Best Management Practice (BMP) Panel Report entitled, "Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Urban Nutrient Management". The Report can be accessed here:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/publications/title/recommendations_of_the_expert_panel_to_define_removal_rates_for_urban_nutri.

In addition, several Agricultural BMP Panels, including Poultry Litter, Nutrient Management, and Conservation Tillage, have met or will be meeting in March 2013.

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.

GIT 4 has three principal strategies: 1) to provide a forum for mutual learning and exploration of scientific and management issues; 2) to develop and disseminate key information resources, including a capability to track healthy watershed protection, and advocacy communications; and 3) to find and apply the best available science that supports our mission.

In January, the GIT agreed on a small set of "collective" GIT 4 priority activities for 2013. In an April 22nd meeting, GIT4 will focus on CBP and state healthy watershed vulnerability assessment capabilities and metrics. In addition to our usual healthy watershed case studies, the Goal Team will also have a discussion about a communications work plan including preparing two sessions for the Watershed Forum and brainstorming for Watershed Forum PLUS activities.

Contacts: Mark Bryer, TNC, GIT4 Chair; Mike Fritz, EPA, GIT4 Coordinator; Anna Stuart Burnett, CRC, GIT4 Staffer

GIT 5 – Foster Stewardship

The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.

PUBLIC ACCESS UPDATE

BACKGROUND

Public Access History and Indicator

- In May 2009, President Obama issued Executive Order 13508 for the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. In the resulting strategy issued one year later, the National Park Service, in conjunction with the watershed states and other federal agencies, was called upon to "develop a public access plan to inform and guide expansion of Chesapeake watershed public access."
- The strategy includes a key goal to increase public access to the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025. The basis for this goal lies in the long-standing public demand for greater access to the water in the Chesapeake region.

Plan Development

- The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan (Plan) was prepared in collaboration with a Public Access Planning Action Team composed of staff involved in public access planning and implementation at each of the Chesapeake watershed states, the District of Columbia, and the National Park Service (NPS). Public input was solicited throughout the Plan development process.
- The Plan was developed to assess the demand for public access; inventory existing public access facilities; assess barriers to public access; determine gaps in the public access system; identify opportunities for new access sites; and help direct federal, state, and local funding toward public access opportunities.
- It reflects public access to significant streams, rivers, and bays in the entire Chesapeake watershed, including portions of DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV, & DC. No prior has addressed this broad geographic scope.
- After establishing common definitions related to public access, the Action Team compiled a thorough inventory of existing access, and then continued to invite public input on potential new access points.

Key Plan Findings

- 1,150 existing public access sites where people can launch boats, fish, swim, or look out over the Bay and its tributaries were documented. About a third of these sites provide more than one type of access.
- On average, sites are about 15 miles apart, creating significant stretches of shoreline with no access
- Less than half of existing access sites provide launches or landings for boats or paddlecraft.
- 320 specific potential new sites have been identified for providing public access to the water.
- Over half of the identified potential new sites are already on publicly owned land.
- Boat launching capacity is the most frequently suggested access type for new sites (47% of total sites).
- Multiple studies and plans, including the state outdoor recreation plans, continue to document high public demand for additional access to streams, rivers, and bays.
- The Plan documents a series of planning and policy considerations that will influence a strategic approach to expanding public access and sets out a series of actions for moving access development forward.

ACTION TEAM CURRENT HAPPENINGS

- In late March, data on 2012 access site development was received. Results indicate that 18 new public access sites were opened to the public in DE, MD, PA, NY and VA. Final data is currently being analyzed and will be used to show progress towards the goal of developing 300 new public access sites by 2025 and provide an update to the inventory of existing public access sites that was developed for the Plan.
- NPS staff continues to work with partners on the development of new public access sites which support the Plan. NPS 2013 Gateways Grant Round had over 20 project submissions in support of public access; key projects could provide access in support of the Plan on the James, Nansemond, Potomac, Susquehanna, and Patuxent Rivers

UPCOMING ACTIONS

- Action Team leadership are developing an agenda for a team meeting to discuss plan implementation strategies, the process for advancing its goals including new potential site identification, and group membership. The team will also look at a process for addressing two key issues that came out of the planning process: urban access concerns and the need for paddle-in primitive campsites along the waterways. This meeting is tentatively being planned for April.

LAND CONSERVATION UPDATE

BACKGROUND

Protected Lands Indicator/Goal

- *The Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, issued under Executive Order 13508, sets a goal of protecting an additional two million acres of lands throughout the watershed currently identified as high conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level, including 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality.

- This goal, set for 2025, expands the scope of previous land conservation tracking efforts to include protected lands throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

A New Approach to Tracking Land Conservation

- The expansion to watershed-wide tracking, advances in geospatial data, and partner commitment to land conservation data sharing through [LandScope Chesapeake](#) created a need for transitioning from tracking protected lands through a tabular data call process to tracking in a GIS environment.
- Unlike pure tabular data, land protection information associated with a GIS database better serves the needs of multiple users and objectives. It allows visualizing protected lands on the landscape and assessing progress relative to various conservation goals, such as high priority forested lands.
- For the 2011/2012 update, USGS staff at Chesapeake Bay Program Office undertook a data collection effort to track protected lands in a geospatial environment. A GIS analysis and reporting tool will be developed and integrated into LandScope Chesapeake, a watershed-wide strategic, publicly accessible land conservation geographic information and priority system, for use in future tracking updates.

Progress Towards the Goal

- As of the end of 2011, 8,013,132 acres of land have been permanently protected throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This constitutes permanent protection of approximately 20% of the land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The included map shows the geographic location of these acres.
- The 2011 data collection effort forms a “working baseline” of geospatial protected lands data from which to measure future watershed-wide land conservation progress. However, this working baseline is anticipated to be revised in the coming two years as state and local protected lands databases are continuously updated to capture previously protected but unreported parcels.

