



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
March 13, 2014**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Mar 13-14 LGAC Quarterly Meeting (Richmond, VA)
Mar 17 Agreement Public comment period ends
Mar 13-14 LGAC meeting (Richmond)
Mar 18-19 STAC Quarterly Meeting (Annapolis)
April 1-2 Modeling Quarterly Review (Annapolis)
April 10 MB conference call
Apr TBD PSC mtg/Retreat

Program Updates

CBP Principals' Staff Committee meeting

On February 28, the Principals Staff Committee met at the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund offices in Annapolis, Md. The PSC resolved a list of governance issues related to the proposed new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The group discussed decision making at the Executive Council, PSC and Management Board levels, as well as by the Goal Implementation Teams. The agenda included a discussion of the Goals and Outcomes of the new agreement, participation in development, adoption and revising the Management Strategies under the new agreement, and the elements to be included in the Management Strategies. The draft Actions/Decisions document from that meeting are attached to the end of this report.

Contact: Greg Barranco (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

Workshop on Stream Functions Pyramid Framework

On March 5, the Chesapeake Bay Program hosted a two-day workshop designed to demonstrate how the Stream Functions Pyramid Framework (SFPF) can be used to determine restoration potential and functional lift for stream restoration projects using the Regenerative Design Technique. The workshop included classroom lectures and group exercises and discussions combined with a field tour of local projects and degraded streams. Workshop participants used the degraded stream sites to develop function-based goals and objectives, determine restoration potential, select the appropriate restoration approach, and predict functional lift.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

2013 Chesapeake Bay Program Report to Congress

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), EPA will soon submit to Congress "The Chesapeake Bay Program 2013." The report is called for from CBP every five years as a requirement of the Clean Water

Act, Section 117(h). The report includes: the status and trends of the Bay ecosystem; the effectiveness of CBP in implementing management strategies; and recommendations for improved management.

According to the report, overall, the Chesapeake Bay remains in poor health. However, as seen by decreasing nutrient and sediment concentrations and improved habitat resiliency, recovery is under way. Progress in improving the health of this treasured natural resource will be realized through the collaborative efforts of the CBP partners, including implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and fulfillment by the Federal Leadership Committee of President Obama's Executive Order 13508 - Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration.

New Insights Report Published

A new report released by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership on February 25, shows that best management practices—including upgrading wastewater treatment plants, lowering vehicle and power plant emissions and reducing runoff from farmland—have lowered nutrients and sediment in local waterways.

New Insights: Science-based evidence of water quality improvements, challenges, and opportunities in the Chesapeake compiles data collected and analyzed by Chesapeake Bay Program partners, including the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). These data show:

- The Clean Water Act is working. Upgrading wastewater treatment technologies has led to cleaner waters and healthier habitats.
- The Clean Air Act is working. Lowering vehicle and power plant emissions has lowered nutrient pollution in some waterways.
- Reducing agricultural runoff is working. Planting cover crops, managing manure and excluding cattle from rivers and streams has improved local water quality across the region.

Draft Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy

The public comment period on USDA's Draft Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy ended February 14. The Strategy is available online at: <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>

This document supports the Chesapeake Executive Order Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which includes an outcome to permanently protect (i.e. through easements, etc.) an additional 2 million acres between 2010-2025, including 695,000 acres of high value forest land. The USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service collaborated with Bay states and other partners to produce this Strategy. The Draft Strategy emphasizes importance of protecting working lands to support environmental, economic, and community goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including water quality goals and the Chesapeake TMDL. It also summarizes opportunities to strengthen working lands protection in the Bay, including recommended actions to advance these goals over the long term.

Advisory Committee Updates:

Citizens Advisory Committee

No new updates at this time.

Local Government Advisory Committee

LGAC's next meeting is being held on March 14, 2014 in Richmond, VA. LGAC will continue to explore the issue of monitoring, with a presentation on Citizen Monitoring by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia DEQ. The agenda also includes a presentation on Chesapeake Bay Indicators by Carin Bisland and Nita Sylvester. Both presentations will be geared towards increasing LGAC members knowledge and understanding so that they may provide better guidance to the Bay Program on these issues. On the afternoon of March 13, LGAC is hosting a tour of Green Infrastructure installations on the Virginia Capital complex for elected officials from municipalities within the Richmond Region Planning District. The tour, which is being led by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, will be followed by a brief networking reception. Anyone interested in attending should contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at 717-475-8390 or mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

LGAC's Pennsylvania Delegation will be serving as advisors and hosts for a series of Local Government Watershed Forums to be held over the next four years throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania. The workshops, which are being coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, are funded in part by Pennsylvania's Growing Greener grant program. Funds are being sought to hold similar forums in other jurisdictions.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2013 on March 18-19, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan on attending this meeting, please send your RSVP to Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

STAC held its last workshop of 2013 in December. The workshop is described in detail below:

- 1) *In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems* - The workshop took place on December 17-18, 2013 at the National Association of Home Builders Headquarters in Washington, DC. The workshop was an open forum to further discuss decentralized systems issues to bring the watershed as a whole into a new era of management. The workshop focused on potential measures addressing state management of existing onsite septic systems and new technologies that may be used in new installations of onsite septic systems. A workshop report will be distributed in a few weeks.

