**Chesapeake Bay Program**

**Management Board Meeting**

**January 14, 2016**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Jan 15 Draft 2016-2017 Milestones due to EPA

Jan 15 MB comments on draft work plans due to GITs

Jan 21 Phase 3 WIP stakeholder assessment

Jan 22 Draft workplans released for public input

Jan 28 STAR Meeting

Feb TBD CBP Chesapeake Progress website launch

Feb 2 (tent) Release of 2015 Bay Barometer

Feb 9 (tent) Chesapeake Progress website launch

Feb 11 Management Board conference call

Feb 17-18 Citizens’ Advisory Committee meeting

Feb 18-19 Oyster Summit

Feb 25 STAR meeting

March 7-8 STAC workshop on Climate Change

**Updates**

**Draft 2016-2017 Milestones due from Bay jurisdictions**

On Friday, January 15, EPA will receive drafts of the third set of two-year milestones from the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions as part of the Bay TMDL. The 2016-2017 Milestones will outline progressive steps the Bay jurisdictions will continue taking over the next two years to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, and what reductions those measures will achieve. The milestones received will be posted on the [Chesapeake Bay TMDL](http://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl) website. The purpose of the milestones is to keep all the jurisdictions on schedule for implementing all the needed pollution reducing measures by 2025, with measures in place by 2017 for achieving 60 percent of the needed reductions. EPA will review the milestones and provide feedback to the jurisdictions. The 2016-2017 Milestones are projected to be “final” in mid-May.

Contact: Katherine Antos (410) 295-1358, [antos.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:antos.katherine@epa.gov)

**Final Federal Water Quality Milestones**

On Friday, January 15, the federal agency Water Quality programmatic milestones for the 2016-2017 milestone period will be posted as final. The process included an interagency review by EPA and other federal agencies, a 30-day public comment period, and a “fatal flaw” review again by the agencies. The milestones will be posted to the EO website at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net>.

Contact: Jim Edward (410) 267-5705, [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov)

**Delay Announced in Tred Avon Oyster Restoration Work**

Ongoing oyster restoration work in the Tred Avon River (near Easton MD) has been delayed according to US Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of Natural Resources spokespersons. The work in the Tred Avon River is one of six tributaries selected for tributary-scale oyster restoration by the Maryland and Virginia Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroups and one of the ten oyster restoration projects committed to in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

In December, the DNR asked the Corps of Engineers to delay oyster restoration work taking place in the Tred Avon River. A progress report from the Maryland Oyster Restoration Integrity Workgroup is expected to be released spring 2016 and Maryland DNR is expected to release an evaluation of the restoration efforts in July.

**Federal Funding for Chesapeake Bay Programs**

Congress finally approved in late December a federal appropriations omnibus bill that provides funding for many key programs that support the Chesapeake Bay Program work. A few highlights:

* The Chesapeake Bay Program will continue to receive $73 million. From that, INSR and SWG grant programs will receive $6 million each.
* The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is funded at $450 million including $4.3 million for projects funded through the Rivers of the Chesapeake initiative. Rivers of the Chesapeake was selected as one of eight initiatives to receive funding for land acquisition through LCWF’s collaborative landscape program. The land acquisition projects selected for funding within the Rivers of the Chesapeake initiative are located at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (MD), Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historical Trail (DE) and Piscataway Park (MD).
* Clean Water SRF will receive $1.4 billion for construction and upgrades of wastewater treatment facilities to help reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay from outdated facilities. An earlier House-passed bill would have cut $480 million.
* The Drinking Water SRF will receive $863 million to build, upgrade and prevent pollution in drinking water systems.