ACTION TEAM CURRENT HAPPENINGS

- Nature Serve, NPS, USGS, and other partners recently completed a LandScope Chesapeake system refresh that updated/added 71 data layers featuring exciting new geographic content. A total of 156 data layers are now available across the Chesapeake region.
- On March 26th, the National Park Service and the Chesapeake Conservancy convened a well received Large Landscape Conservation web meeting to provide partner with information on key news topics and updates on jointly shared collaborative actions that were identified in past work sessions.
- In late March, USGS and Nature Serve staff launched the initial phase of an analysis and reporting tool that has been integrated into LandScope Chesapeake. This innovative tool will allow users to discover how much land has been protected, what types of land have been protected, and the types of agencies that own the land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Additional phases will be rolled out throughout the year to expand the capabilities of the analysis and reporting system.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

- Several outreach opportunities have been planned to encourage use of LandScope Chesapeake
- The next formal reporting relative to watershed-wide land protection goals is proposed for early 2014, reporting parcels protected through December 2013. This provides a roughly two year window from the 2011/2012 effort. The primary rationale for this is to provide sufficient time for land protection partners to implement consistent data standards based on the PAD_US format. However, there are some concerns that two years may be too long of a period between reporting on the status of land conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Accordingly, conversations will be convened to determine the appropriate duration between reporting efforts.

REVISING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM MEANINGFUL WATERSHED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE METRIC

BACKGROUND

History of the MWEE

- CBP has formally supported environmental education since 1998 (Education Directive 98-1). Coordination occurs through the Education Workgroup, which evaluates policies on PK-12 environmental education and ensures inter-state coordination and reporting on the MWEE.
- In 2000, CBP identified the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) as a keystone commitment: “Beginning with the class of 2005, provide a meaningful Bay or stream outdoor experience for every school student in the watershed before graduation from high school.”
- A MWEE is a student learning experience embedded in the curriculum that includes classroom preparation, outdoor learning, and reflection on the outdoor learning experience.
- In the Executive Council’s 2005 Endorsement of the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience, the partnership increased the commitment to provide student MWEEs in each elementary, middle and high school.

Previous MWEE Metric

- The Education Workgroup tracked progress toward the MWEE goal from 2005-2009 by gathering and compiling information from the state departments of education and resource agencies. The goal was reported as a percentage of public school students receiving a MWEE annually. At last count, approximately 81% of elementary, 81% of middle, and 80% of high school students were reported as receiving MWEEs.
- Tracking was discontinued in 2009 in recognition of the inconsistency of the data resulting from non-uniform methods and rigor used by states to gather MWEE numbers. New metrics will replace the previous reporting requirements for the CBP.

Revised Metric

- To inform the metrics, the Education Workgroup agreed to a new goal statement in line with the *Mid Atlantic Environmental Literacy Strategy* and current state efforts: *“Every student in the region graduates environmentally literate having participated in meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle, and high school that were supported by teachers who have received professional development in environmental education and schools that are models of environmental sustainability.”*
- The Education Workgroup is developing a MWEE Program Capacity Assessment Tool to be distributed annually to local education agencies (e.g. school systems). This tool will assess the comprehensiveness of a school system’s environmental literacy program and their ability to implement the program. The results will be used to determine whether the system has a program in place that supports sustained MWEE implementation.
- State Department of Education Science Coordinators from MD, DE, PA, and VA and Education Workgroup members from DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV have all bought into this overarching methodology and have given consent for the further development of the MWEE Program Capacity Assessment Tool.

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTION

- At the 2012 Executive Council meeting, the Governors asked the Principal Staffing Committee to report back to them on three recommendations made by the Citizen’s Advisory Committee:
 - (1) State endorsement of the Mid Atlantic Environmental Literacy Strategy (Status: *At this time, all states have expressed support for the Strategy.*)
 - (2) Development of two-year milestones (Status: *The Workgroup would like to have the Executive Council adopt the new metrics at their next meeting. The development of two-year milestones would follow once a baseline for the new metric is established.*)
 - (3) Adoption of a graduation requirement by every state (Status: *The CBP does not currently have a position on this, however, would anticipate support for a statement that requires or encourages the development of state literacy plans rather than graduation requirement.*)
- In response to the CAC recommendations, the Education Workgroup and CAC intend to request endorsement of the Environmental Literacy Strategy (including the revised education goal and metrics) by the Principal Staff Committee during their May meeting for consideration for this summer’s Executive Council meeting.

GIT 6 – Partnering and Leadership

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

Goals and Governance Issues:

GIT 6 continues to be actively engaged with the development of options for new goals, governance, and a new program agreement. The goal team is currently developing sample agreement styles to address feedback from the February 27th MB meeting and March 7th PSC conference call.

All updated materials will be presented to the Management Board at the April 11th meeting and to the PSC during their April conference call. The PSC is expected to reach a decision on the Style of Agreement and EC Membership during the April conference call. GIT 6 will then further develop the PSC-selected options accordingly for eventual adoption by the program.

Other areas of work for the GIT 6 include ongoing development of adoptive management decision frameworks, and considering options for the independent evaluation function within the program.

Recent Meetings and Events

Feb 21-22	CAC Meeting (Fredricksburg, Va)
Feb 25-26	STAC Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay (Annapolis, Md)
March 4-6	Chesapeake Ag Networking Forum (Staunton, Va.)
March 6-7	Forestry Review (Annapolis, Md)
March 7	PSC Winter Conference Call
March 8	LGAC Meeting (Fredricksburg, Va)
March 12-13	STAC Quarterly Meeting