STAC staff and the workshop steering committees are in the process of planning three workshops. The workshops include:

- 1) *The Peculiarities of Perviousness* - The steering committee scheduled this workshop for April 22-23, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. This workshop plans to define, measure, and model the nutrient dynamics from the land cover known as pervious land.
- 2) *Management Effects on Water Quality Trends* - This workshop will take place on March 25-26, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop will investigate connections

between trends in human activities (including management actions in the watershed), watershed loads, and estuarine water quality and living resources.

3) *Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* - The workshop is being planned for early May 2014 at an undetermined location. The objective of this workshop is to create agreement among practitioners, regulators and scientists on a common language and methods for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health to address water quality, climatological impacts, physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.

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

STAC is in the process of finalizing two FY 2012 workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few weeks. Both reports will be distributed in March 2014.

- 1) Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats
- 2) Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay (M3.2)

Finally, STAC distributed a workshop report entitled "Critical Issues in Implementing Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" on March 3, 2014. The report is a product of the May 16, 2013 STAC Nutrient Trading workshop. As always, the report can be found at:

http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/315_Rlbaudo2013.pdf

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 discussed the Invasive Catfish Task Force's management recommendations on the February 24th Executive Committee call. Representatives from PFBC, DNREC, and VA DGIF also joined the call to round out the Bay jurisdictions where invasive catfish are present. Jurisdictions provided generally positive feedback on all the recommendations and will establish points of contact within their agencies to flesh out the recommendations further.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force is finalizing their report to send to STAC for peer review.

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee staff are drafting a charter to better define the roles and responsibilities of CBSAC and its members. CBSAC is also gearing up for the 2014 Blue Crab Advisory Report and reviewing a proposal for a limited reopening of the blue crab winter dredge fishery in Virginia.

The Fisheries GIT and Tom Ihde (STAC member) submitted a proposal for a STAC-funded workshop with working title "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities". This effort is being led by a workshop Steering Committee comprised of both Fisheries GIT members and experts from the Bay region. STAC will review the proposal at their March quarterly meeting.

The Fisheries GIT and CBP staff are planning the April 10th Management Board meeting at Smallwood State Park to coincide with an invasive catfish outreach event hosted by MD DNR.

The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will have their next monthly conference call on Monday, March 24th.

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.

No new updates at this time.

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.

- WQGIT members approved the Urban Stormwater Workgroup's Homeowner BMP Crediting Memo on 2/10, which outlines the recommended protocol to get nutrient reduction credit in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model for the installation of verifiable homeowner BMPs.
- WQGIT has developed and is currently reviewing an interim governance document to guide the team's decision making processes until a Partnership-wide policy is in place.
- WQGIT and its workgroups are developing a detailed schedule of activities leading up the Midpoint Assessment in 2017.
- In the coming months the WQGIT will be reviewing BMP panel reports from the Urban, Agricultural, Wastewater and Forestry sector workgroups.
- The BMP Verification Review Panel and the BMP Verification Committee will hold a joint meeting on 4/2 to systematically review the latest version of the full verification framework.

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.

Renee Thompson joined the leadership of the Healthy Watershed team as Coordinator. Renee is a Geographer with the U.S. Geological Survey at the Bay Program Office. She holds a B.S. degree from University of Hawaii at Manoa in Global Environmental Science and a Master's degree at the University of Maryland in Urban Studies and Planning with a focus on land use and the environment.

At the Healthy Watershed team's last face-to-face meeting in December, members agreed that our focus as a team for the coming year would be:

- engaging with local governments, land trusts, and other local stakeholders
- developing a method to track and report watershed health and protection

To address the above priorities, the team has formed two groups: a Local Engagement Workgroup and a Tracking Ad Hoc group. Membership is currently being developed for the two groups, and the groups will meet for the first time in the near future. To help guide their work, GIT4 leaders and select members have developed 1-page vision documents for each group.

Team members from EPA, Maryland, USFWS, and TNC will be presenting healthy watersheds concepts and strategies at the upcoming Maryland Land Conservation Conference on April 3rd and 4th.

