

Status and Trends Workgroup MINUTES

August 9, 2016 from 1:00-3:00 PM

Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)

Conference Line: 866-299-3188, access code 410-267-5731

1:00-1:15 pm Opening (Laura Free, 15 minutes)

- Welcome and introductions
- Review action items from last meeting:
 - Coordinator to begin drafting workgroup schedule/strategy (in progress)
 - Catherine to work with Bruce, Dave and Luke on Oyster charts and dashboard (completed)
 - Laura to convene a discussion of examples of the Indicator Framework at work (in progress)
 - Laura to report back results of matrix exercise from July meeting (in progress)

1:15-1:30 pm Update: Environmental Literacy Indicator (Catherine Krikstan, 15 minutes)

Description: Workgroup members will learn about the recent Environmental Literacy Leadership Team meeting on August 1 to discuss draft Environmental Literacy Indicators.

Desired Outcome: Members are aware of development status and of any needs identified that the workgroup can help address.

Laura, Catherine, Shannon Sprague, and Kevin Schabow met with the Environmental Literacy Leadership team to discuss possible environmental literacy indicators. Laura and Catherine presented the Indicator Process and the role ChesapeakeProgress would play in the communication of those indicators. There was also a review of the mock ups of the Environmental Literacy Indicators, discussed in a previous Status and Trends meeting. Based on feedback from this meeting, there will be more mockups created. For the environmental literacy planning outcome, a chart will be created that shows the percentage of local education agencies in each jurisdiction that are either well prepared, somewhat prepared, or not at all prepared to implement environmental literacy programs. The student outcome discussed would be the percentage who are enrolled in schools that either provide system-wide MWEES, some MWEES, or no MWEES at all across the watershed by jurisdiction. The sustainable schools outcome will be, rather than the number of sustainable schools, the percentage of schools in the watershed that are certified sustainable, also categorized by jurisdiction. Another meeting will be had with the Environmental Literacy Leadership Team in September to take another look at these updated mockups. Ideally, information on this indicator could be posted in relation to when the survey is completed.

DISCUSSION

Laura added that there was a lot of discussion to show progress and change over time with these indicators. This will be an ongoing conversation since there are different ways to show information in a compelling way.

Kristen discussed previous conversations from jurisdictions regarding questions about progress and purpose of indicators. It's important to really let people know how this information is being used. Doreen agreed that there are many parties involved in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement that need to be

privity to the what and why of the indicator process. These indicators are the way that these parties will be held to their actions they agreed to in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

ACTION- Laura wrapped up this discussion by adding that the Status and Trends workgroup will keep in touch with Shannon Sprague as more mock ups of indicators are being developed for the meeting in September with the Environmental Literacy Leadership Team.

1:30-2:05 pm Prioritizing Needs (Discussion - Laura Free, 35 minutes)

Description: The workgroup will discuss the results of the activity from the previous July 12 meeting, where groups brainstormed information needs based on Outcome language and sorted information needs into an Effort/Multi-Outcome Benefits matrix. The Coordinator will review the activity, the results, and trends noted in the results.

Desired Outcome: Workgroup members agree on starting to work on acquiring certain pieces of information, perhaps those identified as requiring Low Effort, having High Multi-Outcome Benefits. This agreement will inform pieces of the draft workplan. Members will share any existing plans to acquire this information and may advise on whether these needs can be best met with in-house expertise or with external help.

SEE Document.

This document shows what the last meeting covered, with the exception of the Toxic and Healthy Watersheds outcomes. The discussion from the previous meeting when this activity was presented did not touch on those two outcomes.

Healthy Watersheds may just have a tracking need. Laura has been working with Peter Tango and Renee Thompson, the Healthy Watersheds GIT Coordinator, to address the GITs needs.

Laura will also work with Greg Allen, Toxics Workgroup Coordinator, to further identify what might be needed as a future indicator for the Toxics outcome.

