Scientific, Technical Assessment & Reporting Team Meeting
TOPIC: Opportunities for Addressing Goal Team Needs
May 24, 2018
10:00AM – 12:00PM
Fish Shack, CBPO

Event webpage:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/scientific_technical_assessment_and_reporting_star_team_meeting_may_2018
MINUTES

10:00   **Welcome and Introductions-** *Bill Dennison, Scott Phillips and Mark Bennett – STAR Co-Chairs, Peter Tango, STAR Coordinator*
   STAR is actively looking for a co-chair to lead the STAR workgroup.

   Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops, & Webinars-

10: 10   **New Products to Be Communicated-** *All*
*   Chesapeake Bay Report Card release June 15 with the major story focusing on the trajectories that are significantly positive. This should be a seminar for STAR possibly next month.
*   Bruce mentioned the Conowingo's pilot dredging project: lining up mitigation and permits for the dredging and looking for funding commitment. Everything should be in place in a couple weeks. July 1-Sept 30 is the window for dredging, which is between spawning and bad weather.
*   National Water Quality Monitoring Council will meet in NC in March.
*   The national citizen science Association will be meeting in Denver, CO in March
*   Maryland Water Monitoring Council will meet in Linthicum in December.
*   Chesapeake Modeling Symposium June 12-14, with posters still being accepted. A lot of content will result from this symposium that would be great for CBP Communications, possibly a blog post.
*   Joan Smeddinghoff with Communications recommended that if anyone has reports or updates to share with communications, it should be done at least a week in advance.
*   Bill Dennison mentioned a hypoxia report coming out- Jeremy Testa's work.
*   Peter Tango discussed work with Qian Zhang, with a report on dissolved oxygen to be released soon.

10:15   **Role of STAR in Support of the Goal Teams-** *Peter Tango and Scott Phillips*
*   See presentation

*   STAR's role is facilitation and coordination to meet the science needs of the goal teams within the adaptive management cycle.

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- STAR's audience is staffer and coordinators of the goal teams. STAR works with STAC to implement STAC's guidance to support the goal teams.
- Scott added that STAR's main goal is to focus on cross-goal team concerns.
- Peter reviewed the major functions of STAR, which can be found in the presentation.
- Renee asked about STAR's role in the topic of cross goal team coordinators discussing incentivizing conservation practices. This involves at least four different goal teams. Is this a topic of STAR. Scott confirmed that it would, although STAR would not be involved in policy. Bill suggested bringing this to the next STAR meeting.
- Kristin asked who is representing where the science provider resources get allocated? Scott added that Rich's position will work with STAR more closely to allow assets to spread beyond water quality needs. In the past, these resources have been provided to the water quality GIT. Kristin followed up that the staff who are administering these funds, especially as Rich is leaving, should be included in these meetings to understand the needs. Greg also mentioned that the Management Board should also be included.
- Scott reminded the group that STAR will need a new Chair with Mark Bennett stepping down in July. Academia background is ideal for this position.

10:20 **Shallow Water Monitoring Update-** *Peter Tango, USGS and Bruce Michael, MDDNR; and Cindy Johnson VADEQ, Tish Robertson VADEQ.*

Within the water quality monitoring program we are nearing completion a full cycle of bay segment assessments conducted by the shallow water monitoring program. The program is considering adjustments to the present sampling strategy. The Goal Teams will have an opportunity to discuss what monitoring priorities might be considered in retooling the monitoring strategy and its investments toward water quality related cross cutting information needs in tracking our outcomes.

Action: Establish a list of priority water quality data needs that may not yet be supported by existing sampling protocols in order to broaden consideration for directions on modifying and updating our sampling design strategy.

- [See Presentation](#).
- Peter started off to provide an overview and background of the Shallow Water Monitoring Program. Bruce Michael, Mark Trice, and Tom Parham also provided information.
- Peter said that states and monitoring partners were asked if there are additional priorities and possibly a need to re-strategize to allocate limited funding? One option was sentinel sites, targeted management segments, deployment of continuous monitoring for hypoxia monitoring, targeted DataFlow and Conmon sampling to delineate segment sub-sections.
- Bruce Michael added that some of the sentinel sites are paid for by outside partners.
- Mark Trice discussed water clarity assessments and synthesis of Corsica river reports.
- Bruce continued that a synthesis of the data to better use the information might be a way forward. Scott recommended that multiple goal teams should be involved. Bill also added that there's a limit on the effective size.

