



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
September 15, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Sept 19	Principals' Staff Committee conference call (EC Prep)
Sept 19	Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team meeting
Sept 22	STAR meeting
Sept 26	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting
Sept 29-30	LGAC meeting (Shepherdstown, W.V.)
Sept 29-Oct 2	Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, W.V.)
Oct 4	Chesapeake Executive Council meeting (Boyce, Va.)
Oct 13	Management Board conference call
Oct 26	Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Gettysburg, Pa.)
Oct TBD	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Annual meeting

Updates

BMP Panel Reports

The Water Quality Goal Implementation Team reviewed and approved several of the Best Management Practices Expert Panel Reports on September 12. Included among the approved Expert Panel reports are: Urban Tree Canopy, Floating Treatment Wetlands, and the technical recommendations of the Manure Treatment Technologies. Full incorporation of the Manure Treatment Technologies Report into CBP's suite of modeling tools, however, is contingent upon the final policy and modeling recommendations developed by the Manure Treatment Technologies Policy Group and the CBP Modeling Workgroup, which are expected to be completed this fall.

Additional BMP expert panel reports are currently out for partnership review including: Phase 6 Nutrient Management, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Attenuation, Impervious Disconnections and Oyster Restoration/Aquaculture (to be released on September 22). Several expert panels have developed preliminary reports, but have not yet finalized their recommendations for partnership review including: Phase 6 Conservation Tillage; Phase 6 Cover Crops; Manure Incorporation/Injection; Wetlands and Animal Waste Management Systems. Finally, the following BMP expert panels are considered ongoing: Cropland Irrigation Management, Agricultural Ditch Management and Agriculture Stormwater Structures.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov; 410-267-5722

CBP release of data on river flow nutrient/sediment load trends & Water Quality Standards

The Chesapeake Bay Program is expected to announce the most recent combined indicator findings of river flow nutrient and sediment load trends and Water Quality Standards Attainment the week of September 19. The data from CBP and USGS will provide the most recent assessment of water quality—which examines dissolved oxygen, water clarity and chlorophyll-a in the Bay and its tidal waters—between 2013 and 2015. A media call for the announcement will be scheduled.

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

2016 NFWF Grants Announced

On August 25, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the award recipients of nearly \$11 million in grants for restoration, conservation and environmental outreach throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The 39 projects funded will leverage more than \$12 million in matching funds from the participants for a total of \$23 million to support and advance the efforts of partners and localities to achieve a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. A press event to highlight the announcement was held at the Pennsylvania State University's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center in Pennsylvania Furnace, Pennsylvania.

Twenty-eight projects will be funded through the Small Watershed Grants Program and eleven more will be funded by the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program, which finances projects aimed at reducing nutrient and sediment pollution in rivers, streams and the Bay.

The grants are in addition to nearly \$300,000 already awarded by NFWF this year through its Technical Capacity Grants program, aimed at providing technical services to local communities and watershed organizations for work to plan, prioritize and design local conservation and restoration efforts. NFWF anticipates awarding an additional \$700,000 in Technical Capacity Grants before the end of 2016.

For more information: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/chesapeake_16-0825.aspx

Forest Buffer Planting Fall Short of Annual Target

According to Chesapeake Bay Program experts, the rate of forest buffer plantings has continued to decline. Between July 2014 and June 2015, about 64 miles of forest buffers were planted along creeks and streams in the Bay watershed. While this marks movement toward the outcome, it remains 836 miles below the 900-mile-per-year goal and is the lowest restoration total of the last 16 years.

Because of their ability to efficiently trap and filter pollutants carried by stormwater runoff, forest buffers are considered one of the most cost-effective best management practices. More than 8,000 miles of forest buffers have been restored across the watershed since 1996, but recent years have seen a sharp decline in the planting rate. In 2010, watershed states planted 359 miles of forest buffers—nearly 40 percent of the 900 mile-per-year goal. But in 2015, the entire watershed planted just seven percent of the annual target.

Many complicated factors have affected the restoration of forest buffers, including a lack of coordination among agencies, underutilized funding programs and insufficient information and assistance for farmers and landowners. To meet these challenges, partners across the region, facilitated by forestry experts at the Bay Program, are working to better coordinate on the delivery of buffer programs by federal, state and local agencies; align opportunities to restore forest buffer programs with compatible land management programs; and enhance existing forest buffer programs to make them more appealing to landowners.