**American Rivers Report**

A new report, “Urban Farms, A Green Infrastructure Tool for the Chesapeake Bay” from American Rivers, highlights the benefits of urban agriculture as a green infrastructure technique for mitigating urban stormwater by restoring natural ground cover, allowing rainfall to infiltrate into the soil and reducing the amount of runoff that flows into storm drains. The report recommends that cites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed integrate urban agriculture into their planning materials and zoning codes as an allowed land use because it provides many additional benefits than traditional stormwater management. Urban agriculture helps increase the nutritional health of the community through urban farms that provide affordable and accessible fruits and vegetables. They would also improve the local economy by increasing property values and providing greenspace for residents. Furthermore, the report gives recommendations to city officials on how to promote the use of urban agriculture in their community. A discussion about the report and its implications for CBP partners will be on a future MB agenda. For more information: <http://www.americanrivers.org/newsroom/resources/urban-agriculture-report/>

**CBPO Associate Director at Canada-United States Collaboration for Great Lakes Water Quality, Nutrients Annex Subcommittee meeting**

On January 7, CBP Associate Director for Science, Analysis and Implementation Rich Batiuk and senior EPA Region 3 staff took part in the Canada-United States Collaboration for Great Lakes Water Quality, Nutrients Annex Subcommittee meeting in Windsor, Canada. Batiuk and Capacasa gave a presentation titled “Lessons learned from the Chesapeake Bay TMDL” for the group. The group is focused on the binational efforts of the U.S. and Canada under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. <http://binational.net/>

Contact: Rich Batiuk (410) 267-5731, [batiuk.richard@epa.gov](mailto:batiuk.richard@epa.gov)

**Study finds intersex bass near wildlife refuges in Northeast U.S.**

Intersex small- and largemouth bass were found in waters near national wildlife refuges throughout the Northeast United States, according to a study from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Of the fish tested, 85 percent of male smallmouth bass and 27 percent of male largemouth bass were intersex. Among the sites sampled were several locations in the Chesapeake Bay region, including near the Patuxent Research Refuge, Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge and Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. It is currently unclear what the specific cause of intersex is in these fish. This study comes just after the release of a separate report from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission identifying endocrine-disruptors, pathogens and parasites as the most likely causes for a decline of smallmouth bass in the Susquehanna River.

The USGS and FWS report, “Evidence of estrogenic endocrine disruption in smallmouth and largemouth bass inhabiting Northeast U.S. national wildlife refuge waters: A reconnaissance study,” is [available online](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0147651315301093) at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0147651315301093>

**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.*

At its’ December 2015 meeting, LGAC received a briefing on the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP. Members raised concerns about 2017 and 2025 target messaging. LGAC affirmed their participation in all workplans where the committee has been identified as a Participating Entity. The committee also agreed to serve as advisers during Phase II of the Forest Retention Study.

LGAC’s next meeting is being held March 24-25, 2016 in the DC Metro area. To RSVP or be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact Mary Gattis, LGAC Coordinator, at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org)

Contact: Mary Gattis, [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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 Meetings:**

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2015 on March 15-16, 2016 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at [kellyr@si.edu](mailto:kellyr@si.edu)

**Workshops**:

STAC is hosting four workshops before mid-February. Information regarding those workshops are below.

1. Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality

This workshop will take place on January 13-14, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton) in Annapolis, Maryland. The objective of this workshop is to discuss the future status of the processes taking place in the Lower Susquehanna River reservoirs, so that we can predict how any particular future watershed- or reservoir-management approaches will impact the attainment of the Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria. The workshop will seek to determine what would be the best approach to modeling the process by which inputs to the reservoirs are transformed into outputs in the past, current, and in future conditions. The workshop will also formulate a plan of study, including field data collection related to mass balance and biogeochemical transformations, as well as experimentation that will improve understanding of the processes at play in these reservoirs.

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation

This workshop will take place on January 14, 2016 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland. The workshop will identify ways to enhance the capacity of the CBP Wetland workgroup by facilitating a solution-oriented discussion with the workgroup and other key parties on the 2-year workplan for wetlands, key obstacles, potential opportunities to overcome those obstacles, and other parallel and related efforts. The objective is to demonstrate a pilot process on how other workgroups might similarly enhance their capacity to meet and implement their overall goals.

1. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System

This workshop is scheduled for February 1-2, 2016 at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. This workshop will develop approaches to assess uncertainty in the suite of CBP models to support the Mid-point Assessment of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The workshop objectives include: (1) explore and identify drivers of uncertainty in the Bay Program Partnership’s modeling system, structure, parameters, data, and assumptions; (2) assess the available methods for conducting uncertainty analyses in the suite of models; and (3) develop recommendations and priorities for conducting uncertainty analysis of the models in support of the 2017 Mid-point Assessment model review.

1. Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation

This workshop will to take place on February 17-18, 2016 at The O’Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The goal of the workshop is to develop the requirements of an optimization engine that can simplify and guide Bay jurisdictions’ efforts to develop Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) and Milestones that minimize implementation costs while achieving the required reductions and maximizing co-benefits. The workshop will generate recommendations for the best optimization method, key objectives, decision variables, an appropriate means of accounting for (i.e., modeling) the spatial and temporal interactions that will influence their effect on outcomes, the range to necessary constraints, and other data needs for a Bay optimization system.

In addition, planning for three additional STAC workshops has been underway for several months. The workshops below will take place before May 31, 2016.

1. Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
2. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making
3. The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at [dixonra@si.edu](mailto:dixonra@si.edu) or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php>

**Reviews**:

STAC is currently sponsoring and planning two ongoing reviews. Details of both reviews are listed below.

1. Microbeads/Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay

At the request of the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC), STAC sponsored a technical review panel to identify (1) sources of microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay, (2) known impacts of microplastics on aquatic life and human health, (3) data gaps, and (4) policy actions to reduce microplastics. The review panel has been gathering data and drafting a review report since early November. Due to new federal legislation, the review panel recently modified the scope of this review to further emphasize the issues. Former STAC Chair, Kirk Havens presented the preliminary findings to the CBC on January 7, 2016 at their quarterly meeting. A final report will be distributed later this month.

1. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The CBP’s Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup (CAP WG), under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR), requested a STAC review of the CAP WG technical report “Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries 2015 Technical Addendum.” A review panel has been formed and an information session is being scheduled for mid-January. The review is scheduled to be completed in early 2016.

Additionally, 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. Proposed revised James River chlorophyll a water quality criteria
2. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanation s and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
3. Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder
4. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
5. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
6. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For additional information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at [gardnern@si.edu](mailto:gardnern@si.edu) or visit the STAC review webpage at: <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php>

**Reports**:

STAC is in the process of finalizing three workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC plans

to distribute before February.

1. Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals.
2. Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.

For additional information contact Natalie Gardner at [gardnern@si.edu](file:///C:\Users\gbarranc\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\D0G80XMY\gardnern@si.edu)

**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.*

* After a successful workshop on Cownose Rays in October, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Fisheries GIT staff are compiling research presented at the workshop and the related discussions into a comprehensive report that can help inform future management decisions. A summary of the research and scientists’ recommendations can be found [here](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23141/cnr_findings_chart_final_2.pdf). The report is projected to be completed in late January.
* TetraTech recently completed a review and synthesis project on the habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species as part of a CBP contract with TetraTech to support the management strategies. Fish Habitat Team members identified species which were lacking comprehensive synthesis of their habitat requirements. TetraTech compiled information on habitat requirements and threat/stressor responses for the identified species and presented their products to the Fish Habitat Team on December 11th. This project directly supports actions outlined in the fish habitat workplan.
* The Sustainable Fisheries GIT hosted their semi-annual full GIT meeting on Monday, December 14th at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD. The team reviewed oyster restoration progress, blue crab research, a study on forage indicators, blue catfish diet research, and other fisheries topics. The team provided feedback on the Sustainable Fisheries workplans in a poster session that also included two Vital Habitat workplans. Presentations and a meeting summary can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23179/>
* The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is planning an Oyster Summit for February 18th-19th 2016 in Fredericksburg, VA. The agenda topics are being developed by a workshop steering committee of diverse oyster stakeholders. The meeting will bring together fishery managers, scientists, industry (harvest and aquaculture), non-profits and community members to discuss larval/spat production, shell availability, and other common priorities for oysters moving forward.
* The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) has developed a suite of forage species indicators and predator diet analyses with last year’s CBP GIT funding via the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Notable findings include that the Atlantic croaker once comprised 75% of consumption of the six species studied but has decreased to approximately 10%. A summary of their work can be found [here](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23179/3_buchheister_git_meeting_12-14-15_final.pdf).
* UMCES has also completed analyses on blue crab with funding from last year’s CBP GIT funding to analyze blue crab data from multiple fishery-independent surveys and to assess the number of broods an adult female can produce within its lifetime. The 2011 blue crab year class was very abundant; however this abundance was not represented in the 2012 Winter Dredge Survey (WDS). UMCES performed a thorough examination of possible causes of this disparity to determine whether the survey in 2012 was biased, mortality was unusually high, or other factors were at play. Their results indicate that mortality was indeed high for the 2011 year-class, and that the survey was not biased. A summary of their work can be found [here](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23179/6_analysis_of_blue_crab_survey_data_and_reproductive_fisheries_git.pdf).

