



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board 2-Day Retreat
January 15 & 16, 2015**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Jan 22 TMDL/WIP Managers' retreat
Jan 26(tent) Bay Barometer release
Jan 27 GIT Chairs Meeting
Jan 28-29 Modeling Quarterly Review
Feb 7 Chesapeake Bay Bowl (Fairfax, Va.)
Feb 12 Management Board Conference all
Feb 25 PSC meeting (TBD, Virginia)
Feb (TBD) EO Progress Report release
Mar 1 NY/PA/VA Animal Ag Program Assessments
Mar 16 CBWA Management Strategies out for public comment
Mar 31-Apr 2 Environment Virginia Symposium (Lexington, Va.)
Apr 7-9 Chesapeake Stormwater Partners Retreat (Shepherdstown, W.V.)

Program Updates

Orientation for New PSC Chair

On January 7, EPA Senior Advisor the Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay Jeff Corbin , CBP Director Nick DiPasquale, Deputy Director Jim Edward, Acting Maryland DNR Secretary Frank Dawson and other CBP staff gave an orientation to Molly Ward, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and new chair for the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC). The orientation included an over view of the partnership organizational structure, governance of the partnership, Executive Council and PSC governance, as well as significance of Executive Order 13508, the new 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the ongoing development of the Management Strategies.

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

Water Quality Standards Achievement indicator release

The CBP partnership will release the 2011-2013 data for the Water Quality Standards Achievement and hold a media call with officials from USGS who compiled the data the week of January 19. As with all partnership indicator data, the WQSA findings will be posted to the partnership website (www.chesapeakebay.net), along with a partnership news post detailing the findings. This indicator measures progress towards the achievement of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/underwater bay grasses and chlorophyll-*a* for each 3-year assessment period beginning in 1985. The data shows a positive trend in the long term, however the short term shows a slight decrease from 39.93% in the previous period (2010-2012) to 28.93% of the Bay's tidal segments in attainment, due primarily to losses in bay grasses following severe weather events during the most recent 3-year period. This is the lowest value in the last 21 years. The non-tidal data is still being interpreted – findings are mixed, with some monitoring sites showing increases and others showing declines and still others showing no significant change, both in the long-term and the short-term trends.

Contact: Peter Tango, (410) 267-9875, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

Chesapeake Bay Foundation reports minimal changes in overall Bay health

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation once again gave the Chesapeake Bay a “D+” grade in its biennial *State of the Bay* report, with improvements in water quality offset by declines in fisheries. This grade remains the same from the nonprofit’s 2012 report. The score of 32 on a one-to-100 scale marks an improvement of one point since 2010 and of four points since 2008 but remains well short of the Foundation’s goal of 70, representing an “A+” or a “saved Bay.”

According to the report, four of the 13 indicators of Bay health showed signs of recovery: dissolved oxygen, water clarity, oyster populations and underwater grass abundance. Of those, dissolved oxygen showed the greatest improvement, with this year’s “dead zone” - an area of little to no dissolved oxygen where aquatic life is unable to thrive - the smallest it has been in thirty years. But these advances were offset by declines blue crab and striped bass populations, as well as increases in phosphorous pollution. CBF attributes improvements in water quality to the bay TMDL.

For more information: <http://www.cbf.org/>

Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting

On January 8, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay Jeff Corbin attended the Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting in Annapolis. CBPO Associate Director for Science, Analysis and Implementation Rich Batiuk gave a briefing titled “2017 Water Quality Outlook: Part II” along with Kim Coble, Chesapeake Bay Foundation Vice President for Environmental Protection and Restoration. As the name suggests, the briefing built on a discussion that began at the group’s previous meeting in November in Williamsport, Pa. The group also held a lightning round discussion on ongoing legislation, discussed stream exclusion, verification of practices, and elected its officers for 2015. The Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) is a tri-state legislative commission created in 1980 to advise the members of the General Assemblies of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania on matters of Bay-wide concern.

