



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
July 14, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

July 18	Fisheries GIT Meeting
July 19	White House Environmental Finance Conference for Chesapeake Bay (CEQ)
July 25	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
July 26	CBARA draft due to OMB
July 28	STAR Meeting
Aug. 2	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership GIT Meeting
Aug. 8	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
Aug. 10	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
Sept. 19	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
Sept. 27	Executive Council Meeting
Oct. 26	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting, Gettysburg

Updates

Bay TMDL Milestone Evaluations

On June 17, EPA Region 3 released the final Bay TMDL 2014-2015 Milestone progress evaluations and the 2016-2017 Milestones. More than one dozen media representatives called in to participate in a press teleconference that day and coverage was nationwide. The full evaluations, fact sheets and press release are posted on the [Bay TMDL website](#).

Contact: Tom Wenz, (410) 295-1360, wenz.tom@epa.gov

Blue Crab Stock Assessment

On June 30, the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) released its 2016 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report. According to the report, the Chesapeake Bay blue crab stock is not depleted and overfishing is not occurring. Nevertheless, experts recommend maintaining a risk-averse, or cautious, approach to blue crab management: just two years ago, adult female blue crabs were considered depleted. Even after a 183 percent rise in their population between 2014 and 2016, their numbers remain below target levels.

The Report includes blue crab population and harvest data from Maryland, Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, as well as expert recommendations on maintaining a sustainable blue crab fishery. The start of the 2016 crabbing season saw an estimated 194 million adult female blue crabs in the Bay. This marks a 92 percent increase from last year's abundance of adult females, which the Chesapeake Bay Program tracks as part of its progress toward the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Because adult female blue crab abundance is above the 70 million threshold, the blue crab stock is not considered depleted. And because just 15 percent of adult females were harvested in 2015—well below the 25.5 percent target—overfishing is not occurring. For a copy of the report: www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/sustainable_fisheries (click on the "Publications" tab).

2016 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending Crosscut

On June 15, EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin sent a memo to the jurisdictional representatives of the CBP's Principals' Staff Committee on behalf of the White House Office of Management and Budget regarding the reporting provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. Section 3 of the new law requires the Director of OMB to submit an annual, interagency and interstate Chesapeake Bay Restoration Budget Crosscut Report to Congress. The memo stipulates that to the extent that information is available, each jurisdiction should provide: 1) estimated funding for any State restoration activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year; 2) expenditures of State funding during current fiscal year and preceding two fiscal years; and 3) an accounting of funds received from a Federal agency during the current and preceding fiscal years. For this first report, restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$300,000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed should be reported. Recognizing that the jurisdictions will face several challenges in fulfilling this request, OMB has signaled that it will accept the "best data States can provide" and has provided tables for "State Programs" and "Federal Funds Received" to help standardize the information. OMB has asked that the tables be returned by Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

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

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium Report Timeline

A draft embargoed copy of the findings and recommendations report from the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium was provided to CBP Management Board members on July 11. Since the recommendations and CBP's response to them will be a key announcement during the Chesapeake Executive Council meeting on September 27, partners are asked to refrain from sharing the report with anyone but their EC and PSC representatives. Only those MB members or representative who attended the symposium are being asked to provide feedback on the report at this time. And, comments should help clarify and accurately reflect the discussions that took place at the symposium; organizers are not looking for new ideas to be injected at this point in the process. In addition, commenting partners are being asked to pay particular attention to the recommendations being offered in the report with an eye toward how the Executive Council might act on those recommendations.

Contact: Julie Winters, 410-267-5754, winters.julie@epa.gov



CBP Diversity Demographic Profile

To assist in efforts to create a demographic profile baseline of individuals engaged in Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) related efforts, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay sent on June 28 a diversity questionnaire to members of all CBP workgroups, goal teams, committees, and other participating bodies. The questionnaire is completely voluntary, confidential, and takes only a few minutes to complete, but will provide a basic understanding of the diversity of CBP participants and help establish a foundation for future work as outlined by the program's Diversity Management Strategy. The Alliance is hoping for a broad response from a full cross-section of the partnership. Participants are asked to complete the questionnaire by July 31. Results will be compiled in late summer, no later than the end of August.