Laura discussed the opinion for in-house capacity for many outcomes that were categorized by the group in the Low Effort, Many Multi-Outcome Benefits section of the matrix. Laura encouraged the group to help identify these opportunities where in-house expertise could be used. A few examples were given by Laura:

- 1 meter resolution data will help with acreage and density of forest buffers?
- In-house capacity for definitions—wetland functions, definitions in citizen stewardship outcome may be already within the workplan

Referring to the results of the Many Multi-outcome Benefits matrix, Kristen asked if any of these answers corresponded to the projects currently in the running for GIT Funding proposals, since the proposals will get ranked higher with cross-GIT benefits. Laura responded that Climate and Stewardship were the only two proposals that directly mentioned indicators. Catherine and Kyle discussed how one proposal regarding mapping could help with a few of these answers.

- External help still needed—
 - Wetlands—identifying degraded wetlands, wetland acreage change over time,

- Catherine asked about whether the oyster outcome would be considered in house or not, since its NOAA data. Kara Skipper discussed how NOAA has the data compiled from each individual fishery management organization such as Maryland DNR.
- Kara also asked about distinguishing the different types of oyster management between different organizations. Laura noted the difficulty in determining in-house vs external outlets for resources, and whether additional help is needed for the oyster indicator. Kara discussed that many organizations such as ACE and NOAA are already involved with this indicator, and therefore might not need extra assistance in development compared to other indicators.

DISCUSSION

Doreen brought up wetlands and its place in the matrix. Thinking about the next steps from this matrix, this activity was more of a brainstorming activity, without more information from the experts from these outcomes. Doreen asked that the group might think about who else to reach out to, such as STAR or subject matter experts to validate the results we've achieved from this activity.

This document includes areas where there would be a head start or in-house expertise to accomplish some of these tasks. Are there additional opportunities?

ACTION: Laura summarized that she will ground truth these results with related Program subject matter experts (likely coordinators and staffers who are aware of workgroup efforts) and will look into other capacities that we are currently unaware of to help address these needs, as well as reach out to STAR and STAC for more input.

2:05-2:30 pm Completing the Indicator Framework (Discussion - Laura Free, 25 minutes)

Description: During the previous July 12 meeting, it was determined that completing the Indicators Framework for some Outcomes would provide an example for other workgroups and GITs. The workgroup will discuss work being done in the GITs to prioritize factors influencing achievement of the Outcome, whether GITs are collecting or analyzing data on these factors, and whether any GITs have sought to complete the Indicator Framework for any of their Outcomes.

Desired Outcome: Workgroup members identify Outcomes that may be used as an example of the completion and use of the Indicator Framework.

[SEE DOCUMENT.](#)

In the last meeting, we talked about starting with performance indicators across the Outcomes before working to complete the Indicator Framework for that Outcome.

We discussed that, while we generally want to look at performance indicators across Outcomes, we also want to build or complete the Indicator Framework within a few Outcomes, so that these Outcomes can (a) better practice adaptive management and (b) serve as an example for other Outcomes and workgroups.

Questions posed at this meeting:

Are any workgroups :

- Prioritizing factors influencing (as reflected in Management Strategies) achievement of Outcome – among the ones you can control?
 - Kara added that the oyster team is using a shell habitat loss rate to help analyze how oyster restoration is/will be over time. Kara also mentioned the shared workshop to be done with Climate and Blue Crab, as well as Oyster, Outcomes.
- Collecting or analyzing data on these factors
 - Catherine discussed her efforts in summarizing workplans for ChesapeakeProgress. There are bullets and key steps that could be counted as influencing factors.
 - **ACTION:** Catherine will send a bulleted list from these workplan summaries help to identify these factors.
- Working to complete the Indicator Framework

Laura reiterated these questions: Has anyone thought about prioritizing the factors that influence whether they can make progress beyond what is written in the management strategies, and then has anyone taken the next step of collecting data and characterizing that impact in some way.

Laura added that these questions will need to be reiterated to the experts (likely coordinators and staffers who are aware of workgroup efforts) at a later date to gather more input.