Contact: Bruce Vogt, [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov)

**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 Habitat GIT is close to announcing nomination of a new Vice Chair. Meanwhile, current Vice Chair Jana Davis will assume the role of Chair with the intent for a new Vice Chair to transition into the Chair role over the next year.
* A recent Baltimore Sun article written by Mike Klingaman described locally-driven Brook Trout conservation efforts in the Upper Gunpowder Watershed, a habitat stronghold for the species. Scott Scarfone and Trout Unlimited, highlighted in the article, are contributors to the Brook Trout workplan, which calls for enabling local efforts like this one.
* The 72nd Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held April 3-5, 2016 at the Westin Annapolis. On the first day of the NEAFWA conference, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative staff will lead a workshop providing a hands-on introduction to information and tools developed by LCCs in the Northeast Region. Registration opens in January.
* The Conservation Fund's Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities and Landscapes Course will be held May 3-5, 2016 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. During this 3-day course community-based teams will focus on the economics, community character, natural resources, and partnership building skills necessary for creating sustainable communities. The application deadline is March 14, 2016.
* Wetland Workgroup Chairs Amy Jacobs and Erin McLaughlin, with Steve Rhabe of OpinionWorks, will present findings from a GIT funded project in 2014 titled “Accelerate wetland restoration in support of WIPs / GIT integration” on February 4th, 2016 at the Delaware Wetlands Conference in Wilmington, DE. Registration for the conference closes January 27th.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, [Jennifer\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_greiner@fws.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 a face to face meeting December 14-15, 2016. The following is a subset of action and decision items from the meeting that the WQGIT would like to highlight for the Management Board:**

* The WQGIT reached agreement on a path forward, including decision making processes and timeline, for many of the Midpoint Assessment Priorities.

**Monitoring & Explaining Trends**

* **ACTION**: USGS will work with the WQGIT to set up a group of technical staff drawn from the WQGIT agencies and organizations to work directly with the Explaining Trends team to work out more detailed responses to the three sets of questions (and others) posed to the WQGIT.
* **ACTION**: USGS will work with the WQGIT to convene a group of managers to develop the bigger picture trends and explanation storylines and how we need to communicate what over what timeframe in terms of trends and their explanations. Charge this group to then work directly with the WQGIT’s identified technical group and the Explaining Trends team.
* **ACTION**: USGS will work with the WQGIT chair, vice chair, and coordinator to schedule a series of webinars over the coming year to present the increasing level of information and understanding coming forward from the work underway within the Integrated Trend Analysis Team’s work on explaining trends up in the watershed, in the Bay’s tidal waters and the connections between both.

**Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment & Action Plan**

* **DECISION**: The WQGIT accepted the final Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment Report on behalf of the larger CBP partnership.
* **ACTION**: WQGIT members should send comments on the draft Stakeholder Assessment Action Plan to Lucinda Power by January 21, 2016. In response, Lucinda will work with the Action Team to respond to any comments received, as well as to address the concerns expressed during the WQGIT meeting on the need for the Action Plan to speak to all 9 findings from the Stakeholder Assessment Report.

**Phase III Planning Target Methodology**

* **DECISION**: WQGIT agreed to proceed with the current principles for setting planning targets as a framework and to, over the course of 2016, work towards an incremental understanding of how the forthcoming new models and inputs will affect the existing allocation methodology.
* **ACTION**: The WQGIT identified changes to the No Action and E3 scenarios to reflect new information, past assumptions and new BMPs, and the effects of Conowingo Dam, climate change, and James River chlorophyll a criteria re-evaluation as areas where more information will be needed in order to determine whether or not changes to the three principles and the underlying methodology are needed.
* **ACTION**: The WQGIT will target June 2016 to make a recommendation to the Management Board and Principals’ Staff Committee, with that date subject to change.