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:

- The 2013 data call has been completed and a total of 36 new public access sites were added in 2013. Currently 23% of the goal to open 300 new sites by 2025 has been reached.
- Potential access sites have been approved by the states and are now being assembled and mapped.

Landscape:

- A proposal for a landscape session at the Restore America Estuaries conference this Fall was submitted. This session will demo the system and provide attendees with the information on how they can use existing LandScope Chesapeake capabilities to identify priority geographic locations for collaborative conservation.
- Landscape Chesapeake website is preparing for an architectural change. This architecture change will streamline the data publishing workflow, scale up content by accessing already published by federal, state, and NGO partners, make the map viewer compatible with mobile browsers, interoperability with cloud-based platforms, a redesign of the map viewer to make key usability improvements.
- The Healthy Watersheds Data layer generated by the Healthy Watersheds Goal Team will be incorporated into the Landscape data layers.

Conserved Lands:

- Conserved lands data from each jurisdiction have been received. Staff is currently assembling GIT layers from the data provided by each state.

Environmental Literacy:

- The Workgroup is preparing to Beta test the MWEE Tracking Tool in school districts across the watershed.
- Bay Backpack teacher resource website is undergoing a build-out that will reorganize teacher resources and provide more background info on bay issues and topics.

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.

The Goal Team has been developing options for Management Board consideration of an ongoing program evaluation function within the Chesapeake Bay Program. A sub-workgroup of GIT6 is currently developing options for an outline for the ongoing evaluation function including making a distinction between Program Performance Assessment and Program Evaluation. A briefing to the MB on this work is expected Spring 2014.

In addition Goal Team members are involved in the re-design of the ChesapeakeStat website. Activities include gathering extensive input from potential ChesapeakeStat users to define the target audience and the needs of the target audience. The redesign effort will be ongoing through 2014.

Recent Meetings and Events

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|-----------|-------------------------------|
| March 3 | Report to Congress final |
| Feb 27-28 | CAC meeting (Baltimore) |
| Feb 25 | UMCES Insights Report release |
| Feb 4 | GIT 6 Meeting |

Principals' Staff Committee Meeting

February 28, 2014

Actions and Decisions

Decision 1: Decision-making

- *Issue 1: Decision-making at the EC, PSC, and MB should be done by signatory representatives through: (a) consensus, (b) mainly consensus, but if consensus cannot be reached, supermajority, (c) supermajority*

Issue Decision: Decision-making at the Executive Council, Principals' Staff Committee, and Management Board will be done by signatory representatives through consensus. If, after substantial discussions consensus cannot be reached, a supermajority vote will be utilized.

- *Issue 2: Decision-making for GITs should be done by (a) all members, or (b) signatories participating in management strategies through (a) consensus, (b) mainly consensus, but if consensus cannot be reached, supermajority, (c) supermajority*

Issue Decision: Decision-making for Goal Implementation Teams on Management Strategies will be done by members participating in Management Strategies through consensus. If after substantial negotiations consensus cannot be reached a super majority vote will be utilized (7-2)., or, only as a last resort if consensus cannot be reached, by supermajority vote.

Decision 2: Goals and Outcomes in the 2014 Agreement

- *Issue 1: Who approves revised or added goals? (a) PSC, (b) EC*

Issue Decision: The Executive Council makes the decision to approve revised or added goals.

- *Issue 2: Who approves revised or added outcomes? (a) PSC, (b) EC*

Issue Decision: The Principals' Staff Committee approves of revised or additions to outcomes.

Decision: Develop a predictable and transparent process to ensure that changes to any part of the Agreement are well publicized and receive public input.

Decision 3: Participation in Management Strategies

- *Issue 1: Is participation in management strategies made unilaterally by the signatories? (i.e. Does each signatory, partner, and interested stakeholder decide which Management Strategies they participate in and how they participate.)*

Issue Decision: The decision to participate in each Management Strategy is made unilaterally by each signatory.

- *Issue 2: What is the process for engaging and including interested stakeholders in the GITs while they are developing the management strategies?*

Issue Decision: The Communications Workgroup will develop a basic framework to assure that stakeholders who are interested in the Goal Implementation Teams' Management Strategy development remain informed throughout the process, and will offer suggestions for future outreach plans hosted by a third party, similar to what the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay had done in the past. Recommendations will be provided at the April Principals' Staff Committee meeting.

- *Issue 3: Does a signatory have to identify which management strategies they are NOT participating in?*

Issue Decision: We will identify participating jurisdictions in each management strategy.

Decision 4: Adoption of Management Strategies

- *Issue 1: Who formally accepts Management Strategies as complete, (a) GITs, (b) MB or (c) PSC d) MB subject to PSC ratification?*

Issue Decision: The Management Board will formally accept the Management Strategies as complete, subject to Principals' Staff Committee ratification.

