Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
October 13, 2016

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Oct 13-14	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Annual meeting (Shepherdstown, W.Va)
Oct 18	Leadership GIT(6) face-to-face (Leesburg, Va.)
Oct 20	Conowingo webinar
Oct 24-25	Water Quality GIT meeting (Hershey, Pa.)
Oct 26	PSC meeting (Gettysburg, Pa.)
Oct 27	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team meeting
Oct 31	Sustainable Fisheries GIT conference call
Nov 2	Diversity Workgroup meeting (Baltimore, Md.)
Nov 10-11	Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting
Nov 14	Habitat GIT (2) face-to-face (Shepherdstown, W.Va.)
Nov 16-17	CAC meeting
Nov 15-18	Ag Networking Forum (Staunton, Va.)
Nov 17	MB meeting
Dec 6-7	Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Meeting

Updates

Chesapeake Executive Council meeting
On Tuesday, October 4, 2016, the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) held its annual meeting to set goals and guidance for the partnership at the Virginia State Arboretum in Boyce, VA. As chair of the Executive Council, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe presided over the public meeting and press conference at the Virginia State Arboretum in Boyce, VA. During the meeting, members of the Council adopted a resolution to support and collaborate with local governments and noted the signs of resiliency that are beginning to be seen throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The press event also included a joint announcement from EPA, USDA and Pennsylvania about a nearly $29 million investment in funds to implement practices toward helping Pennsylvania in meeting its commitments under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The Executive Council also heard from Brigadier General William Graham, who presented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan.
Contact: Carin Bisland (410) 267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Progress in Reducing Nutrients and Sediment
On September 21, the Chesapeake Bay Program announced the most recent combined indicator findings of river flow nutrient and sediment load trends and Water Quality Standards Attainment. The amount of nutrient and sediment pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay fell significantly between 2014 and 2015, helping improve water quality in the estuary. Experts attribute this drop in pollution loads to dry weather and below-normal river flow, but note local efforts to reduce pollution also played a role.

According to data from the CBP and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads to the Bay were below the long-term average in 2015. Between 2014 and 2015, nitrogen

loads fell 25 percent, phosphorus loads fell 44 percent and sediment loads fell 59 percent. Below-average loads are considered positive because reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution can improve water quality. Related research shows "best management practices"—including upgrading wastewater treatment plants, lowering vehicle and power plant emissions, and reducing runoff from farmland—have lowered nutrients and sediment in local waterways.

The most recent assessment of water quality—which examines dissolved oxygen, water clarity and chlorophyll *a* (a measure of algae growth) in the Bay and its tidal waters—makes these improvements clear: between 2013 and 2015, an estimated 37 percent of the tidal Chesapeake met water quality standards. While this is far below the 100 percent attainment needed for clean water and a stable aquatic habitat, it marks an almost 10 percent improvement from the previous assessment period.

2016 Chesapeake Watershed Forum
On September 30, CBPO Director Nick DiPasquale gave brief remarks to help launch the annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum and led a session during one of the tracks during the September 30-October 2 forum in Shepherdstown, W.V. DiPasquale led a session invitingly titled Environmental Protection Agency, as part of the forum's Planning & Regulation track. The session provided an overview of the issues being addressed under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL through the 2017 Midpoint Assessment, including climate impacts, projected land use, lag times, phosphorous saturated soils, Conowingo Dam, James River chlorophyll-a, Phase 6.0 Watershed Model, water quality trends, new and revised BMP's, as well as EPA expectations for Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans. An update was given on the implementation of the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and the latest health and restoration indicators, as well as expected highlights from the Executive Council meeting.
Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@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 Chair Brianne Nadeau has taken on additional duties with DC Council for the balance of 2016. LGAC member Bruce Williams (Takoma Park, Md) will represent LGAC at future PSC meetings and full-day MB meetings.

Governor McAuliffe appointed The Honorable Andria P. McClellan, Superward 6 Councilwoman in the City of Norfolk, to LGAC in August 2016. Two seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in Delaware, New York and Virginia.

Daniel Chao was elected to serve on LGAC's Executive Committee as Vice Chair, representing the DC delegation. Members continue to participate in the Local Area Targets Task Force deliberations and the Local Government Engagement Initiative.
LGAC Vice Chair, Mayor Leo Lutz and former LGAC Chair, Mayor Rick Gray, hosted a session titled "Stormwater 101 for Elected Officials" at the Pennsylvania Municipal League annual convention in Lancaster, PA on October 6th. Both PA DEP and EPA Region 3 staff participated as well. The discussion was lively and demonstrated the need for this type of programming.

