



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
September 30, 2015**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Sept 30	MD Bay Cabinet meeting
Oct 1-2	Rivanna Conservation Society meeting (Charlottesville, Va.)
Oct 5-6	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership annual meeting (Shepherdstown)
Oct 16	PSC meeting
Oct 29	NCAEHA (College Park, Md.)
Nov 1-4	Geo Society of America conference

Program Updates

Federal Facility Targets and Federal Agency Water Quality Milestones

Each of the Bay jurisdictions and EPA provided federal facility pollution reduction targets (N, P and TSS) to federal agencies in August/September to assist them in the development of their 2016-2017 two-year milestones. Federal agencies have until November 2, 2015 to develop scenarios and provide their milestones to the jurisdictions for inclusion in their water quality milestones input decks for the same period. In addition, EPA and other Federal agencies have begun drafting their 2016-2017 programmatic milestones for water quality and have met with CBP Milestones workgroup and WQGIT to seek early input for their development. The draft milestones will go out for partner and public comment in early November.

Contact: Jim Edward, edward.james@epa.gov, 410-267-5705

Chesapeake Bay Program Brochure

The CBP Communications office has created and produced a new general brochure for the partnership. The new document is based on the communications themes related to the Agreement – Abundant Life, Vital Habitats, Clean Water, Engaged Communities and Climate Resilience. Both an English and Spanish version are now available from the Communications Office.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@Chesapeakebay.net, 410-267-5740

EPA Administrator Meeting with CBP Advisory Committees

On September 14, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy met with senior representatives of the CBP Advisory Committees. The meeting was scheduled as a follow up to the Executive Council meeting in June and is one of several meetings with senior officials including Virginia Governor McAuliffe, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Quigley, EPA Region III Administrator Shawn Garvin and others. The Administrator and chairs discussed a range of issues included in the committee's recommendations to the Executive Council including funding and communications with local governments.

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

Three States Assessed by EPA for Animal Agriculture

Recent EPA evaluations on agriculture programs in Maryland, West Virginia, and Delaware show varying degrees of success working toward meeting pollution-reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay. EPA periodically reviews state programs and policies related to water quality pursuant to the Clean Water Act, and recently chose to conduct individual animal agriculture assessments for the six Bay states to ensure each state has the programs, policies and resources they need to achieve the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The EPA found the states to be successful in certain areas: Maryland was found to have a “robust and well-implemented state program” but other areas of the states’ animal agriculture programs need further development. Similar reports for animal agriculture programs in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia were released earlier this year. More information on the reports are available on the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay TMDL [website](#).

Blue Crab Commercial Harvest Experiences Lowest Record in 25 Years

Despite demand, the commercial harvest of blue crabs has dropped by two-thirds over the last two and a half decades. Last year commercial harvest hit the lowest level recorded in 25 years: 35 million pounds. The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Coordinator Emile Franke said the harvest was low due to a combination of factors, one factor being the set of regulations put into place to conserve the population. Some factors included in the list are things fishery managers have no control over such as, natural variability, water quality, habitat quality, predator and prey abundance, disease, competition and overwinter mortality, all of which affect the amount of blue crabs in the Bay. In its annual report on the status of the blue crab population, CBSAC recommended continued improvement in the quality of catch and fishing effort information submitted by commercial and recreational harvesters. Jurisdictions have explored new harvest technologies in recent years, and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement includes a commitment to improve harvest accountability. For more information visit, chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies

Chesapeake Conservancy Receives Special Achievement Award

The Chesapeake Conservancy was honored with a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2015 Esri International User Conference in San Diego. The award acknowledges vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of Esri's geographic information system (GIS) technology. The Chesapeake Conservancy uses Esri's ArcGIS technology for innovative conservation and restoration planning through data-driven, web-based applications, including, among other things, the ArcGIS technology for high-resolution land cover mapping and change analysis, multi-resource conservation planning, and watershed protection and impact assessments. For more information about the 2015 Special Achievement in GIS Award winners, including project information and photos, please visit esri.com/sag.

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 is working with WV, DE and NY to secure representatives from each of those jurisdictions. Mayor Bowser recently appointed Councilmember Brianne Nadeau to serve on LGAC. She joins long-time member Diane Davis in representing the District of Columbia.

- LGAC member and Fairfax County (VA) Supervisor, Penny Gross, presented at the Chesapeake Bay Commission's September quarterly meeting on the challenges of meeting MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) permit obligations.
- LGAC's last quarterly meeting was held September 24-25 in Shepherdstown, WV. They explored the role of barriers and buffers in achieving healthy streams and discussed ways that local government can assist/engage the agricultural community in achieving local pollutant reduction targets. Their next quarterly meeting will be held December 3-4 in Winchester, VA.

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.

CAC met on September 16-17 in Havre de Grace, MD. The theme was Getting the Bay Program Down to the Local Level. CAC Members heard presentations on progress on water quality based on monitoring and modeled data, a status update on a report on third party verification, an urban gardening/agriculture panel as a way to encourage stewardship, diversity and urban land conservation, and presentations on local efforts like community environmental envisioning, engagement, and local report cards. Members heard brief updates on the work of the Healthy Watersheds GIT, Stewardship GIT, and the Diversity Action Team. CAC also meet with EPA Regional 3 Administrator Garvin and MDE Secretary Grumbles.

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 third quarterly meeting of FY 2015 on December 8-9, 2015 at an undetermined location in (or near) Annapolis, Maryland. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY 2015 Workshops: STAC approved funding for the following seven workshop proposals. Funding began on June 1, 2015 and ends on May 31, 2016. Planning for these workshops is underway.

- 1) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System.
- 2) Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality.
- 3) The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments.
- 4) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.
- 5) Optimization for TMDL Implementation Planning.

- 6) Enhancing Capacity to Support the Chesapeake Agreement Outcome through Increased Integration of Regional Science and Management Efforts.
- 7) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement.

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

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

- 1) Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals.
- 2) Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?
- 3) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.

STAC distributed a workshop report in August, 2015. The report entitled "Assessing the Chesapeake Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities" was distributed on August 13, 2015. This report is a summary of a 2014 workshop that identified: (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. The report can be found on the STAC publications database at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/346_lhde2015.pdf.

Finally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. STAC received the Chesapeake Bay Criteria Addendum review request on July 31st. The request is being reviewed by STAC and will continue to move forward. The ~6 remaining reviews requests are expected in the coming months. The STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Midpoint Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews is below.

- 1) Proposed revised James River chlorophyll a water quality criteria
- 2) Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder
- 4) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
- 5) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
- 6) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For additional information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu or visit the STAC review webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php.

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 Sustainable Fisheries GIT developed drafts of their workplans based on management approaches outlined in the management strategies documents. The goal team is currently scheduling meetings with the workgroups over the next few weeks to further flesh out the draft plans for blue crab, oysters, fish habitat, and forage fish.
- The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and GIT staff are working with scientific experts planning a workshop on cownose rays to discuss cownose ray life history, population dynamics, and their overall effect on the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem. This workshop will occur in October or November of 2015 and will be hosted by the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team.
- Preparation and planning for the 2016 blue crab stock assessment is currently being evaluated. Blue crab managers are focusing on potential funding sources and focusing the assessment to directly address management needs.
- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee developed a report from the Forage Workshop which we will utilize in developing our forage workplan and indicators for forage health and monitoring. This report is now available at the following link: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/346_lhde2015.pdf
- Learn about all the exciting fisheries science and other interesting fish issues by taking a look at our biannual meeting summary. The summary presents the science in a friendly, easy to digest format, with links to the presentations for people looking for more information. [\[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/AugustFishGITFactSheet_%281%29.pdf\]](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/AugustFishGITFactSheet_%281%29.pdf).

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 will be holding their fall 2015 meeting on October 13th and 14th at the Fish Shack, CBPO, in Annapolis, MD. Meeting objectives include an introduction of new science tools that may support biennial workplans, a review of the past year, and draft workplan presentations from each workgroup and action team for consideration and approval for submission to the Management Board.

Wetland land uses were approved by the Water Quality GIT on September 14 for inclusion into the Phase 6 Watershed model. Wetlands will be divided into “floodplain,” and “other” categories. The HGIT & Wetlands workgroup will work with Pennsylvania and others to explore options for updating NWI maps for PA through a call to be convened soon.

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 held conference calls on August 24 and September 14:

- The WQGIT prioritized their GIT Funding proposals:
 - BMP Impact on Management Strategies
 - Toxics
 - Riparian Buffers
 - Turkey Litter
 - Tree Canopy
 - Development of a Prototype Fine Scale Watershed Model
- Actions taken by the WQGIT on the Phase 5.3.2 Nutrient Management Expert Panel include:
 - WQGIT approved the Phase 5.3.2 Nutrient Management Expert Panel's recommendations for the Tier 2 and Tier 3 nitrogen efficiencies.
 - WQGIT will forward the Phase 5.3.2 Nutrient Management Expert Panel's recommendations for the Tier 2 phosphorus efficiency to the Management Board for a decision during their September 30 meeting, as the WQGIT could not reach consensus on this recommendation.
 - WQGIT charged the Agriculture Workgroup to develop a clear charge to the subcommittee which will be responsible for working with the six states to: a) develop a cross walk between the states' nutrient management programs and the adopted Phase 5.3.2 nutrient management tier definitions; and b) identify the information associated with states programs, including compliance rates, to be used in reporting acres of nutrient management implementation by the appropriate tiers references above. The Agriculture Workgroup will address and discuss the subcommittee's charge during their September 17-18 meeting and report its recommended charge back to the WQGIT for review and approval.
- The WQGIT approved the inclusion of the two proposed wetlands land uses (Floodplain Wetlands and Other Wetlands) in the Phase 6 Watershed Model. The WQGIT also agreed to ask the Management Board to urge EPA and FWS to work to update the National Wetlands Inventory database prior to September 2016.
 - The WQGIT approved the proposed charge and membership for the Oyster BMP expert panel.

Upcoming WQGIT Topics for September 28 conference call:

- The WQGIT will be asked to approve the three proposed tree canopy land uses for inclusion in the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- The WQGIT will be asked to approve the final proposed agricultural land uses for inclusion in the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- The WQGIT will hear the findings in the draft Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment.
- The WQGIT will receive an overview of the BMP Verification Review Panel's evaluation of the draft BMP Verification Program Plans submitted by the jurisdictions on June 30, 2015.

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.

- In August, Tetra Tech, Inc. delivered to the GIT a scope of work entailing costs and what likely will be required to successfully carry out the management approach tasks of the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy. This was possible thanks to available management strategy-related support under EPA FY14 GIT funding.
- The GIT brainstormed a total of eight project proposals for this year's EPA GIT funding cycle. GIT members and staff provided input which, along with further discussion among GIT leaders, will help guide the selection of one or two projects to move forward with funding.
- The GIT will have a face-to-face meeting in the near future to focus on the Healthy Watersheds and Land Use Workplans. It is also likely that there will be one or two case study presentations on ongoing healthy watershed conservation work.

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: The Citizen Stewardship Outcome Team continues to make progress developing a method to track changes in public attitudes, behaviors, and actions related to stewardship. The team met on September 19th where a draft survey tool was distributed and discussed. Interviewing for the pilot will be conducted this fall. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy_Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy: The Education Workgroup met on September 14th to discuss work plan updates and the draft agenda for the upcoming Environmental Literacy Summit being held at NCTC on November 9-10. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access: The Public Access Team is continuing to make progress on developing the Public Access Work Plan. The draft work plan was circulated to the team for review and comment. For more information please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov.

Land Conservation: The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership continues to advance key priorities including streamlining online conservation mapping and analysis platforms and exploring a coordinated mitigation approach to minimize the impact of infrastructure development on conserved lands. The Partnership is also preparing for their 2015 Annual Meeting which will be held on October 5-6 at the National Conservation Training Center. For more information on the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership contact Kate_Baker@partner.nps.gov.

Diversity: The Diversity Action Team sent out the second draft of its biennial workplan to the Diversity Workgroup seeking additional comments by October 2. The next face-to-face meeting of the Diversity Workgroup will be on October 8 in Washington DC at the Earth Conservation Corps Headquarters.

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.

FY 15 GIT Funding: GIT 6 has been facilitating the process of GIT Funding distribution, including a GIT Chairs meeting on September 1 to discuss the criteria for funding selection. The Chesapeake Bay Trust was identified as the organization to administer the funds for GIT Funding projects. A timeline and process were outlined by GIT 6 and initial proposals for projects were due from the GITs, the Climate Change Workgroup, and the Diversity Action Team on September 9. A requirement of all proposals was that they must be related to Management Strategy implementation and work plan development. Thirty six total proposals were submitted by the six GITs and the Diversity Action Team and Climate Change Workgroup totaling \$2,073,000. The GITs prioritized their projects and the GIT Chairs are expected to make final decisions regarding projects to be funded by September 30.

Local Leadership: The Local Leadership Workgroup has been actively working on developing a Work Plan for the Local Leadership Management Strategy. The workgroup has met twice to discuss prioritization of management approaches. The “Chesapeake Watershed Local leadership Development Program” report, which will provide the foundation for a large part of the work plan, was completed on September 2. The workgroup also submitted two proposals to FY 15 GIT Funding.

Face to Face Meeting: GIT 6 had a very productive in person meeting September 2 of GIT 6 to discuss the GIT’s overall strategic direction, the Local Leadership management strategy/workplan, GIT funding requests and our vision for how the CBP can manage the two-year cycle for strategy management called for in the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.

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.

At this time, STAR workgroups are moving forward on a variety of issues. STAR continues to work with the GITs on understanding their science support needs identified in their management strategies and needed to finalize their work plans. STAR is actively coordinating with STAC on STAC-supported workshop proposals that received approval this year to support cross GIT coordination and collaboration workshops in early 2016. STAR's Building Environmental Intelligence report has been in colleague review this summer with some comments received while awaiting the comments from three other reviewers in

order to complete the report revisions. The Indicator Action Team has developed a status list of Agreement outcome indicators grouped by three categories: established, under development, in need of being developed. The list is being used as a guide for topical meetings and workshop development. The Integrated Networks Work Group met in September and initiated discussions supporting development of a monitoring strategy that addresses the use of continuous monitoring technologies. Climate Change WG anticipates its first priority project on establishing a method for analyzing climate change effects on resources identified by the Bay Agreement management strategies will receive funding under the GIT funding mechanism to help address this priority need. Data integrity Work Group has updated the Nontidal Network Sampling plan and continues oversight of the split sample monitoring support across the partnership. The Criteria assessment protocol workgroup has received comments from EPA on the new draft of the latest water quality criteria addendum and is coordinating with STAC on a broader peer review of its underlying scientific support. The Integrated Trends WG held a June 2015 meeting reviewing approaches to trend explanation. The Modeling WG is preparing for an October quarterly meeting focused on watershed modeling.

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.

Upcoming Editorial Calendar

September

- 9.2(Wed.) News post: DE, MD, WV animal ag assessments
- 9.3(Thurs.) Photo Essay: Protecting land in Otsego County (Cat Gareth)
- 9.16(Wed.) Restoration Spotlight: Little Juniata
- 9.17(Thurs.) Photo Essay: Protecting land in Otsego County (Marion Carl)
- 9.24(Thurs.) Photo Essay: Protecting land in Otsego County (Earle Peterson)
- 9.28(Mon.) News post: Chesapeake Forest Champions
- 9.29(Tues.) By the Numbers: Education

October

- 10.6(Tues.) News post: NFWF Stewardship Fund awards
- 10.8(Thurs.) Restoration Spotlight: Eco-goats
- 10.13(Tues.) Photo Essay: Cottingham Farm
- 10.19(Mon.) By the Numbers: Protected lands
- 10.26(Mon.) Blog post: "Zombie crabs"/Halloween-themed
- 10.28(Wed.) Restoration Spotlight: Grass whisperer

October TBD

News post: Air deposition data visualization

News post: DNR – Dead zone size

News post: DNR/VIMS – Juvenile striped bass index

Feature: Native Americans in the Chesapeake

Upcoming News Releases

- NFWF Stewardship fund grant awards (in Baltimore) – 10/6
- Federal facilities targets (Fall TBD)

CBP Comm Activities

- Diversity/Outreach Asst orientation
- Comm Wkpg Mtg – 10/1
- Oct – Using Google Analytics – Zack Friedman
- Nov 5 - Climate Change and CBP – Zoe J. (invited)

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Sep 8-9 STAC meeting

Sep 16-17 Citizens' Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting (Havre de Grace)

Sep TBD Principals' Staff Committee Quarterly Meeting

Sept 17? MB meeting

Sep 24-25 LGAC meeting

Sep 25-27 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum