

# Status and Trends Workgroup

Under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team of CBPO

The Indicators Framework Action Team conducted work in 2015 culminating in a revised [Indicators Framework](#), Indicator Management Process, and a recommendation to re-convene the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR to evaluate our indicator and information needs to support adaptively managing and communicating our progress toward the Bay Watershed Agreement. These findings were approved by the Management Board in November 2015. The following outlines ideas and next steps for the official convening of this workgroup.

## Recommended Membership

The workgroup will include a core membership as well as a list of interested parties. Both groups will receive updates and upcoming meeting information, and both groups are invited to attend workgroup meetings. The core membership will set the priorities of the work group, develop the annual work plan, and attend the workgroup meetings regularly, while interested parties will provide input relevant to their area of expertise, and should review agendas for upcoming meetings to decide their participation based on the issues or indicators to be discussed. Core membership will include representatives from the ChesapeakeStat team, the GIS team, the Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup, and the Web team; the Communications Director; Outcome representatives; a STAR analyst; the STAR coordinator; and the Indicators Coordinator, who will coordinate the workgroup. Other interested parties include Communications Workgroup leadership, indicator data providers, STAR leadership, state monitoring program representatives, representatives from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and Interstate Potomac River Basin Commission (IPRBC), GIT staffers, and Bay Program managers.

## Mission

Enforce the integrity of the Indicators Framework and staff the indicators management process. Work with the Goal Implementation Teams to identify information needed to adaptively manage achievement of goals and outcomes and communicate our work. Ensure up-to-date indicators for Partnership products and foster cross-outcome collaboration.

## Scope of Work

- Implement the Indicator Framework
- Develop clearly defined criteria to maintain integrity of Indicator Framework
- Identify indicator gaps using the Framework
- Ensure indicators link directly to Agreement outcomes using the Indicator Framework
- Discuss and vet ideas for new indicators
- Offer guidance to GIT coordinators and staffers seeking to develop new indicators
- Develop new indicators as needed (this includes supporting efforts currently underway)
- Manage the process of sunseting old indicators
- Ensure up-to-date indicator Analysis & Methods documentation
- Recognize links among existing indicators: use framework to identify how some indicators provide information that supports multiple outcomes (e.g., performance indicators for one outcome may be an influencing factor indicator for another outcome).

## Next Steps

1. Identify interested parties
2. Determine best meeting time/location
3. Develop agenda for first meeting
4. Hold first meeting
  - a. Set workgroup priorities
  - b. Formulate work schedule or work plan
  - c. Agree on regular meeting time
5. Finalize work plan
6. Proceed with upcoming tasks
  - a. Identify which outcomes in the Agreement are measurable (and which are not)
  - b. Organize indicators by outcome using Indicator Framework
    - This work will naturally identify connections between indicators across outcomes and goals.
    - More identification and analysis of these connections can be done throughout the life of the workgroup.
  - c. Identify gaps and potential metrics for each outcome using the Framework
  - d. Engage STAC to establish criteria needed to prioritize indicator acquisition in light of adaptive management needs—with which indicators should we start filling in gaps?
    - Prioritize performance indicators?
    - Prioritize complete framework of indicators for one outcome?
    - Prioritize at least one indicator per outcome?
  - e. Consider a collaborative approach to collecting geographic information
  - f. Work with Integrated Monitoring Workgroup to recommend a coordinated approach to information acquisition within resource constraints