- Bill asked about the timeline. There are still three years left on the current grant cycle to decide and discuss these priorities.
- Mike continued that any new sentinel sites could be added in conjunction with acidification network.
- Peter also added that temperature indicators are being utilized for the Climate Resiliency Indicator Suite.
- Paige reminded the group that SAV sentinel sites are being determined right now. Bruce confirmed that those that work with the monitoring sentinel sites will confirm with Brooke Landry with the SAV workgroup to make sure they work together on the development of these sites.
- Jennifer Greiner also suggested Gina Hunt for Fisheries to include in these future discussions

10:40   **GIT Funding Topics to Address Science Needs-** *Scott Phillips, Kristin Saunders with input from all Goal Teams*
Scott and Kristen will continue building out discussions to identify potential RFP topics that address cross-goal team science gaps. Some science gaps were identified by the GITs earlier in the year and will be reviewed to help facilitate the discussion.
Action: Refine proposed cross-GIT funding proposal concepts and highlight new considerations for other proposals.
- Kristin gave an overview of the GIT Funding process. Currently brainstorming is still occurring for cross-goal team projects. Project submittals will be formally asked for in June. The top three brainstorming projects from a previous staffer/coordinator/chairs meeting will be determined and if the funding for them will be taken off the top of the funding pool. 1. Ecosystem services and quantification. 2. Behavior Change and social science, communications, 3. Place-based tools and geographic information systems.
- The conversation today is, of all the remaining science needs, are there any that should be put forward for this GIT funding?
- Scott reviewed the list that was created in Jan 2018 of goal team needs of STAR.
- Margot Cumming suggested the permitting sub-committee has been struggling with the streamlining of permitting process for stream restoration. Currently the sub-committee is putting out a questionnaire to gain more information.
- Jennifer Greiner suggested a project with the Brook Trout Action Team and Fish Passage Workgroup for monitoring brook trout and herring. Peter added that this proposal could be reshaped to make it more cross-goal team, because the technique itself could apply to many species across the watershed. Jennifer added that this technique could be presented to STAR
- Jennifer also added a new indicator for brook trout, and several related to water temperature in streams.
- Scott and Bill also added about toxics- the cross-goal team aspect would apply to fish habitat and toxics. Can some monitoring be set up for toxics in the habitats where these species of interest are? Peter added that one species for this might be shad.

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- Jennifer added that this GIT funding proposal could be discussed at the habitat and fisheries joint meeting.
- Renee discussed a preliminary healthy watershed assessment to establish baseline and determine progress. Land use changes are the single largest factor for the healthy watersheds goal.
- Also, there are new capabilities with ArcGIS online, and the cross-GIT mapping platform. This may not apply as a GIT funding project, but a proposal will be created.
- Bill discussed adding fish and habitat to the SAV synthesis.
- Joan added for communication, they're trying to focus their efforts in the behavior change topic.

11:30   **Optimization Tool**- *Danny Kaufman, Research Scientist, CRC at CBPO*
Danny will describe initial objectives for building the tool and develop status for its use in decision-support. Discussion will focus on opportunities to address other Goal Team needs and how this tool can help address decisions that include co-benefits considerations identified by the Management Board for Water quality and other outcomes.
Action: Move the community towards operational use of the Optimization Tool for improving co-benefits considerations in updating the Management Plans.

- See Presentation.
- Danny reviewed the vision, design, near term goals, and co-benefits that utilize this optimization tool.
- The goal for this project is to build a module into the CAST system to leverage the best cutting edge computational tools to calculate certain ranges of scenarios to reach target loads. This requires analysis of the different scenarios to find the low cost solution.
- This tool focuses on the numerical process to find the minimum for a desirable outcome. This process can allow for analysis of the various tradeoffs and alternative strategies for an objective
- Bill asked about the minimum scale size. Danny added that it's the intersection of river and land segments, which is the finest scale.
- Danny continued that during summer 2018, the goal is to create appropriate algorithms to produce an interim scenario comparison tool. In the fall, software packages will be explored to understand pros and cons for different approaches.
- Michelle Williams has been doing a lot of work on the quantification of co-benefits.
- Bill asked if any outreach was done for the optimization tool? Danny responded that the initial stages of development has been presented to the WQ Git and the goal teams. Bill responded that the development of the tool should *include* the managers. Danny responded that users of CAST have already asked for this tool. Bill responded that the user interface of this tool is critical for its use. Aera Hoffman is the user testing expert on staff.
- Kristin added that there's different desires for the focus of this tool, one to save money and one to provide these co-benefits. We need to make sure the tool handles both of these. Otherwise states will tailor this tool to optimize for cost only, rather than co-benefits.

