

Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board Conference Call July 10, 2014

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Aug 14	Management Board conference call
Aug. 21-22	CAC Quarterly Meeting (Harrisburg, PA)
Sept. 9-10	STAC Quarterly Meeting (Annapolis, MD)
Sep 11	Management Board meeting (Annapolis, MD)
Sept. 25-26	LGAC Quarterly Meeting (Shepherdstown, WV)
Sep 26-28	Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, WV)
Oct 9	Management Board conference call

Program Updates

Chesapeake Bay TMDL Milestone evaluations

On June 26, EPA Region 3 released its evaluations of the Bay jurisdictions' 2012-2013 Progress and 2014-2015 Milestones. Collectively, the partners are on track to meet the phosphorous and sediment reduction commitments outlined in the Bay TMDL; however, further reductions in nitrogen are needed if partners are to meet all of their upcoming pollution-reducing goals. The full evaluations are posted on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL website: http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/ Contact: Katherine Antos, (410) 295-1358, antos.katherine@epa.gov

Goal Team Chairs Meeting

The CBP Goal Implementation Chairs held a full-day meeting on July 8 at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Wye Island Lodge on Maryland's Easter Shore. The GIT Chairs had a full day of discussions focusing on next steps following the signing of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement including: development of management strategies, jurisdictions' commitment to management strategies, revised elements of management strategies, GIT champions for "orphaned" outcomes, outreach to interested parties and stakeholders and other governance issues.

Contact: Carin Bisland, (410) 267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Executive Council meeting and signing of new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

On June 16, the Chesapeake Executive Council signed the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, recommitting Chesapeake Bay Program partners to restoring, conserving and protecting the Bay, its tributaries and the lands around them. Governors Martin O'Malley (Md.), Jack Markell (Del.), Tom Corbett (Pa.), and Terry McAuliffe (Va.), Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, EPA Administrator McCarthy and Chesapeake Bay Commission Chair Ron Miller (Pa.) were on hand to sign the agreement at the EC's annual meeting. Governors Earl Ray Tomblin (W.V.) and Andrew Cuomo (N.Y.) have also now

sign the agreement. The new Agreement adds the headwater states of New York, West Virginia and Delaware as full signatories to the Agreement. The final document is available at: www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement.

Contact: Carin Bisland, (410) 267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Climate Change Roundtable

On June 20, CBPO Director Nick DiPasquale joined a diverse group of more than two dozen public officials and environmental advocates for a roundtable discussion on climate change convened by Senator Ben Cardin at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, Md. The group shared their thoughts on climate change impacts and possible ways to spur public action with the Senator, while Cardin provided an overview of current proposals in Congress, including riders that would strip EPA of authorities to regulate carbon emissions. The Baltimore Sun published a summary of the days' events. http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-06-20/news/bs-md-ci-cardin-climate-change-20140620 1 climate-changeenvironmental-issues-roundtable

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

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

LGAC held a quarterly meeting in south-central Pennsylvania in early June 2014. Main agenda items were Monitoring and BMP Verification. After spending the last seven months exploring various monitoring programs, LGAC is considering developing recommendations for each of the jurisdictions to expand citizen monitoring in support of local watershed protection and restoration programs. Other major activities over the last few months included submitting comments on the BMP Verification Framework and hosting a tour for local elected officials of watershed protection and restoration programs in south-central Pennsylvania. LGAC also submitted its recommendations to the CBP Director regarding headwaters states representation on LGAC. Plans are being laid for a pre-Forum workshop to be held in September in conjunction with LGAC's quarterly meeting and the Alliance's annual Watershed Forum. Anyone interested in receiving information about LGAC meetings or events should notify LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

At the last CAC meeting in May, the Committee created subcommittees that will align with many of the Agreement goals. The subcommittees are Verification, Stormwater, Agriculture, Emerging Issues which includes Climate Change, Natural Landscapes Conservation, and Stewardship. CAC will meet on August 21-22 in Harrisburg, PA.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY 2014 on September 9-10, 2014 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 recently held two workshops in the Spring of 2014. The workshops are described in detail below:

- 1) The Peculiarities of Perviousness This workshop took place on April 22-23, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The main goal of the 2-day workshop was to define, measure, and model the nutrient dynamics from the land cover known as pervious land. The objective of this workshop was to characterize the key source areas and pervious cover types that generate nutrients and sediments, and/or reduce runoff in the urban landscape and determine whether it is feasible to utilize them in Phase 6 of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (CBWM). The steering committee is in the process of drafting the workshop report, which is scheduled to be distributed in the coming months. Presentations can be viewed at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=230.
- 2) Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed The workshop took place on May 6-7, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The objective of this workshop was 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. The steering committee is in the process of drafting the workshop report, and is scheduled to be distributed in the coming months. Presentations can be viewed at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=232.

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

Additionally, STAC is in the beginning planning stages of its five FY 2014 workshops. Those five workshops are listed below.

- 1) Exploring Applications of Behavioral Economics Research to Environmental Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- 2) Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Watershed: Improving roadside ditch management to meet TMDL water quality goals.
- Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decisionmaking.
- 4) Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities.
- 5) Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?

STAC is in the process of finalizing three activity reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few weeks.

- 1) A Review of Agricultural P-dynamics in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
- 2) In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems

3) Management Effects on Water Quality Trends

Finally, STAC distributed a workshop report and factsheet entitled "Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay" on July 7, 2014. The report is a product of the February 25-26, 2013 STAC Multiple Models for Management (M3.2) workshop. As always, the report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/324_Weller2014.pdf. The factsheet can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/325 Weller2014.pdf.

STAC recently approved two review requests from the Partnership. Those reviews and deadlines are below:

- 1) Final Report of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Invasive Catfish Task Force The final review report is due from STAC on October 31, 2014.
- 2) Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment Report The final review report is due from STAC on August 23, 2014.

Goal Implementation Team and STAR and Communication Workgroup 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 full Sustainable Fisheries GIT met June 4-5, 2014 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA. The team discussed major topics including striped bass health, the upcoming STAC Forage Workshop, climate change impacts on fisheries, blue crab winter dredge survey results, and natural mortality of blue crabs. The meeting summary outlines specific actions and takeaways from the meeting that will help guide the work of the Fisheries GIT in the immediate future. The meeting summary and all presentations can be found here.
- The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) has released the final 2014 Chesapeake
 Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report and accompanying figures. The report describes the current status of the blue crab stock, provides short- and long-term management advice, and identifies critical data and analysis needs. According to the report, "the Chesapeake Bay blue crab stock is currently below the abundance threshold of 70 million age 1+ female crabs outlined in the current management framework. The stock is depleted but overfishing is not occurring."
- The Fisheries GIT's STAC workshop titled "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data
 and Research Priorities" is scheduled for November 12-13, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in
 Solomons, MD. Tom Ihde (STAC member) and Ed Houde (Chesapeake Biological Lab) are co-chairing
 this workshop. The workshop Steering Committee has been holding regular conference calls to plan
 the workshop.
- The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will have their next monthly conference call on Monday, July 21st.

Contact: Bruce Vogt, bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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 next Habitat GIT meeting is being planned for October 2014 in Pennsylvania.

Streams

• A STAC workshop, "Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed," was held in May and was chaired by Bill Stack (Center for Watershed Protection) and Rich Starr (US Fish and Wildlife Service). The objective of the workshop was to create agreement among practitioners, regulators and scientists on a common language and assessment 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. The Workshop invited about 60 experts in Bay states that included state, fed, NGO, researchers, and consultants. At the workshop, a straw man was presented on what process the group thought could work and serve as starting point to have more common type of process and language when planning stream restoration projects. The workshop report is currently being prepared and will be shared when finalized.

Brook Trout

- The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative is partnering with contractor Downstream Strategies, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office to develop a pilot model for brook trout habitat prioritization in the Chesapeake watershed. The goal of the project is to assess habitat for specific biological endpoints in a consistent framework that can be applied at various scales. Models will be available for testing during late summer 2014, and as an online decision support tool for field application by spring 2015. Multiple stakeholder groups will apply a modeling and buy-in process to the specific case study of brook trout in headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay, including portions of West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. Currently, the Downstream Strategies team led by Todd Petty (WVU) has completed an initial model for review with preliminary model results. The Habitat GIT is arranging a webinar presentation to learn about the preliminary model results and next steps of the process.
- A presentation proposal about the Pilot Brook Trout Habitat Prioritization model for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed was accepted for the Restore American Estuaries (RAE) Summit, November 1-6, 2014 at National Harbor outside of Washington, DC.

Wetlands

- The Habitat GIT's Wetland Workgroup has newly appointed co-chairs; Amy Jacobs, TNC and Erin McLaughlin, MDNR.
- The Wetland Expert Panel is underway and being coordinated by Neely Law, CWP.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer greiner@fws.gov

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.

- On April 14th the WQGIT approved the nomination of James Davis-Martin to serve as Vice-Chair to the WQGIT.
- In June, the WQGIT finalized governance protocols for the goal team and its workgroups.
- The WQGIT recently approved the Erosion and Sediment Control and the Urban Filter Strips BMP Expert Panel reports.
- Upcoming BMP panel reports for WQGIT review include On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Riparian Buffers.
- The WQGIT will be discussing public access and transparency of BMP Expert Panels on July 14th.
- In early fall the WQGIT will be approving the Phase 6.0 land use classifications proposed by the Land Use Workgroup.
- A face to face WQGIT meeting will be held in October 2014 to review progress towards the Chesapeake Bay TMDL's 2017 Midpoint Assessment.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

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.

- The GIT's Tracking Workgroup had its first conference call on May 27th to discuss the workgroup's purpose, framework, and future direction.
 For a link to the conference call minutes:
 http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21776/tracking_workgroup_052714 conf_call_minutes final.pdf
- The GIT met on June 12th, 2014 at the State Arboretum of Virginia on the University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm. At this meeting:
 - Members heard reports from the GIT's Tracking Workgroup and Local Engagement
 Workgroup, and discussed the workgroups' guiding principles, recommendations, questions, and next steps.
 - Alison Teetor, Clarke County Natural Resource Planner, gave a presentation on maintaining healthy watersheds in Clarke County. Her presentation included an overview of Clarke County's demographics, planning and zoning policies, land conservation efforts, and work related to water quality improvements.
 - Members discussed management strategies, as well as cross-GIT collaboration opportunities. To kick-off the cross-GIT collaboration conversation, the Coordinators of the Protect and Restore Vital Habitats and Foster Chesapeake Stewardship GITs spoke about the Habitat and Stewardship goals and outcomes in the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
 - In light of EPA's additional funding to support projects that support the GITs' work, GIT members were given the opportunity to provide input on potential GIT funding ideas.

- For a link to the GIT meeting minutes:
 http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21726/maintain_healthy_watersheds_git_ju_ne_2014_meeting_notes.pdf
- GIT leaders are currently preparing for the next Local Engagement and Tracking Workgroups' conference calls.
- GIT leaders and select members are organizing 2014 Watershed Forum Conference session(s) related to healthy watersheds.
- Healthy watersheds GIT has been collaborating with other GITs to develop coordinated proposals
 for potential EPA funding that would advance the development of management strategies to
 support multiple goals in the Bay Agreement.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, Phillips.tuana@epa.gov

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.

Environmental Literacy

- The Workgroup is Beta testing the MWEE Tracking Tool in school districts across the watershed. And should complete testing by August.
- This fall the Workgroup will be editing the MWEE definition.

Contact Amy Handen, ahanden@chesapeakebay.net.

Chesapeake Large Landscape Conservation Partnership

Steering Committee: The committee met for the first time on April 24th and clarified key tasks to accomplish over the next six months: develop a vision, mission, and goals for the Partnership, develop a common story, actively participate in the National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation, facilitate a communications strategy, and, support LWCF funding for the Rivers of the Chesapeake. The steering committee will report back to Partnership participants in coming newsletters and at the next regularly scheduled annual meeting. For more information on the steering committee, contact Suzanne Copping.

<u>Public Access:</u> The team evaluated nineteen project proposals submitted to one source of public access development funding -- the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office for Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Trails financial assistance awards. NPS anticipates making 8 to 10 awards will be made by late summer to state, and local agencies or non-governmental organizations advancing public access projects. Awarded projects will contribute to the goal of 300 additional public access sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by 2025. For more information, contact John Davy at john_davy@nps.gov.
LandScope Chesapeake & Land Conservation Progress:: Landscope Chesapeake is preparing a major website infrastructure update that will launch later this summer. NatureServe and partners have been promoting Landscope Chesapeake at regional conferences, such as the Maryland Environmental Trust

Conference, Spotlight on National Park Resources in the National Capital Region, and the Virginia Land Conservation Conference. Other outreach events are scheduled through the fall.

Landscope Chesapeake partners are also working to add to the over 170 existing datasets of conservation priorities, land protection and related information already displayed. If you are interested in ensuring your priorities and information are reflected in Landscope Chesapeake, please contact Julie Walker.

Renee Thompson of USGS is compiling the latest comprehensive update on protected lands in the Chesapeake watershed. The new dataset will be current as of the end of 2013, and will include updated land protection data from all six watershed states.

The dataset is expected to be completed in late July and will be available through Landscope as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

For more information, please contact Renee Thompson at rthompso@chesapeakebay.net.

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.

Governance Document:

GIT 6 has spent the past several weeks drafting a new Governance Document to reflect the current status of the program now that the *Agreement* has been signed. Comments were received from GITs 1, 2, 6, LGAC, STAC, CAC, STAR, and the Communications Workgroup. On July 3, the most recent draft of the document was sent to the Management Board for review. There were several items that GIT 6 did not come to resolution on, and GIT 6 is requesting Management Board input. The new Governance Document is expected to be final by the next PSC meeting on July 16.

GIT Funding:

GIT 6 collected FY 2014 funding proposals and compiled them for review by the GIT Chairs on June 16. Chairs were encouraged to rank their proposals in a priority order and a work session for the Goal Team Chairs to continue the collaborative process leading to a recommendation to EPA for funding of GIT projects will be scheduled.

ChesapeakeStat:

The Chesapeake*Stat* core group worked with the contractor (LMD) to develop a general framework (information architecture) to guide the site redesign. The framework provides cohesion to the multiple aspects of our work (i.e., to track our progress achieving the Bay Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes, and supporting decisions through adaptive management) and reflects the targeted audience needs identified through LMD-conducted interviews and discussion groups. Next steps include: developing a content strategy and continuing to evaluate existing data and information to update the site.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

The Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting (STAR) Team has revised the purpose and function of STAR in order to support the needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program under the new Bay Agreement. Over the past several years, STAR had a heavy emphasis on water-quality activities as the partners implemented the Bay TMDL. STAR was not able to fully carry out its revised purpose (prepared in 2011 and approved by Management Board) to "facilitate with science partners to have increased capacity to serve the priority science needs of the GITs, using an adaptive-management framework, and summarize key information for the CBP partners. STAR will help coordinate the modeling, monitoring, indicator, and information management activities needed by the GITs and work with CBP science partners to synthesize information for cross-cutting CBP products (such as the Bay Barometer)" To address the needs of the new Bay Agreement, STAR will collaborate with the Management Board and CBP partners to implement the new purpose and functions.

Proposed Revision of Purpose and Functions for STAR

<u>Purpose</u>: Coordinate monitoring, modeling, and analysis needed to update, explain, and communicate ecosystem condition and change to support decision making to achieve CBP goals and outcomes. The major functions would include:

- Manage CBP-funded monitoring networks and coordinate with additional science providers to utilize additional networks to address the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.
- Ensure information quality, management, and access.
- Update, and deliver, the status and trends (indicators) of ecosystem conditions.
- Explain ecosystem condition and change.
- Expand modeling to better understand and predict ecosystem response.
- Coordinate climate change activities.
- Synthesize and communicate results to improve decision making.

Much of the technical expertise to address these functions already exists within the Goal Teams and with science providers (federal, state, and academic partners) involved in the CBP. The STAR Team would facilitate collaboration between science providers and Goal Team to carry out these functions. The collaboration is critical to effectively address the complex issues being addressed by the CBP and the science needs of the new Bay Agreement. The STAR can also advocate support of the CBP Office to provide data to address issues that benefit multiple Goal Teams. The products from many of these STAR efforts (such as explaining ecosystem change or synthesis products) would be "owned" by the science providers. STAR would help to promote the products to decision makers. Finally, STAR has a distinct relationship with STAC. STAC provides independent review and recommendations to the CBP to enhance science (monitoring, modeling, and research). STAR works with science providers and Goal Teams to implement the STAC recommendations.

<u>Contact: Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net</u>

Communication Workgroup

The next Communications Workgroup meeting will be held on July 10, and will include a presentation from Rich Batiuk on BMP Verification.

July Editorial Calendar

06.30 (Mon.): Letter from Leadership: <u>Ten ways the Watershed Agreement will improve life in the</u> Chesapeake region

06.30 (Mon.): Blog Post: Intersex fish found in three Pennsylvania river basins

07.01 (Tues.): Critter of the Month: Green Treefrog

07.01 (Tues.): Chesapeake Currents

07.02 (Wed.): Blog Post: Experts recommend 'risk-averse' approach to managing depleted blue crab

stock

07.11 (Fri.): Blog Post: Linking watermen and chefs

07.14 (Mon.): Photo Essay: Artificial reefs slow erosion, build habitat on Chester River

07.17 (Thurs.): List: Boats of the Chesapeake Bay

07.23 (Wed.): How To Pick a Crab

07.28 (Mon.): Quiz: What kind of crab picker are you? Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

June 17-18	STAC Quarterly Meeting
June 16	Executive Council Meeting & Watershed Agreement Signing
June 12	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
June 9	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
June 5-6	LGAC Quarterly Meeting
May 21	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
May 15-16	CAC Quarterly Meeting
May 6	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
April 29	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
April 13-14	Principals' Staff Committee Retreat
April 10	Management Board Meeting