Laura also brought up a previous activity defining measureable and non-measureable outcomes. The group had mentioned previously that no outcome should be “left behind” because of more narrative-oriented goals. These meetings could help provide a forum for those goals/outcomes to present to the workgroup, as well as the Communications team, to continue to help advance those goals.

Kristen discussed that it might be helpful to somehow piggy-back on other workgroup meetings to garner participation from workgroups. Even providing quicker updates at other meetings could help draw participants to a more in-depth discussion at these regular meetings.

2:30-2:40 pm Drafting a Workplan (Update – Laura Free, 10 minutes)

Description: The Coordinator will review components of a draft workplan and ask for additional feedback.

Desired Outcome: Workgroup members will provide input on what activities a draft workplan should include, either at meeting or by the end of the week. The Coordinator will draft a workplan for review, comment, and finalization at the September Status & Trends Workgroup meeting.

- The Status and Trends Workgroup has been working toward a workplan for a while through these different activities:
 - Identifying measurable components of Outcomes
 - Brainstorming information needs and organizing via matrix
 - Discussing the ongoing development needs of different workgroups and GITs
 - BUT, it has been noted that STAR and STAC should provide input on these outcomes before a draft is created.

2:40-2:45 pm Timeline Review (Laura Free, 5 minutes)

Description: This standing agenda item will confirm data updates completed in the last month and list data updates occurring within the next month.

Desired Outcome: Members are aware of completed and upcoming data updates and can resolve timing conflicts or other issues offline with the Indicators Coordinator.

- Two striped bass indicators, as well as a riverflow indicator, were updated in July.
- In August, the nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment loads, and river flow indicator based off the USGS RIM stations, supplemented with some model and air deposition information, will be updated
- Also, the water quality standards attainment indicator, involving DO, chlorophyll *a*, and water clarity will be updated soon.
- The forest buffer indicator should also be published in August.
- In Sept, Laura is also working with Mike Mallonee about the bottom habitat indicator.
- Wetland numbers will be available this fall, as well as updates on indicators in development, such as tree canopy, diversity, and the baseline from the stream health indicator.
- Fish passage numbers will be provided around November, according to Kyle.

2:45-3:00 pm Report Out of Action Items (Paige Hobaugh for Melissa Merritt, 15 minutes)

TOPIC	TIMEFRAME	LEAD
ACTION- the Status and Trends workgroup will keep in touch with Shannon Sprague as more mock ups and indicators are being developed for the meeting in September with the Environmental Literacy Leadership Team.		Status and Trends Workgroup
ACTION: Catherine will send a bulleted list from these ChesapeakeProgress workplan summaries help to identify these influencing factors.		Catherine Krikstan
ACTION: Laura to look into other capacities that we are currently unaware of to help achieve these outcomes, as well as reaching out to STAR and STAC for more input as well.		Laura Free/ Workgroup

Adjourn (Next meeting scheduled for September 13 from 1-3 pm in Room 305)

Future Agenda Items

Topic	Timeframe	Lead
Status & Trends Workgroup Workplan	TBD	Laura Free
Exploring a Forage Fish Indicator	TBD	Bruce Vogt

*Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team
Chesapeake Bay Program*

Can GIT coordinators view media - such as maps - before they go live, in an update (as is done in an adapted or new indicator process)?		
How do key actions in the work plans relate to an indicator?	Fall 2016	Workgroup members

PARTICIPANTS

Catherine Krikstan	Chesapeake Stat team	ckrikstan@chesapeakebay.net
Doreen Vetter	Chesapeake Stat team	vetter.doreen@epa.gov
Howard Weinberg	GIS team	hweinber@chesapeakebay.net
Kara Skipper	Fisheries Staffer	kara.skipper@noaa.gov
Kristin Saunders	Cross-GIT Coordinator	ksaunders@umces.edu
Kyle Runion	Habitat Staffer	runion.kyle@epa.gov
Laura Free	Indicators Coordinator	free.laura@epa.gov
Rachel Felver	Communications Director	rfelver@chesapeakebay.net
Paige Hobbaugh	Habitat Staffer	hobaugh.paige@epa.gov