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's next quarterly meeting will be held on September 29-30, 2016 in Shepherdstown, WV. Topics to be addressed include water quality trading and local area planning targets. To be added to LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr, at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at 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 held their quarterly meeting in Lancaster, PA on September 7-8 and included a reception with leaders of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. The meeting focused on the Midpoint Assessment, water quality and progress, and the Phase III WIPs. CAC issued their annual report of recommendations to the Executive Council on September 13.

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.

Quarterly Meeting:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2016 on September 13-14, 2016 at The O'Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. A draft agenda and all other meeting materials can be found on the [meeting webpage](#) as available. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY16 Workshops:

STAC will be hosting the following five workshops in FY16. Planning is underway for several of these upcoming activities.

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters

FY15 Workshop Reports:

STAC will be working to finalize six reports from the following FY15 workshops. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. Information regarding each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) - can be found on the STAC workshop webpage at:

http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System

3. Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation
4. The Development of Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments
5. Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
6. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

STAC distributed a workshop report entitled "Conowingo Reservoir Infill and its Influence on Chesapeake Bay Water Quality" on August 18, 2016. The report is a product of a January 2016 workshop focused on reviewing the state of the science on sediment and nutrient transport in relation to infill in the Conowingo reservoir system and its short and long term impacts on tidal Bay water quality. The final report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/356_Linked2016.pdf.

For more information on the workshops or reports above, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu.

Reviews:

STAC is in the process of finalizing two reviews, with four others currently in progress:

1. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum
The STAC Criteria Addendum review panel is still finalizing its review of the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum. The review panel suggested a clarifying re-write of the addendum and then requested additional revisions to the updated document. The review panel is in the process of working with CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments.
2. Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder/Nutrient Inputs
The review panel completed their review of the requested documentation by late August and have finalized a report of their recommendations. The panel's report is currently under review by STAC membership and is undergoing preparation to be distributed to the Partnership within the next couple weeks.
3. James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation
STAC received the official review request from CBP for a review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation in May. STAC members discussed the request at its June quarterly meeting and have since approved the review. The review panel is currently working to finalize its review. The panel is on track to complete its review and compile feedback by mid-September.
4. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
In late August, STAC approved the review request on Phase 6 of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model from the WQGIT and CBP Modeling Workgroup. A panel has been formed and initial discussions are underway. The review panel will be meeting in-person in late September to discuss the material to be reviewed and conduct the majority of the review. This review will take place over the next two months.
5. General Additive Models (GAMs) Approach on Tidal Trends
STAC received the official review request from the WQGIT and STAR's Integrated Trends Analysis Team on the Generalized Additive Model (GAM) approach for tidal trends in early September. STAC is currently reviewing the request and seeking membership approval to move forward. If approved, this review will take place over the next three months.

6. Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

STAC approved the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested STAC technical review of potential impacts of boat generated waves on shoreline stability and attendant ecosystem properties, and provide advice on available policy actions to minimize adverse effects. A review panel has been formed and work is currently underway. The review will take place over the next several months, with the goal to assemble an initial working document by the end of the month.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for approximately four additional STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews between now and 2017. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months.

1. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations
2. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
3. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment
4. Phase 6 Land Use Backcasting Methodology

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonra@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

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

The Workgroup will use the Indicators Framework to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

At the last meeting, workgroup members explored what next steps or pieces of information were needed for indicator development for several parts of Agreement outcomes. At the next meeting, the workgroup will discuss a workplan, including the roles of individual members and partners such as STAR and STAC.

Indicators:

The following indicators were updated between August 2 and September 8, 2016

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Forest Buffers	Between 2014 and 2015, about 64 miles of forest buffers were planted along the Chesapeake Bay watershed's rivers and streams. While this marks progress toward the outcome, it is 836 miles below the 900-mile-per-year goal and the lowest restoration total of the last 16 years.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/forest-buffers

Indicators that will be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Water Quality Standards Attainment (September 2016)

- Gathering Communications materials
- Data available earlier than usual this year
- Communications team is working with data experts to use Water Quality Standards Attainment and Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow indicators, along with the USGS Trend data for RIM stations, to tell different pieces of a linked story. This approach was presented to the Water Quality GIT during its August 8 and August 22 meetings.
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow (September 2016)
 - Communications team working with data experts to use Water Quality Standards Attainment and Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow indicators, along with the USGS Trend data for RIM stations, to tell different pieces of a linked story. This approach was presented to the Water Quality GIT during its August 8 and August 22 meetings.
- Protected Lands (October 2016)
- Juvenile Striped Bass Abundance (October 2016)
- Bottom Habitat (Fall 2016)