**Use of New Information in 2-Year Milestones**

* **DECISION**: The WQGIT agreed, starting with the jurisdictions’ development of their 2017 milestones, that the partnership will hold the assumptions set at the beginning of the milestone period constant over the two year period. Land uses will be projected at the beginning of the milestone period, and those projections will not be changed, though the land uses will change annually based upon those projections. At the end of the milestone period, the partners will factor in the new information, BMP efficiencies, and data previously approved by the partnership into the present and past history of progress runs, back through 2009. With the introduction of new BMPs, the jurisdictions can go back and update their past reporting for those new BMPs over the course of past history of progress runs conducted after the end of the Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration period.
* **ACTION**: The WQGIT chair will take the WQGIT decision on a partnership policy for updating new information to the Management Board in January 2016 for their information and to seek their concurrence that they are comfortable with this policy moving forward into the 2017 milestone development process.

**Use of 2025 Forecasted Conditions for Phase III WIPs**

* **ACTION**: The WQGIT agreed to participate in a cross-GIT group, led by Peter Claggett and Mark Bryer and building from the Land Use Workgroup membership, and representatives from Water Quality, Habitat, Healthy Watershed, and Stewardship GITs. The charge of this cross-GIT group is to develop recommendations on how the partnership could proceed forward with crediting conservation as a means of avoiding future growth in loads.
* **DECISION**: The WQGIT agreed to the Land Use Workgroup proceeding with the recommended approach of reviewing and approving the forecasting methodology in order to provide the GIT with the information needed to make a decision regarding whether or not to plan Phase III WIPs on 2025 forecasted conditions in the May 2016 timeframe.

**WQGIT Leadership**

* **DECISION**: The WQGIT confirmed James Davis-Martin (VA DEQ) as their new chair and Teresa Koon (WV DEP) as their new vice-chair. The WQGIT’s confirmation of the new chair will be submitted to the Management Board for their approval in January 2016.

**Post-Meeting Update on Phase 5.3.2. Nutrient Management Task Force:**

During their December 17th meeting, the AGWG all agreed to stay the course and finish the work it has started. Their decision will be recorded in the meeting summary, and next steps are listed below:

1. December: States submit final crosswalks to the Task Force – both narrative submissions and acres. Task Force finalizes crosswalk report. TF is focused on:
   1. WV documentation to support its reported acres. We think WV has the supporting information, they just need to be willing to share it.
   2. DE resubmission of its crosswalk. DE is working on other “lines of evidence” for a resubmission of the crosswalk. We remain concerned about whether DE will have sufficient information to back up its reported acres. Secretary Kee linked into the meeting via phone but remained silent. Chris Brosch, DDA, said he said the main problem is that the TF doesn’t understand DE’s programs and asked to give a presentation to the AGWG instead of providing more information in the crosswalk. The AgWG Chairs said they need the crosswalk, but also welcome state program presentations throughout this coming year.
   3. PA and NY – we’ll want more information to justify the high compliance levels reported.
   4. Tier 2 P justification – the Task Force needs to spend some more time evaluating state documentation on compliance levels.
2. January: Make any necessary adjustments to the state-reported acres.
   1. EPA will finalize and implement a methodology for adjusting any state-reported acres, if states are unable to provide sufficient documentation or adjust state-reported acres downward.
   2. EPA will continue to work with the Ag Workgroup as it develops and implements its methodology.
3. February: States will work with CBPO modelers to finalize NEIEN data submissions to ensure consistency with crosswalks. Reported acres should be equivalent to the compliance acres.

Post-February: CBPO modelers will conduct the 2015 progress run.

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

**Federal Facilities Workgroup**

The Federal Facilities Workgroup had a meeting on December 17, 2015. During the meeting it was determined that all meeting for 2016 will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. Actions from the meeting included federal agencies needing to review their programmatic two-year milestones and status of BMP planning to meet targets. Any comments were to be sent to Greg Allen ([allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)) and Nicole Lehmer ([lehmer.nicole@epa.gov](mailto:lehmer.nicole@epa.gov)) by January 12, 2016.