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, continues to work with the jurisdictions' technical leads on the Local Government Engagement Initiative. Jurisdiction's liaisons to the CBP Communications Workgroup have also been engaged. Technical support is being provided by Tetra Tech and the Hatcher Group. A draft roadmap for engaging and communicating with local governments about the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP was reviewed by everyone in September and will soon be ready for jurisdictions to use in developing or refining their own jurisdiction specific strategies. Any questions about this Initiative should be directed to Mary at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

LGAC's next meeting will be held in Annapolis, MD December 1-2, 2016. 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.

Christy Everett, CAC Executive Committee member from VA, represented CAC in a meeting with Governor McAuliffe and the LGAC and STAC Chairs and coordinators on October 6, to discuss in more detail the Advisory Committee annual reports of recommendations presented at the EC meeting.

Paula Jaskinski, CAC Vice-Chair, is reviewing the Oyster BMP Expert Panel report. The Panel has done a lot of thoughtful work. Outside of the Panel's work, there are some questions as to whether the cost to run such a program could exceed trading benefit by orders of magnitude. Paula's company, Chesapeake Environmental Communications, used the just released efficiency numbers to calculate a few estimates.

Some interesting initial numbers are that assuming 2015 numbers for loads and aquaculture harvest, all 40M oysters harvested last year removed 0.012% of the N coming into VA waters (~7,000 lbs.). And to put it into a time framework: Nitrogen loads to Virginia's Bay waters was about 161,000 lbs./day or about 112 lbs. of N/minute. The 40M oysters harvested removed 63 minutes (of the entire year) of those loads. These calculations were done using the estimates for diploids. Triploids can be up to 5 times as efficient at removing N, but even that brings us up to about 5 hours/year.

Dale Gardner from VA is working with Kristen Hughes Evans of Sustainable Chesapeake on a project funded by Virginia Environmental Endowment looking at the VA nutrient management program to survey farmers about Nutrient Management Plans- why they use them or why they don't, and what improvements could make them better. The purpose is to get more farmers to participate in the NMP process.

The Executive Committee will be working on a letter to the president (cc: to the EC) urging him to budget for environmental education in his fiscal 18 budget request including NOAA BWET and US Department of Education.

The MD CAC members met with the MD Bay Cabinet on Aug 25 to discuss their key recommendations for the annual EC meeting.

The next CAC meeting will be in Cambridge, MD on November 16-17.
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.

Special Announcement: STAC is happy to announce the newest member of its staff, Elaine Hinrichs with the Chesapeake Research Consortium. Elaine joined Rachel Dixon and Renee Kelly as STAC staff in early September 2016. She graduated in May 2016 from Oberlin College with a major in Environmental Studies and a minor in Physics. She will be a great asset to the committee and we are excited she has joined the STAC team. Please join us in welcoming her to the Bay Program Partnership! Elaine's email address is hinrichse@si.edu.

Quarterly Meeting:
STAC will hold its third quarterly meeting of FY2016 on December 6-7, 2016 at a location to be determined. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu and Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@si.edu.

FY16 Workshops:
Planning is underway for the following four workshops in FY2016:

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- 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

The workshop entitled "Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop" has been delayed until FY2017. The steering committee requested that the workshop be pushed back to a January 2018 as a result of the delayed deadline for delivering the final management models for the 2017 Midpoint Assessment (MPA) from its original date of January 2017 to June 2017, which created a direct conflict with the planned workshop timing. The request was approved by the STAC Executive Board and membership.

FY15 Workshop Reports:
STAC will be working to finalize six reports from the following FY2015 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

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

Reviews:

STAC will distribute a review report entitled "Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Review of Nutrient Input Estimation to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model" on October 10, 2016. The report is a summary of the panel recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay 'Scenario Builder'/Nutrient Inputs review. The report can be found on the STAC review webpage at http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php#. STAC has five additional review activities 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) James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation
   The review panel completed their review of the requested documentation in September 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) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
   The review panel convened in late September to discuss the material to be reviewed with CBP representatives. The panel is currently working to finalize its review, which will take place over the next few months.
4) General Additive Models (GAMs) Approach on Tidal Trends
   In late September, STAC approved the review request on Generalized Additive Model (GAM) approach for tidal trends from the WQGIT and STAR's Integrated Trends Analysis Team. STAC is currently finalizing the review panel. This review will take place over the next two months.
5) 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 mid-October.

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.