Contact: Al Todd, atodd@allianceforthebay.org

EPA Approves Jurisdictions' BMP Programs

On June 23, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the approval of programs in each of the six watershed states and the District of Columbia that ensure practices installed to reduce or prevent pollution are in place and operating correctly. Each jurisdiction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is required to have a comprehensive BMP Verification Program in place by 2018 to confirm that each practice tracked and reported for nutrient and sediment pollutant load reduction credit is in place and operating correctly. As of May 2016, plans are now approved in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Chesapeake Bay Program partners developed and instituted a vigorous, watershed-wide verification process for these conservation and technical practices that includes initial inspection, follow-up checks and evaluation of performance. This is a milestone for the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, as work can now begin to fully implement the components of these plans by 2018, connecting federal, state, local and non-governmental organizations with one common goal: the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its waterways.

Indicators

The following indicators were updated between June 16 and July 14, 2016:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Blue Crab Management	The Chesapeake Bay's blue crab stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. CBSAC estimates 15% of female blue crab population was harvested in 2015, below the 34 percent overfishing threshold.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sustainable-fisheries/blue-crab-management

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

- Water Quality Standards Attainment (August 2016)
- Forest Buffer: annual miles planted (August 2016)
- Striped Bass Abundance and Management – coastwide (Summer 2016)
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow (Summer 2016)
- Bottom Habitat (Summer 2016)

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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.

As directed by the PSC at the May 26 meeting, LGAC convened internal and external partners (June 22, 2016) for a strategic discussion about enhancing communication with local officials. Participants included representatives from EPA Region 3, CBPO, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, funders, NGOs, and private sector subject matter experts. The primary focus was on communicating key information related to the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP. The group agreed to pursue development of a road map and schedule to help guide individual and collective initiatives. LGAC agreed to continue leading the collective effort and will convene a second meeting in advance of the August 10, 2016 PSC meeting. Questions about this effort should be directed to LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

Virginia gubernatorial appointee, Ernie Lehmann, submitted his resignation on June 18, 2016 due to personal circumstances. In his resignation he expressed his support, respect and encouragement of the Partnership's work and wished all well and continued success. The governor's office was notified and is now working on filling two vacancies in the Virginia delegation.

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.

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 an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. A draft agenda is being developed and will be distributed in the coming months. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY16 Results of the STAC Workshop Request for Proposals (RFPs)

STAC agreed to support the following five workshops in FY16:

- 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 Workshops:

STAC hosted seven workshops so far in 2016. 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 the workshops including agendas, presentations, and reports can be found on the workshop [homepage](#).

- 1) Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality – January 13-14, 2016
- 2) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation – January 14, 2016
- 3) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System – February 1-2, 2016
- 4) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation – February 17-18, 2016
- 5) The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments – March 7-8, 2016
- 6) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement – April 12-13, 2016
- 7) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making – April 20-21, 2016

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.

Reviews:

STAC is in the process of finalizing one review and planning for three others. Additionally, STAC is anticipating approximately four additional reviews between now and 2017. Details of those reviews are listed below.

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. Over the next few months, the review panel will work with CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments.

2) Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder

In late June, STAC approved the Scenario Builder/Input Model review request from the CBP Modeling Workgroup. A review panel has been formed and is working to finalize their comment by mid-July. The review panel is on track to complete its review by August 31st. The review will take place over the next two months.

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 back in May. STAC members discussed the request at its June quarterly meeting. Since then, STAC members have approved this review request. A review panel is being formed and a Panel Chair is being decided. The review will take place over the next few months.

4) 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 an initial call took place mid-June. The review will take place over the next several months.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews are below.

- 1) Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
- 2) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
- 4) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact 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

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](#) hosted their biannual full goal team [meeting](#) on June 2nd – 3rd at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) at the downtown Richmond campus and Rice Rivers Center located along the James River. The meeting was structured around the team's 2-year workplans and included discussions on land use impacts on aquatic species health, ecosystem approaches to fishery management, the effect of climate change on blue crabs, and a summary of the latest science on Atlantic sturgeon. The team released their [meeting summary](#) which highlights research and presentations discussed at the meeting.