Contact: Rich Batiuk (410) 267-5731, batiuk.richard@epa.gov

LSRWA Public Comment Period

On January 9, the public comment period closed on the draft Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment, published by a team led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The draft report was posted online and officially released November 12. USACE will now review the comments along with those received during a public forum in December, make any amendments to the report deemed necessary, with the final report expected to be published in March. The report examines the effect the Conowingo Dam has on water quality in the Bay and its tributaries, how the pollutants associated with the dam reservoir impact restoration efforts, the effects of dynamic equilibrium, among other issues. The findings also indicate that managing sediment through dredging, bypassing or dam operational changes does not effectively offset the impacts from the loss of trapping capacity. CBPO Associate Director for Science, Analysis and Implementation Rich Batiuk took part development of the report.

Contact: Rich Batiuk (410) 267-5731, batiuk.richard@epa.gov

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

LGAC held their last quarterly meeting on December 4-5, 2014 in Easton, MD. Please contact LGAC Coordinator Mary Gattis for information.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.

The Citizens Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting of 2015 with its new CAC Chair, Charlie Stek on February 19-20 in Staunton, VA. Among the topics of interest are agriculture, monitoring and updates on the Management Strategies for Stewardship and Diversity.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2014 on March 10-11, 2015 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan to attend this meeting, please send an RSVP to Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

STAC held a workshop entitled "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities" on November 12-13, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, Maryland. The workshop goals were to identify (1) forage groups of the Chesapeake Bay that are critical to assess for fisheries management; (2) existing data for these groups; (3) data gaps; and (4) strategies to improve the quantification of the forage base of this system. These strategies will both provide guidance in understanding and using current forage data, and allow for future integration of new research findings and enhanced approaches. The workshop steering committee is currently drafting a workshop report that will be distributed in early February 2015.

STAC and STAR held a workshop at the CBP Fish Shack on December 8, 2014 entitled "Innovative Monitoring Approaches." The workshop focused on the first two elements of the BASINs report to develop recommendations on (1) innovative applications of new or existing technology, and (2) monitoring network design, while also considering the definition of 'attainment' and leveraging the existing and future networks through "hypothesis driven monitoring" design. The STAC Innovative Monitoring Approaches workshop considered the following questions: (1) How can more recent technologies (e.g. fixed continuous monitoring, AUV's, vertical water quality profilers) be better utilized to assess water quality standards attainment of the suite of Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria; (2) Are there monitoring network designs that have, for example, fewer stations that could be sampled more frequently and linked with "intelligent interpolation" to improve water quality standards attainment assessments; and (3) What approaches could be used to foster greater monitoring efficiencies to improve the information acquired and improved certainty in estimates of attainment relative to the cost of the sampling effort?

STAC is currently planning two workshops that will take place before May 31, 2015. The workshops are listed below.

- 1) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.
- 2) Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit that STAC workshop webpage at http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

STAC is in the process of finalizing seven workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few months.

- 1) Management Effects on Water Quality Trends.
- 2) The Peculiarities of Pervious Cover: A Research Synthesis on Allocating Pollutant Loads to Urban Land Use in the Chesapeake Bay.
- 3) Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects in the Chesapeake Bay.
- 4) Exploring Applications of Behavioral Economics Research to Environmental Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- 5) Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals.
- 6) Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities.
- 7) Innovative Monitoring Approaches.

Finally, STAC distributed a workshop report entitled "In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems" on November 24, 2014. The goal of the workshop was to report on new technologies and alternative strategies available for the Chesapeake Bay states to address nutrient reductions from onsite septic systems in order to meet load allocations in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. As always, the report can be found on the STAC publications database at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/331_Rountree2014.pdf.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

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 Fisheries GIT met on December 2-3rd, 2014 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for their biannual meeting. The meeting featured breakout groups for the new fisheries management strategies, as well as discussion on oyster restoration updates for both Maryland and Virginia. The meeting also featured a panel of catfish watermen followed by discussion of the STAC review of the Invasive Catfish Task Force's report. The meeting materials and summary can be found [here](#).
- STAC released their review of the Invasive Catfish Task Force's report. The Task Force will consider STAC's comments and other timely updates to revise their report over the next few months.

- The STAC workshop titled “Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities” is took place November 12-13, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD. Workshop chairs Tom Ihde (STAC member) and Ed Houde (Chesapeake Biological Lab) as well as the rest of the steering committee are working on the final workshop report and recommendations.
- The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will have their next monthly conference call on Monday, January 26th.

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 Habitat GIT is focused on developing the Management Strategies to support the six habitat outcomes in the new Agreement as well as the Fish Habitat outcome with the Fisheries GIT.