Indicators

The following indicators were updated between September 9 and October 13, 2016:

Indicator	*Statement of Progress*	*Link*
Water Quality Standards Attainment	During the 2013 to 2015 assessment period, an estimated 37% of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met water quality standards. This marks an almost 10% increase from the previous assessment period, but is far below the 100% attainment needed for clean water and a stable aquatic habitat.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality/water-quality
Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow	Between October 2014 and September 2015, river flow to the Bay measured a below-average 41 billion gallons per day. During this same time period, approximately 217 million pounds of nitrogen, 9.8 million pounds of phosphorus and 2.9 billion pounds of sediment reached the Bay: a 25%, 44% and 59% drop from the previous year, respectively.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality/water-quality

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

- 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 Habitat GIT Chairs and Sustainable Fisheries GIT Chair met to discuss collaborative efforts and approaches to achieve their interrelated outcomes.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Executive Committee held a conference call to discuss relevant issues in fisheries, 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 Fish Habitat Action Team hosted their quarterly meeting to hear updates on organizational and ongoing workplan actions, discuss collaboration planning with the Habitat GIT, determine how to most effectively utilize the fish habitat matrix information from TetraTech, and evaluate how to move forward on the Fish Habitat outcome.

The Forage Action Team met for their quarterly meeting, where team members explained the cyclical process of utilizing the Chesapeake Bay Program to direct and instigate research and understanding of Chesapeake Bay forage, and the valuable research that has come out of that process. This research includes the results of the 2014 STAC Forage Workshop which identified important Bay forage, a GIT-funded study which proposed a suite of forage indicators and consumption profiles for predators, and a second GIT-funded study which is currently investigating drivers of forage population trends. Team members reviewed these studies, provided progress reports on ongoing workplan actions, and discussed next steps.

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.

- The Habitat GIT Chairs and Workgroup Chairs participated in a series of Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas (RCOA) webinars throughout August and September. 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 14th, 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 15th and 16th 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.

- Members of the Brook Trout Action Team and Habitat GIT met this month to identify a new Brook Trout Outcome indicator with which to monitor progress. The CBP's Brook Trout Outcome indicator will be the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) 3-5 year occupancy census clipped to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. CBP will use a map produced by the EBTJV to identify key geographies within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that individual states intend to focus their work on for reporting annual updates and interim progress on two-year milestones.

- The Wetland Workgroup approved the Wetland Expert Panel's preliminary report with noted caveats and comments that were provided. Four categories of wetland BMPs will be included in the beta calibration and Phase 6 Watershed Model: Creation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Enhancement. Creation and Restoration will be a land use change plus treatment of a set ratio of upland acres to each acre of wetland; Rehabilitation and Enhancement are functional gain categories and will treat a set ratio of upland acres to each acre of wetland with no land use conversion. The retention efficiency and acres treated numbers from the WEP will be included in the beta calibration. Those for Restoration may be adjusted during the comment period for the full Expert Panel report; those for Creation, Rehabilitation, and Enhancement (averages of the existing values) will not be able to be adjusted until a new Expert Panel is formed in the future.

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 September 12th and September 26th.

- The WQGIT approved the Floating Treatment Wetlands Expert Panel report and recommendations.
- The WQGIT approved the Manure Treatment Technology Expert Panel's report and technical recommendations. Application of the recommendations in the Partnership's Phase 6 Model is contingent upon forthcoming decisions from the Modeling Workgroup on how to improve the simulation of air emissions and deposition from the technologies, as well as from the Management Board on the policy implications of the BMP.

- The WQGIT approved the Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel's report and recommendations.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the STAC review of nutrient inputs in the Phase 6 model.
- The WQGIT was briefed by the Modeling Workgroup on understanding the effect of the Conowingo Dam and reservoir on Bay water quality as a primer for the October 20th webinar, and the October 24-25 WQGIT meeting.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the outcomes of the midpoint assessment communications and outreach effort.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on October 11th and October 24-25. A subset of the planned topics include:

- The WQGIT face-to-face meeting on October 24-25 will focus on preparing for the development of the Phase III WIP planning targets

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.

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.

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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

A draft version of the Biennial Strategy Review System was presented to the Management Board (MB) on September 15, 2016 for review and comment. The system is being designed to fulfill the expectations set forth in the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement for a two-year cycle that updates the program's management strategies. MB members approved a model that emphasizes cross-outcome collaboration and is tied to the release of indicator data. Next steps include incorporating MB comments into the model, expanding on key system meeting details, developing system templates, etc. at the face-to-face GIT6 meeting on October 18, 2016. The Goal Team plans presents a final recommendation to the MB in November or December 2016.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY 2016 GIT Funding

A final selection of projects took place in August 2016; fifteen projects were approved for funding, with a total requested amount of $894,000. Detailed statements of work for each proposal were submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) on September 20, 2016. The Trust will issue a Request for Proposals to seek bidders in early October 2016, with a submission

deadline of November 18, 2016, after which, the winning bidders will be selected and work with the GIT technical leads will begin.
Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

CBP Governance Document
A small group of the Goal Team convened during September 2016 to draft recommended solutions to each of the proposed revisions to the CBP Governance Document. These recommendations will be presented to the Goal Team at their October 18, 2016 meeting. At that time, the Goal Team will reach consensus on which recommendations will be brought to the MB.
Contact: Carin Bisland, bisland.carin@epa.gov