On June 30th the [2016 Blue Crab Advisory Report](#) was released by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), which includes scientists and representatives from state governments and academic institutions in the region as well as federal fisheries scientists. The advisory report includes data from the Bay-wide winter dredge survey (a cooperative effort of Maryland and Virginia) and annual blue crab harvest estimates. The report notes the increase in blue crab population for the second straight year and provides management and research recommendations to promote a sustainable blue crab population and fishery.

Last year, TetraTech developed a review and synthesis of habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species in support of the fish habitat management strategy. The project was expanded 2016 to include additional data on habitat threats and stressors for each life stage of the selected aquatic species. TetraTech presented the final matrix and literature review on June 28th at the Fish Habitat Action Team meeting.

The Fish Habitat and Forage Action Teams conducted meetings to kick off implementation of the 2016-17 workplans. These meetings provided team members with progress reports on ongoing projects, a review of near-term actions, suggestions for approaches to prioritize needs, and a schedule for regular check-ins. Both teams will meet quarterly to continue their progress towards achieving workplan actions.

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.

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 June 27th.

- Each sector workgroup (Urban, Ag, Wastewater, Forestry) will be asked to make recommendations to the WQGIT regarding proposed changes to the No Action and E3 scenarios for the Phase III WIP planning targets, prior to the October 24th WQGIT face-to-face meeting. To aid in those discussions, the guiding principles and modeling documentation used to develop these scenarios in the Phase II process will be distributed to the sector workgroups.
- The WQGIT agreed upon the prioritization of the submitted GIT Project Funding proposals. Highest priority was given to the proposal assessing multifunctional forest buffers, with next highest priority a tie between the proposal to assess potential toxic reduction benefits achieved through nutrient upgrades to wastewater treatment plants and the proposal to develop an assessment protocol for crediting manufactured treatment devices.
- WQGIT members were asked to send comments and feedback on the Preliminary Draft Phase III WIP Expectations to Lucinda Power by COB Thursday, July 7th.
- The WQGIT approved the recommendation to introduce formal rerunning of model and progress history (to accommodate new data and methods) with the Phase 6 modeling tools, and not with Phase 5. Therefore, new data and methods will be introduced in 2019 and the model history will be rerun back to 2009.

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

- The WQGIT will discuss comments and feedback received on the Draft Preliminary Phase III WIP Expectations.
- The WQGIT will receive an update on the development of the Phase 6 Land Use data.

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.

- The SAV Technical Synthesis III (TS3) is in progress by members of the SAV workgroup. The TS3 will compile the latest research regarding SAV in the Chesapeake Bay and highlight new information. The anticipated completion date is December 31st, 2016. Topics to be covered are likely to include SAV restoration, abundance patterns, genetics, land-use, fisheries, and climate change effects, ecosystem services, and management implications.
- 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 SAV and Wetland Workgroups are working with the Climate Resiliency Workgroup to implement its FY15 GIT funded project to develop a Climate Resiliency Assessment and Decision-Making Matrix. The project will involve structured decision-making workshops with both workgroups in November, 2016 and Spring, 2017. 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 hosting a Riverkeeping Monitoring Workshop on July 25th. The field-based workshop will train about 30 local riverkeepers in SAV sampling and identification at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum in the Susquehanna Flats.
- The Habitat GIT welcomes a second staffer to the team, Paige Hobough. Paige previously worked with the Chesapeake Conservation Corps at the USFWS office in Annapolis, MD. With her expertise in pollinator and habitat work, she is a great addition to the team.

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.

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.

Governance Document

The Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (the Goal Team) has received topics for possible revisions to the Governance Document from all interested Goal Implementation Teams, Workgroups, and Advisory Committees, and has presented topics for consideration to the Management Board. The Goal Team is currently in the process of developing specific language to bring back recommended solutions to the Management Board. The Goal Team is also drafting a process timeline for current and future Governance Document revisions, taking into consideration the biennial revision schedule determined at the June 16, 2016 Management Board meeting. The current Governance document is always available online at

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf

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

GIT Funding

The Goal Team is collecting project proposals from all Goal Implementation Teams and the Climate Resilience Workgroup. The due date for submittal of the top three or fewer priority projects by all teams is July 15. Final selection of projects to be funded will take place in August/September 2016. The Goal Team is reviewing two proposals to submit as our top priority project ideas. The first considers the creation of a “Shed Talks” video to enhance engagement of local governments and their constituents. The second seeks to coordinate the possible implementation of the Watershed Education Program being designed by Ecologix Inc. under the 2016 GIT Funding.