Discussion 5: Revising Management Strategies

- *Issue 1: Who accepts revisions to management strategies (including addition of new strategies)? (a) GITs, (b) MB, (c) PSC, or (d) MB with PSC ratification?*

Issue Decision: The Management Board will formally accept revisions and additions to the Management Strategies, subject to Principals' Staff Committee ratification.

- *Issue 2: How frequently should Management Strategies be revised or reviewed? (a) Every two years, (c) as determined by the GITs?*

Issue Decision: Management Strategies should be reviewed at a minimum of once every year. [Duplicative of Decision 7]

Decision 6: Management Strategy Elements

- *Issue 1: Should there be a format/template for management strategies?*

Issue Decision: Goal Implementation Teams will be provided with a basic format for Management Strategies, which will be flexible to allow for GIT-specific modifications as appropriate.

- *Issue 2: Does the format/template need to be agreed to prior to signing the Agreement?*

Issue Decision: There was a general consensus that it would be beneficial for the template to be finalized prior to signing the Agreement, but the Agreement process should not be held up if the format has not been resolved. A draft template will be presented at the April Principals' Staff Committee retreat.

Decision 7: Management Reviews

- *Issue 1: Who has the role of tracking performance of management strategies? (a) GITs, (b) MB, (c) PSC*

Issue Decision: The Management Board will track the implementation of Management Strategies and the environmental response from these implementation efforts.

- *Issue 2: How frequently should these reviews occur?*

Issue Decision: Management Strategy reviews to ensure that actions are being implemented and are staying on track should occur every year, or more frequently as needed (performance review). Frequency of review of the expected responses of the environment should be included in the Management Strategies and should be based on adaptive management principles associated with best information on when an environmental result is expected.

Decision 8: Distribution to EPA funding under Section 117 CBIG/CBRAP

- *Issue 1: How is the partnership involved with this decision? (Reminder: It is EPA's legal responsibility to make decisions on Section 117 funding; EPA typically reaches out to the signatories concerning distribution of these funds.)*

Issue Decision: The Chesapeake Bay Program Office staff will explore the question of partner involvement in budget and funding issues, including the idea for an annual conference in the spring to discuss progress and funding priorities of all partners, and will provide recommendations at the April Principals' Staff Committee meeting.

Decision 9: Participation at the Executive Council Meeting

- *Issue 1: Is there an expectation or commitment by all signatories to attend EC meetings? (i.e. Who is expected to attend the EC meeting – the principals, or the principals' appointees?)*

Issue Decision: There is an expectation and commitment by all signatories to have their principals try to attend Executive Council meetings. If not the Principal, then the highest possible appointee should attend in his or her place.

- *Issue 2: Are there different expectations or protocols for participating in the EC meeting press conference with an expanded membership? (i.e., are there different rules for speaking, different rules of participation?)*

Issue Decision: If an individual attends with the purpose of representing his or her jurisdiction, he or she is expected/permitted to speak. However, all signatories should try to send their highest ranking person possible.

Decision 10: Governance Document

- *Issue 1: What is the development process for a new governance document? (a) GIT 6 updates current governance document based on PSC decisions, MB approves, (b) PSC approves*

Issue Decision: A brand new governance document will be developed, which the Principals' Staff Committee will approve.

- *Issue 2: What is the schedule for completing the document? (a) To be completed prior to signing Agreement, (b) Completed within 6 months of signing of Agreement*

Issue Decision: The Partnering Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6) will craft decisions from the February 28, 2014 Principals' Staff Committee meeting into a 5-10 page conceptual draft for review and approval by the Principals' Staff Committee before signing the agreement if possible.

- *Issue 3: How should the governance document be addressed in the Agreement (i.e. are there specific items that need to be mentioned?)*

Issue Decision: The governance document does not need to be addressed in the Agreement.

- *Issue 4: What is the process in the meantime? (e.g. WQ GIT is now developing their own governance document, applicable only to the WQ GIT.)*

Issue Decision: Decisions made at the February 28, 2014 Principals' Staff Committee meeting will govern how the Chesapeake Bay Program operates in the meantime.

Action: Actions and decisions from the February 28, 2014 Principals' Staff Committee meeting will be distributed for member review by Wednesday, March 6th. Members should submit revisions by Tuesday March 11th. Final decisions will be circulated the week of March 10, 2014.

Update on Public Review Period And Timeline

Action: Distribute the Issues Resolution Committee roster to Principals' Staff Committee members.

Action: Send out date options for 2-day Principals' Staff Committee comment consideration retreat.

Action: Post jurisdiction listening session dates on chesapeakebay.net.