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup
The Budget and Finance Workgroup is forming a small group of interested representatives from across the Bay partnership to lead the review of the Environmental Finance Symposium report and to develop a proposal on how to proceed with the report's recommendations. The small group will report to the full workgroup, the Management Board (MB), and the Principals Staff Committee (PSC) on their progress.
Contact: Jim Edward, edward.james@epa.gov

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup
The Local Leadership Workgroup is working with a small group of members, contractors (EcoLogix), and external parties with experience in local outreach to form a series of survey questions aimed at understanding the information needs and preferred delivery mechanisms of local elected officials in the Bay watershed. The workgroup is planning to use existing forums within Bay jurisdictions (i.e. regional meetings) to conduct "focus group" style sessions in an effort to gather responses from a diverse set of local elected officials.
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.

INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORKS WORKGROUP
The **Citizen-Based and Nontraditional monitoring project group (aka the Chesapeake Monitoring Consortium)** is preparing for the Prioritization Workshop hosted by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring in Carlisle, PA on **October 13, 2016**. At this workshop, the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative will be asking attendees to contribute guidance on priority areas that will help focus networking efforts on monitoring integration. An overview of this multi-year collaboration to integrate volunteer and nontraditional data in to the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership will be provided. To RSVP to this event, contact Lea Rubin.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP
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.
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 WIPs. A small workgroup has been tasked with completing this document before October 6th.
A climate change webinar, hosted by the STAR Team's Modeling Workgroup and Climate Resiliency Workgroup Co-Chairs and Coordinators, will discuss recent climate change analyses for sea level rise projections, projected changes in water column temperatures, estimates for wetland inundation, and the changes in the climatology and hydrology in the watershed.
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.

STATUS AND TRENDS WORKGROUP
(Previously Indicators WG)
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 reviewed a draft workplan for the group, and workgroup members discussed changes and additions deemed necessary. This workplan, and the greater role that the workgroup will have in the Partnership, was discussed at the September STAR meeting. The workgroup will also continue to support groups developing indicators.

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. Three meetings were conducted during August and September. Draft recommendations were developed. Workgroup members are reviewing and revising the recommendations. STAC is reviewing a related set of recommendations. A final set of recommendations will be presented to the WQGIT and VADEQ during autumn 2016.

DATA INTEGRITY WORKGROUP
(Previously AMQAW)
The CBP QA and Monitoring Coordinators received responses to the findings from the USGS and SRBC nontidal network field audits in Pennsylvania. SRBC plans to acquire new sampling equipment to ensure consistency among partners. A USGS training session was held in Harrisburg on September 26-27th to show field staff how to collect samples using the new equipment. The training will include a full review of the Nontidal network protocols.
DI Workgroup members will conduct additional audits of tidal and nontidal sampling programs this fall. The workgroup continues to review and rewrite existing procedures for tidal and nontidal WQ sampling, laboratory QA and analytical methods for ammonia, phosphate, nitrogen and phosphorus, suspended solids and chlorophyll.

MODELING WORKGROUP
Initial preliminary scenario analyses of Conowingo infill as well as the influence climate change has on Chesapeake water quality standards was recently presented at the October 4-5 Modeling WG Quarterly meeting. The Phase 6 Beta 3 version of the Watershed Model was used for the analyses. There is also an upcoming webinar that will further explain changes to the Beta 3 version of the Watershed model; the date is to be determined.

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 its October meeting, the Communications Workgroup heard presentations from the Sustainable Fisheries, Habitat and Water Quality GITs about their ongoing and upcoming projects to identify communications needs and offer support. They also heard an update from LGAC about the Local Government Engagement Initiative. Communications and public relations representatives from each jurisdiction are encouraged to be involved with the effort to engage local government officials and staff in their areas. The Communications Workgroup chair held a call with these representatives on Friday, September 23rd.

The 2016 Executive Council meeting was held on October 4th in Boyce, Virginia. In attendance were Gov. Terry McAuliffe (Va.), Gov. Tom Wolf (Pa.), Administrator Gina McCarthy (EPA), Brigadier General William Graham (USACE), Under Secretary Robert Bonnie (USDA), Secretary Ben Grumbles (Md.), Senator Thomas Middleton (CBC), Beverly Perry (D.C.), Deputy Commissioner James Tierney (N.Y.) and Deputy Secretary Kara Coats (Del.). During the meeting, the council agreed to sign a resolution to support local government action and engagement, and the EPA, USDA and Pa. committed an additional $28 million to help reduce nutrient pollution in the state.

On September 21st, the Communications Office issued a press release on the 2015 Water Quality Standards Attainment and Pollution Loads and Trends data that received a lot of good media attention. Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

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.)