Contact: Laura Free, (410) 267-5713, free.laura@epa.gov

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 Goal Implementation Team](#) Executive Committee will be meeting via conference call to discuss relevant issues in fisheries on September 26, including planning a workshop for managers to communicate their approaches of oyster management in each jurisdiction, further detailing the expected deliverables from the FY2016 GIT Funding projects, reviewing and offering feedback on the proposed oyster indicator, and identifying topics for the upcoming full GIT meeting in December.

The Habitat GIT Chairs and Sustainable Fisheries GIT Chair will meet this month to discuss potential collaborative efforts and approaches to achieve their interrelated outcomes.

The Fish Habitat and Forage Action Teams are preparing to have their next quarterly meetings. Team members will review available research and tools, present progress reports on ongoing workplan actions, update the team on near-term projects, and develop recommendations to prioritize needs.

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 Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has finished compiling the data sets of recent stream macroinvertebrate counts, habitat scores, and water quality measurements submitted by federal, state and local monitoring staff from across the Chesapeake Bay basin. An updated non-tidal benthic database is being sent to the CBP Data Center in early July. It holds biological data for more than 25,000 sampling events collected since 1986. A refinement of the Chessie BIBI (Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity) is well underway. The important taxa-specific attributes (e.g., feeding guilds, habit preferences, tolerance values) needed to calculate some metrics were updated with the help of a Technical Advisory Group. R-scripts to evaluate the raw data and calculate the Chessie BIBI are nearly

complete; they could eventually be expanded to calculate individual, program-specific metrics and indices. A reference-based approach is being used to establish thresholds for scoring individual metrics. Genus-level metrics are being added to the original, family-level metrics in the index. Preliminary results show the new index is sensitive to habitat and water quality degradation. It can correctly identify Reference or Degraded sites about 80% of the time despite the natural variability in stream populations. When the BIBI refinement is complete, the Stream Health Workgroup will need to decide how to use the index in measuring and reporting progress towards attainment of the CBP stream health goal.

- Northeast state fish and wildlife agencies are on track to deliver the results of the years-long work to synthesize SWAP priorities at the regional scale within the coming weeks. The long-term goal of this working group is to build a shared habitat connectivity vision within the Chesapeake watershed.
- The Habitat GIT Chairs and Workgroup Chairs participated in a series of Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas (RCOA) webinars throughout August. We worked with our Steering Committee members to think of ways our Workgroups can benefit from using the RCOA tool and to provide feedback for NALCC on how to tailor a workshop specifically for Chesapeake Bay restoration practitioners. The RCOA tool will be used to help HGIT move forward with integrating the concept of Chesapeake Conservation Design in our work and will be a focus of discussion at our upcoming fall meeting.
- The Habitat GIT will hold their fall 2016 meeting at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV on November 14, 2016. Building upon the momentum created at the spring meeting, the GIT will be moving forward by coalescing the state actions and tools shared into a watershed-wide, landscape-scale vision to further the Chesapeake Conservation Design concept.
- An extension of the Habitat GIT meeting will take place on November 15 and 16 at NCTC for members of the SAV Work Group and the Black Duck Action Team as Tetra Tech and the Climate Resiliency Workgroup present decision making workshops on their Climate Resiliency Assessment and Decision-Making Matrix project. To prepare for these workshops, steering committee members have been selected and will be interacting with the project lead, Tetra Tech over the next several months to:
 - Clarify related management/restoration actions of importance goal/outcome
 - Identify and gather relevant Chesapeake Bay climate change vulnerability research/data
 - Identify strategies, actions, restoration/enhancement techniques to achieve goals/outcome.
- The SAV Workgroup is planning a SAV Aerial and Ground Surveys Design Workshop for March, 2017 in Annapolis, MD. Participants will be given a background on the survey's design, logistics, and evolution of data and products with the hope for the group to create alternative design options to better fit the needs of data users given available funds.

Contact: Kyle Runion, runion.kyle@epa.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 8 and August 22.

- The WQGIT was briefed on the latest USGS analysis of long and short terms nutrient and sediment load trends in the Bay, as well as ongoing efforts to explain those trends.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the Climate Resiliency Workgroup's recommendations for climate projections, sea level rise and tidal wetland loss as a primer for an October webinar. They were also provided an overview of the timeline for decision-making process with regard to climate components of the midpoint assessment.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the latest water quality standards attainment indicator results.
- The WQGIT discussed how to prioritize the review and approval of upcoming BMP expert panel reports due to the time restrictions and number of reports that need to be approved prior to September 30, 2016.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on September 12 and September 26. A subset of the planned topics include:

- The WQGIT will begin to review a number of BMP expert panel reports.
- The WQGIT will received several briefings in preparation for their October 24-25 face-to-face meeting.

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.

Two project proposals received by the Healthy Watershed GIT for FY16 have been awarded funding. Regina Campbell from West Virginia will lead *Back Creek Watershed Demo – Getting Water Off the Road*, a pilot project studying road sediment erosion and reduction mitigation. The Back Creek Watershed is a unique and pristine watershed in the eastern panhandle that does not have any water quality impairments and has been described by WVDNR as a "High Quality Recreational Stream." For this project, grade breaks and cross pipes will be installed along the gravel Sleepy Creek Road to reduce erosion and sediment runoff. Throughout the process of installation, a training demonstration will be conducted and offered to a broad audience of homeowners, watershed volunteers, contractors, and other interested parties in order to facilitate continued erosion and sediment runoff control.

In addition, the maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT sponsored a project related to a stream mapping study titled, *Methodology for Developing High-Resolution Stream and Waterbody Datasets for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. Spatially accurate stream maps are necessary for defining the universe of streams that have or could be buffered by trees or otherwise restored to achieve habitat and water quality outcomes. As we develop a better understanding of how terrestrial and aquatic systems are connected through stream networks, having a better spatial map of those networks will improve our ability to forecast responses to environmental change and the most appropriate spatial scales for fish conservation and management. This project will investigate and evaluate existing and novel methods for deriving streams from LiDAR imagery and recommend a mapping approach that is customized by physiographic province and meets the management needs of the CBP Partners for tracking riparian forest buffers, monitoring stream health, assessing habitat for brook trout, and modeling hydrology and sediment.

There were two GIT funding projects awarded last year that are making great progress. The *Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project (Phase II)*, being conducted by the Virginia Department of Forest, uses findings from Phase I to negotiate with local officials to get land use policies and decisions that retain forestland in healthy watersheds implemented and includes the creation of a toolbox incentive that can be used to stimulate forestland retention throughout the watershed. The *Evaluation of Land Use policy options, incentives and planning tools to reduce the rate of conversion of agriculture lands, forests, and wetlands* project, being conducted by The National Center for Smart Growth at University of Maryland College, is conducting a comprehensive review/study to implement one of the Management Strategy tasks in the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy.

The Healthy Watersheds GIT committee are currently planning the next meeting which will be in mid-October in Pennsylvania.

Contact: Renee Thompson, rthompso@chesapeakebay.net

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.

Diversity Profile Results

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay completed its collection of partner demographic information on August 31, 2016. The profile was sent to Principals Staff Committee, Management Board, Advisory Committees, Goal Implementation Teams, and workgroup members. Overall half of the projected universe of participants participated – response rate at over 49%. The diversity workgroup will be working with partners like indicators workgroup, Green 2.0 to further analyze the data and provide information to Bay program leadership for moving forward to further share results and to determine indicators.

Planning Diversity Workgroup Meeting

The diversity workgroup has tentatively scheduled a workgroup meeting for November 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Baltimore, Md. area. The main objectives will be to get updates from stakeholder groups on important priorities related to the diversity workplan to engage non-traditional groups and to track progress on 2016 workplan activities by federal, state, NGO, and other partners.

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.

GIT Funding

A final selection of projects to be submitted for funding took place on August 16, 2016 with the Director of the CBP, the GIT Chairs, and Coordinators and Staffers. Fifteen projects will be funded, with a total requested amount of \$894,000. The Goal Teams are working with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) to develop detailed statement of work, to be submitted by September 15, 2016. The Trust will use these statement of work when issuing Request for Proposals to seek bidders in October 2016.

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

Biennial Strategy Review System

A draft version of the Biennial Strategy Review System (previously titled “Workflow Operational Plan”) has been presented to the GIT Chairs and the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (the Goal Team) for review and comment. The GIT Chairs and the Goal Team recommended that a model based on cross-outcome collaboration and tied to the release of indicator data is the preferred model. Next steps include soliciting feedback from Management Board members and incorporating those comments into the model before the Goal Team presents a final recommendation to the Management Board in November or December 2016.

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

Governance Document

The Goal Team has agreed that a small group will convene during September 2016 to draft recommended solutions to each of the proposals revisions to the Governance Document. These recommendations will be presented to the Goal Team at their October 2016 meeting. At this time, the Goal Team will reach consensus on which recommendations will be brought to the Management Board.

Contact: Carin Bisland, Bisland.carin@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (the Workgroup) met with EcoLogix on July 27, 2016 to review and discuss progress and next steps in the development of focus groups designed to better understand the information needs and preferred delivery mechanisms of local officials in the Bay watershed. The Workgroup is currently soliciting recommendations for potential focus group participants (local officials) from each of the Bay jurisdictions.

Contact: Reggie Parrish, parrish.reginald@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.

STAR TEAM

An update for indicators for estimated standards attainment and loads to the Bay was also presented at the August STAR meeting. This indicator provides one estimate of attainment of dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll *a* standards used to track changes in Bay health. The discussion focused on how to improve messages that tie the results together. [SEE presentation.](#)

INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORKS WORKGROUP

The Citizen-Based and Nontraditional monitoring project group (aka the Chesapeake Monitoring Consortium) reviewed the rubric for classifying data collected in the watershed. The team reviewed a dichotomous key created to inform data classification, with a request for input from the group.

For more information:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/24217/draft_cmc_data_rubric_8.15.16.docx.pdf

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS WORKGROUP

The CBP has recently charged the CAP workgroup to reconvene with the task of 1) critically reviewing the existing tidal waters chlorophyll *a* criteria assessment procedures, and 2) providing consensus recommendations on any alternatives to consider in revision of the existing procedures. Recommendations are requested by mid-September 2016. The first meeting was held on August 9, and minutes are available [here](#). The second meeting of three for this review is scheduled for September 7, 2016.

MODELING WORKGROUP

The Phase 6 Beta 3 version of the Watershed Model and refinements to the Water quality and Sediment Transport Model of the Bay were presented at the August 9-10 Modeling WG Quarterly meeting. There will be an upcoming webinar to further explain any changes in this beta version of the Watershed model, date to be determined. For more information, click [here](#).

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

The Climate Smart Habitat Restoration Structured Decision-Making Workshops for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Wetlands are scheduled for Nov. 15 and 16, 2016 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This workshop will follow the Habitat GIT's Nov. 14 In-Person Meeting at the same location.

The Workgroup's FY16 Goal Implementation Team funding proposal to develop a suite of climate change indicators and metrics for the Chesapeake Bay Program was selected for funding. Detailed proposals and timelines are due by September 15, 2016.

The next in-person meeting of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup is scheduled for September 19, 2016. The meeting will focus on the topic of climate vulnerability and diversity. We have a good start on content for the agenda, but if you would like to suggest a speaker or discussion topic related to this theme, please contact Melissa Merritt (mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net).

The Workgroup presented its recommendations for sea level rise projections and marsh loss methodologies to the Modeling Workgroup on August 9, 2016. The recommendations were also presented to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team at their August meeting.

The next workplan action item related to the Midpoint Assessment is to develop a list of possible options for incorporating climate considerations in Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans. The morning session of our Sept. 19 meeting will focus on this topic. To support this effort, a small workgroup was formed to assist with exploring the list of options and developing guiding principles for state and local jurisdictions to consider in the Phase III WIP development process. Please contact me (zoe.johnson@noaa.gov) if you are interested in serving on this small group.

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.

At their September meeting, the Communications Workgroup discussed ways to get involved with National Estuaries Week (September 17-24). They also began strategizing communications for the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIPs, and discussed ways members could be involved with LGAC's Local Government Engagement Initiative. The workgroup completed its review of the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategic Communications Plan, which will be sent to the Management Board the week of September 19th for final review and approval.

The CBP Communications Office will issue a press release on the 2015 Water Quality Standards and Pollution Loads and Trends data during the week of September 12.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff, jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Aug 25	STAR Meeting
Sept 6	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting
Sept 7-8	Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Sept 8-9	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting
Sept 12	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
Sept 13-14	STAC Meeting