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@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.*

Workplan Development:

Contact: Tuana Phillips, [Phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:Phillips.tuana@epa.gov)

**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.*

**Citizen Stewardship**

The Citizen Stewardship workgroup is preparing to field test an index that will provide a metrics for the citizen stewardship outcome. The workgroup will be meeting again in late February to discuss preliminary results from the field test as well as discussing the goals and directions for the workgroup. Please contact Amy Handen at [Amy\_Handen@nps.gov](mailto:Amy_Handen@nps.gov) for more information.

**Environmental Literacy**

The Education Workgroup held the Environmental Literacy Summit focused on the Sustainable School outcome on November 9 &10 at NCTC. Summit proceedings and webinar recordings can be found on the Bay Program website on the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Summit event page. Current workgroup efforts also include planning an April meeting with the Chiefs of Education from each jurisdiction as well as representation from the U.S. Department of Education to discuss the importance of creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms across subject areas. Please contact Shannon Sprague at [Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov) for more information.

**Public Access**

The Public Access team is continuing to make progress on the Public Access site development Workplan, as well as preparing for the development of the Public Access Data Quality Assurance and Application Integration project. The group will also be collecting data on new access sites developed in 2015 by January 15th. For more information please contact John Davy at [John\_Davy@nps.gov](mailto:John_Davy@nps.gov)

**Land Conservation**

In the largest gathering to date, nearly 120 people convened at the National Conservation Training Center on October 5-6, 2015 for the 6th annual Chesapeake Conservation Partnership meeting. The spirit of the event – Growing the Partnership, Growing Our Impact – was reflected both in the increased attendance and the conversations around increasing diversity and inclusion. Partners were invited to share successes and new projects in fast-paced presentations, highlighting the tremendous collective impact of the group over the previous year. Other features included a planning session to address potential impacts from linear infrastructure projects, a panel discussion on strategies to engage with diverse audiences, and breakout sessions on key conservation focal areas. The meeting set the stage for action in 2016, including continuing progress toward achieving the Protected Lands Outcome in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. For more information contact Kate Baker [kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org)

**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.*

**FY 15 and FY 16 EPA GIT Funding**: The Chesapeake Bay Trust has released and closed the RFP for EPA FY15 GIT Funding projects. The RFP can be found at cbtrust.org. Proposals were due by January 7. Preliminary budget information suggests that a similar level of funding will be available for FY 16.

**Local Leadership Work Plan Development**: The Local Leadership Workgroup has been actively working on developing the work plan for the Local Leadership Management Strategy. A project to design a local leadership education program has been funded through EPA FY15 GIT Funding. A contract has also been executed with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to establish the metrics and baseline for monitoring success towards this Outcome. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for January 20.

**Budget and Finance Workgroup Proposal**: The purpose of this proposed GIT 6 workgroup is to convene CBP partners and stakeholders in a way that facilitates innovation and collaboration in budgeting and finance decisions, not to infringe on any one partners’ decisions on budgeting and finance. This proposed workgroup was presented to the leadership of CBPO and to the GIT Chairs for comment. This proposal was presented to the MB at the 12/10/15 conference call. The MB felt that the scope of the workgroup needed to be further refined and several MB members volunteered to help in this process. These volunteers were invited to the January GIT 6 monthly meeting to participate in the discussion of the revised proposal. The revised proposal is being presented at this 1/14/16 MB meeting.

**Governance Document Updates**: Potential revisions to the Governance Document have been collected since the last update in July 2015. The GIT plans to discuss the revisions to be made at their April monthly meeting and present a plan of action to the Management Board at their May monthly meeting. The current Governance Document is always available online at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf>. If you have any suggested revisions to this document, please email Samantha Watterson ([Watterson.samantha@epa.gov](mailto:Watterson.samantha@epa.gov)).

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@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.*

Contact: Peter Tango, [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net)

**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.*

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff, [jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net)

**Recent Meetings and Events**

Jan 7-8 Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly meeting

Jan 28 STAR Meeting