Fish Passage Outcome: (POC: Mary Andrews, NOAA—Fish Passage Workgroup Chair) The initial management strategy draft has been sent to the Fish Passage Workgroup for comments by Dec 31. The team is currently reviewing the comments and revising the draft.

SAV Outcome: (POC: N/A) The draft has been developed based on previous strategy documents however there is no POC to coordinate review. The Habitat GIT has solicited over 12 individuals to chair the SAV Workgroup and take lead on the final steps of the drafting process and received no response. The Habitat GIT requests that the MB or PSC assign someone to fill this role.

Wetland Outcome: (POC: Erin McLaughlin, MDNR—Wetland Workgroup Co-Chair) The management strategy is currently in development and the drafting team is reviewing workgroup comments received on an initial outline. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2015.

Brook Trout: (POC: Steve Perry, EBTJV—Action Team Lead) The management strategy is currently in development and the drafting team is requesting and reviewing comments received on an initial draft. Once all comments are received, a meeting will be scheduled. The pilot model outputs are ready for team consideration.

Stream Health: (POC: Neely Law, CWP—Stream Health Workgroup Co-Chair) The management strategy is current in development and a drafting team meeting was held on January 6, 2015.

Black Duck: (POC: Lacy Alison, FWS Mig Bird Div.—Action Team Lead) The initial drafting team call was on December 17th and a working session is being scheduled for late January 2015. The draft forage map has been compiled for team consideration.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

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.

- The WQGIT approved the stakeholder assessment proposal. Katherine Antos will be providing regular progress updates to the WQGIT. There will be continued opportunities to provide feedback throughout the process.
- The WQGIT reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Water Quality Management Strategy.
- The WQGIT will be asked to review and approve the Shoreline Nutrient expert panel report at the January 12th conference call.

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

Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

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.

Management Strategy Development Updates:

- A select number of Healthy Watersheds GIT members and interested stakeholders met on December 8th for a work session devoted to the Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome management strategy. Participants discussed the outcome's call for an evaluation of "policy options, incentives and planning tools" by 2017, as well as the development of strategies to support local governments' and others' efforts in reducing land conversion rates by 2025 and beyond. Participants discussed and identified the major tasks for the management strategy. The conversation helped form the bulk of the content in the December 2014 management strategy draft. GIT leaders will meet in January to plan for the next steps for this management strategy.
- Healthy Watersheds GIT members and interested parties met on December 16th for a work session devoted to the Healthy Watersheds Outcome management strategy. The focus of the work session was on the Healthy Watersheds Outcome's "action!" strategies, or the State and collective GIT activities needed to ensure the health of state-identified healthy waters and watersheds. Participants offered ideas for two strategic themes: 1) local engagement and 2) increasing effectiveness of federal, state, and regulatory efforts. The conversation's takeaways will be incorporated in the earliest draft of the Healthy Watersheds management strategy. GIT leaders plan to develop a first real draft of the management strategy in January, to be then taken to GIT members and interested parties at a follow-up meeting in the near future.
- The Healthy Watersheds GIT submitted three preliminary management strategy drafts on December 15th for an internal Chesapeake Bay Program review. The drafts were for the following management strategies: Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Options Evaluation, and Land Use Methods and Metrics.

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

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

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.

Citizen Stewardship

A Citizen Stewardship kick off meeting to begin the discussion on developing, implementing and measuring this new outcome was held on November 18th at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis. In particular, a framework for thinking of the levels of citizen engagement and how this could be used as a framework for discussing the management strategy was shared and discussed. From this meeting the team was able to derive content for the draft management strategy. The draft was then reviewed by state appointed representatives on December 9th before being submitted to the board on December 15th. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy

The entire Education Work Group met on November 14th to further develop draft management strategies. After this meeting the leadership group agreed that the three outcomes under the Environmental Literacy Goal will have one management strategy with separate workplans. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access

The Public Access Team has continued to monitor progress on the implementation of the Public Access Plan. Initial observations indicate that 2014 could be a good year for new site development throughout the watershed. The Team will be met on November 25th where the group discussed the process for updating new sites added in 2014, reviewed the draft public access outcome Management Strategy, discussed partner participation in developing potential projects for future grant funding, and reviewed developing river segments of need when no new potential sites have been identified. At this meeting the group also received input from interested parties on the draft and approved the draft for submission to the management board. Please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov for more information

Land Conservation

The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership developed a draft Land Conservation Management Strategy. The content was primarily derived from the 5th Annual Meeting of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership held on October 3rd and. For more information on the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership contact Kate_Baker@partner.nps.gov.