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

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup has drafted an updated workgroup Charge. Both the purpose and scope were revised to directly reflect the workgroup’s focal points, specifically Funding, Finance Strategies, and Budget. This revision was carried out to strengthen the workgroup’s commitment to coordination, innovation, and accurate reporting related to an overall program finance system. A small subgroup will meet on July 11, 2016 to begin drafting a workflow to guide current and future actions to fulfill the Charge. Additionally, the workgroup has selected Julie Winters (EPA) as coordinator.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

ChesapeakeStat: ChesapeakeDecisions

The Goal Team and the *ChesapeakeDecisions* Project Team would like to recommend co-leading a process to develop an adaptive management-based decision framework for use by the Management Board, Goal Implementation Teams and associated workgroups. This is part of a larger effort to establish decision-making processes that will inform the development of a tool to assist in future decision-making. The Goal Team plans to develop workflow options, and draft details for each option, to bring to reality the biennial cycle in the Watershed Agreement. This would include putting forward initial recommendations and soliciting feedback from GIT Chairs before the Goal Team presents a final recommendation to the Management Board possibly at the August 2016 Management Board meeting.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@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

At the most recent meeting of the IMN workgroup, Tom Ihde reviewed a proposed effort to leverage the Riverkeeper's network to help perform SAV monitoring and pilot new work to support fish forage data collection needs supporting the Fish Forage outcome of the new Bay Agreement. [See Presentation.](#)

The Citizen-Based and Nontraditional monitoring project group (aka the Chesapeake Monitoring Consortium) has received 80 responses from their Chesapeake monitoring census sent to nontraditional monitoring groups in April 2016. Census results were reviewed as well as the assessment of criteria and identifying priority areas for data integration with state input. [See Presentation.](#)

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

The June 20, 2016 Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call focused on continuing the discussion of modeling SLR for forecasting tidal wetland impacts, with a focus on the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) and a review of goal implementation team funding project proposals. The Climate Resiliency workgroup has also kicked off EPA Goal Team funded project, to develop a cross goal climate resiliency analysis matrix and decision-making methodology. The project is being conducted by Tetra Tech and will focus on the wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation outcomes in the Bay Agreement.

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.

The workgroup finalized the Indicator Process, used for updating existing, adapting existing, and establishing new indicators. The group is also exploring Partnership priorities for indicator development and acquisition.

DATA INTEGRITY WORKGROUP

(Previously AMQAW)

USGS staff from Maryland and West Virginia conducted Nontidal field audits of the Pennsylvania USGS Water Science Center and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission were completed on April 26-27. Additional Nontidal field audits for Delaware (DNREC) and West Virginia (USGS) are being planned. Training in the Nontidal network sampling protocols is scheduled for September 2016. DI workgroup members reviewed and/or updated edited existing procedures for Tidal and Nontidal WQ sampling, laboratory QA and the lab methods for ammonia, phosphate, dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus, suspended solids and chlorophyll.

MODELING WORKGROUP

The Modeling Team will be holding a webinar on the Phase 6 Beta 2 version of the Watershed Model (WSM) on July 7. The purpose of the webinar is to provide an overview of the entire watershed

modeling system including the nutrient application/scenario builder components and watershed delivery. Participants will also be oriented to the available Phase 6 modeling documentation to assist in the Partnership's review of these tools. More information can be found at the meeting website [here](#). Work is also continuing on the development and refinements to the Phase 6 Beta 3 version of the WSM, in preparation for its delivery at the August 9-10 Modeling WG Quarterly meeting.

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.

In lieu of its regular monthly meeting, the Communications Workgroup attended a retreat on July 13th at CBPO. The retreat consisted of a morning training by Spitfire Strategies on identifying target audiences and crafting compelling messaging, followed by an afternoon activity on communications successes, challenges and the role of the workgroup.

On June 30th, the Communications Office put out a press release on the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee's 2016 Blue Crab Advisory Report, which received good media attention notably from CNN and Reuters.

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Recent Meetings and Events

June 23	STAR Meeting
June 27	WQ GIT Meeting
June 29	OMB/EPA Conference Call
June 5	GIT 6 Meeting
July 11	WQ GIT Meeting