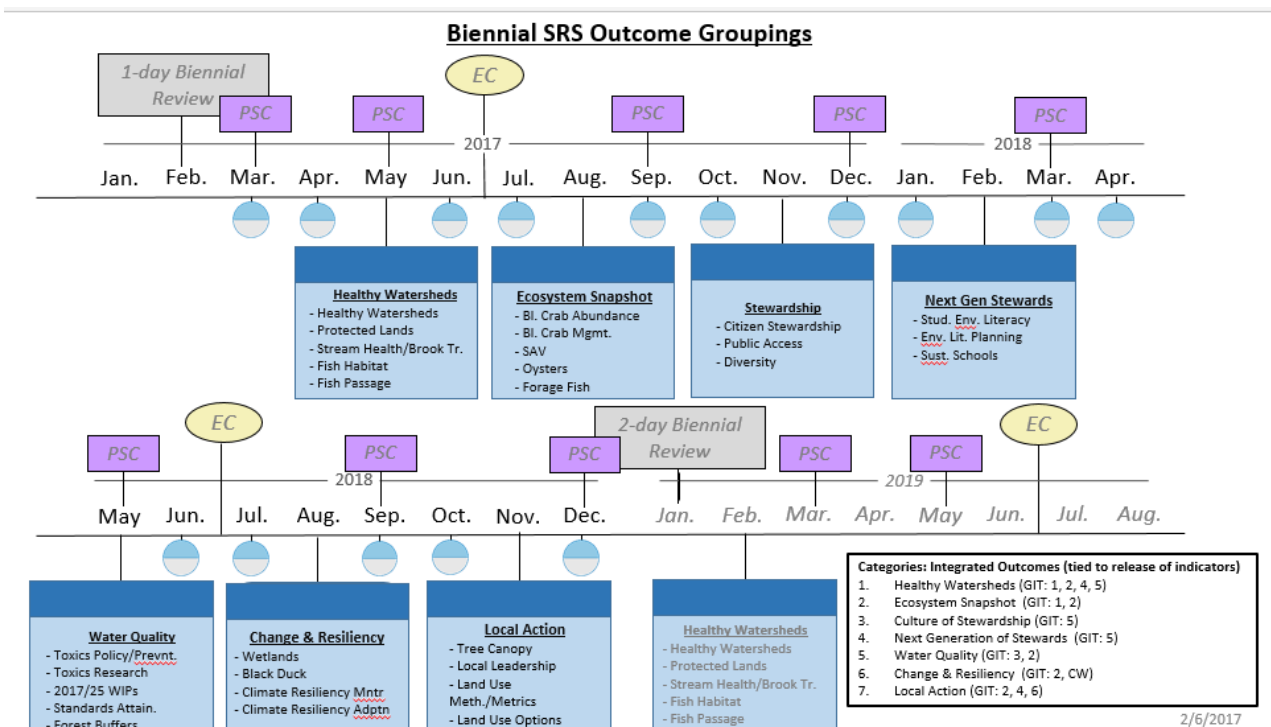**Next Star Meeting: July 26, 2018**

- Joan suggested that Aera Hoffman, UX analyst, should be involved, as well as Dave Yayak.

12:00   Adjourn

Participants
Peter Tango, Mark Trice, Bruce Michael, Scott Phillips, Kristin Saunders, Laura Drescher, Catherine Krikstan, Margot Cumming, Paige Hobaugh, Melissa Merritt, Cuiyin, Danny, Jen Greiner, Bill Dennison, Carl Freidrichs, Rene, Howard Weinberg, Liz Chudoba, Tom Parham, JB Brock, Joan Smeddinghoff, Mark Nardi, Emily Trentecoste,

Biennial SRS Outcome Groupings