LandScope

LandScope, since the launch of its Chesapeake-focused platform in 2012, has been the shared GIS system in which members of the Partnership compile data and share updates on priorities and conservation efforts throughout the watershed. This free, publicly accessible web application enables decision-makers, practitioners, and citizens within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to work together toward shared land protection goals.

Users of the LandScope Chesapeake system will now enjoy a sleeker, faster, more modern user interface with a host of upgrades. This top-to-bottom overhaul of LandScope's technical architecture presents users with a completely redesigned map viewer, as well as upgraded capabilities that improve the user experience in a variety of ways, including:

- Mapping tools that more quickly and intuitively enable LandScope's 300-plus data layers
- More map options powered by ArcGIS Online—users can search on the tag "LandScope" and combine the results with their own datasets
- iOS compatibility for LandScope's thousands of maps, videos, photos, and articles
- A more direct and dynamic system for pulling map layers from LandScope's data partners—for example, maps depicting a state's most crucial habitats

Contact the LandScope Chesapeake Team at LandScope_ContactUs@naturereserve.org if your organization has maps you would like to contribute to LandScope.

Contact: Amy Handen, ahanden@chesapeakebay.net

Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team

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

Local Leadership Outcome Management Strategy:

A workshop for local leaders was held on December 3, 2014. Local officials, trainers, and educators attended the workshop to contribute ideas to management strategy development. The insight gained from the workshop was used to develop the first initial draft of the Local Leadership management strategy. The drafting team continues to work to develop the management strategy.

Chesapeake Accountability and Recovery Act:

The new Chesapeake Accountability and Recovery Act was signed into law on December 18, 2014. GIT 6 plans to assess the implications that this new law will have on the program. This bill could have significant effect on the activities of GIT 6 with regard to a proposed Finance and Budget Workgroup and the existing Evaluator Function Workgroup.

GIT Funding:

The \$862,000 in EPA funds for FY14 will fund 17 projects determined by the GITs. The funds have been distributed to the various funding mechanisms, including three existing Interagency Agreements (USFWS, USCOE, USGS), three existing EPA grants (MD DNR, ICPRB, VA DEQ), and one EPA HQ Office of Water contract. The RFP for ten projects being funded through the MD DNR grant/Chesapeake Bay Trust was released in early December. The GIT Technical Support contract through EPA Office of Water is available to the GITs for management strategy support starting approximately mid-January, 2015.

Governance Document:

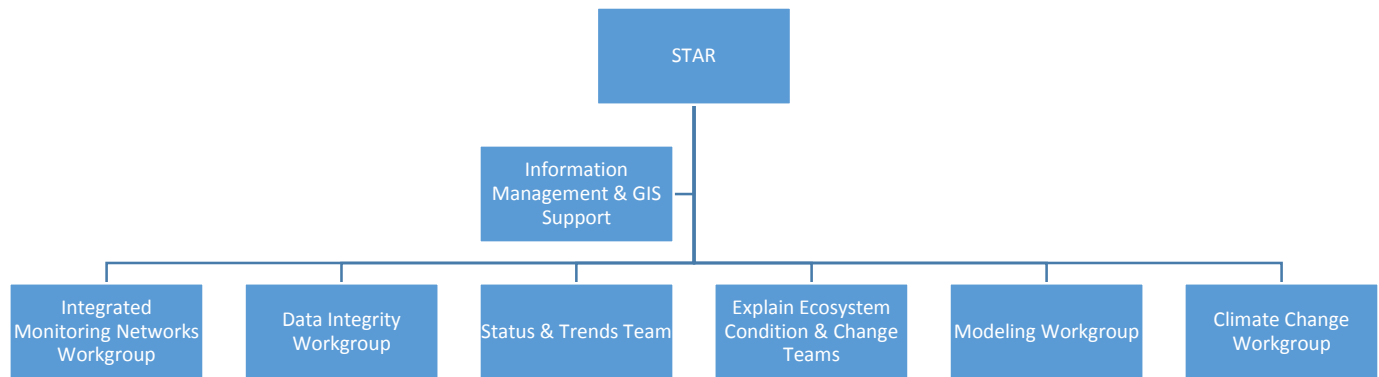
A log of potential revisions to be made to the draft Governance Document has been kept by GIT 6 since July 2014, and the Goal Team conducted a 6-month review of the Governance Document and log of revisions at their December 2014 meeting. Several suggested changes on the revisions log were accepted, while there were numerous items that require continued discussion. In moving forward, the Goal Team is forming an action team to develop revision recommendations to present to the Management Board.

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

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team

The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.

The New STAR Workgroup Structure



Major Functions of the NEW Workgroups

Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup (IMNW):

- *Manage CBP water quality networks*
- *Work with Goal Teams to assess new monitoring needed for 2014 Watershed Agreement outcomes*
- *Use BASIN process to work with the Goal Teams helping refine monitoring approaches and identifying opportunities for monitoring needs tracking progress for new Bay Agreement outcomes*
- *Work with the Goal Teams to collaborate with additional partners on monitoring needs*
- *Build upon an existing base of Citizen Science to address expanded monitoring needs*

Data Integrity Workgroup (DIWG):

- *Work with Goal Teams and Integrated Monitoring Networks WG to assess comparability and integrity of data needed for new outcomes.*
- *Examine field methods and Laboratory analyses for water quality data and expand scope to address new outcomes.*
- *Assess the use of Citizen science field and lab methods and data management to address the needs of measuring progress towards meeting the new outcomes*
- *Expand to address data integrity for new monitoring needed by Goal Teams*

Status & Trends Team:

- *Work with Goal Teams to update CBP existing indicators (status and trends)*
- *Work with Goal Teams and Integrated Monitoring WG to assess new indicators needed to support Bay Agreement outcomes.*
- *Work with CBP WWW team and ChesapeakeStat to communicate indicators measures.*

Explain Ecosystem Condition and Change Teams:

- *Coordination with GITs to address cross-cutting issues*
- *Explaining Tidal and Nontidal Water Quality status, and the linkage between integrated Tidal & Nontidal Trends*

Modeling Workgroup:

- *Support needs of water-quality goal team and TMDL Mid-point assessment support*
- *Evolve to address other GIT needs including predicting ecosystem response to different management and environmental scenarios.*
- *Work with Chesapeake Community Modeling Program (CCMP) to meet expanding needs*

Climate Change Workgroup:

- *Will address the Monitoring and Assessment Outcome and Adaptation Outcomes from the 2014 Watershed Agreement.*
- *Work with CBP goal teams to prioritize topics*
- *Enhance science capacity to conduct monitoring and assessment.*
- *Work with Goal Teams on adaptation strategies*

Climate Change Workgroup & the development of Climate Resiliency Management Strategies

The new Climate Change Workgroup is chaired by Zoe Johnson (MDNR) with a coordinator soon to be hired through an EPA and NOAA Interagency Agreement. The Workgroup's kick-off meeting was on December 10th, 2014. The Workgroup has formed drafting teams for the Adaptation and Monitoring & Assessment Outcomes of the 2014 Watershed Agreement, those two drafting teams will meet on January 7th (Adaptation) and January 12th (Monitoring & Assessment) to begin the process of developing the Climate Resiliency Management Strategy.

Building and Sustaining Integrated Monitoring Networks (BASIN): Innovative Monitoring Approaches Workshop – December 8th, 2014

The STAR & STAC Coordinated Workshop on "Innovative Monitoring Approaches" focused on the two elements for the BASIN Water Quality Report (expected February 2015) to develop recommendations on 1) innovative applications of new or existing technology, 2) monitoring network design, while also considering the definition of 'attainment' and leveraging the existing and future networks through "hypothesis driven monitoring" design. The thought provoking workshop reformulated questions and recommendations on new technologies, sampling design, and efficient monitoring that will be further examined within the Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup.

Contact: Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Dec 4-5	Local Government Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting (Easton, Md.)
Dec 6-7	Environmental Justice Conference (College Park, Md.)
Dec 9	USACE Conowingo public meeting (Harford County Cmty College)
Dec 9-10	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Dec 11	Management Board Conference Call
Jan 6-7	Modeling Quarterly Review
Jan 8	Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting