



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
January 11, 2017**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Jan. 16	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting (GIT6)
Jan. 22	WQGIT Conference Call
Jan. 22	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
Jan. 22	Stewardship Workgroup Meeting
Jan. 23	Diversity Workgroup Meeting
Jan. 25	STAR Meeting
Jan. 30	Quarterly Goal Team Chairs and Leadership Meeting
Jan. 31	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
Feb. 5-6	Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
Feb. 8	Management Board Meeting
Feb 12	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Mid-February	Principals' Staff Committee meeting
Feb 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

**Updates**

**Bay Barometer Release**

The *Bay Barometer: Health and Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed 2016–2017* was released at a press release in Annapolis on Thursday, January 4, 2018. The Bay Barometer is the CBP partnership's annual report that offers a snapshot of the best available information and data on ecological health and the partnership's efforts to protect and restore the nation's largest estuary. This year's report suggests that the majority of the program's indicators (including SAV, nutrient and sediment loads, water quality standards, blue crabs and fish passage) are showing positive trends – an encouraging sign that our restoration efforts are working. This year's theme is 'the power of the individual' and features the Citizen Stewardship Index and the Citizen Monitoring Cooperative. CBPO Acting Director Jim Edward, provided remarks along with Kate Fritz, Executive Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Al Todd, former Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Stewardship Workgroup.

Contact: Greg Barranco, [\(410\) 267-5778](tel:4102675778), [barranco.greg@epa.gov](mailto:barranco.greg@epa.gov)

**CBPO Acting Director at Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting**

On January 4, CBPO Acting Director Jim Edward provided short remarks to the Chesapeake Bay Commission (a tri-state legislative body that is one of the nine signatories to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement) on behalf of Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio who was unable to attend due to inclement weather. Jim joined a panel that included Dr. Peter Goodwin, President University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies and Robert Johansson, Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area US Department of Agriculture. The focus of the panel

was to focus on the priorities of new leadership in the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. The full agenda and additional materials are available at [here](#).

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

### **CBPO Director honored as “Admiral of the Chesapeake”**

Recently-retired Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Director Nick DiPasquale was honored as Admiral of the Chesapeake at the partnership’s Principals’ Staff Committee meeting on December 19. Presented by Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton, the Admiral of the Chesapeake is a lifetime achievement award, and the highest honor the governor of Maryland can bestow on an individual for their environmental contributions. It is awarded to those who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, its surrounding landscapes and the life that inhabits them. Among DiPasquale’s most significant achievements noted during the ceremony was his overseeing the development of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* in 2014. Since his arrival in 2011, DiPasquale also oversaw the development of a citizen stewardship index and diversity profile, the technological advance of high-resolution land cover data which allows for a one meter by one meter resolution of the entire watershed, and the institution of a citizen monitoring effort that improves the likelihood of its use in regulatory and programmatic decisions.

No stranger to the environmental profession, DiPasquale spent nearly three decades in the public and private sectors as the deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, director of Environmental Management for the Brandywine Conservancy, secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Ecological Control and senior consultant on environmental and ecological restoration issues with Duffield Associates. He also served as a U.S. Navy nuclear submarine reactor operator on the U.S.S. Stonewall Jackson, earned a bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York and a masters’ degree in Energy and Environmental Policy from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

### **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.*

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York.

At its last quarterly meeting of 2017, held December 14-15 in Lancaster, PA, LGAC learned about stream and floodplain restoration techniques and toured several project sites. Committee members were particularly impressed with the Landis Homes project, where floodplain restoration allowed for the elimination of a traditional stormwater basin, resulting in eleven additional building lots. The committee also provided input on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, proposed methodology for establishing a Local Leadership Outcome Baseline, and the Environmental Finance Center’s Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center (MOST Center) curriculum and marketing.

LGAC Chair Bruce Williams participated in the two-day PSC Retreat, during which he recommended that local partners be involved in reviewing draft planning targets. He also suggested the following process for engaging local stakeholders:

- Jurisdictions should identify local stakeholders from the respective “local areas” who can be brought up to speed quickly on terminology, science, tools, etc.
- EPA (and other CBP partners) should be tasked with providing the basic training needed to prepare these individuals or groups to engage with the jurisdictions. This is consistent with EPA’s Role in the Phase III WIP Development and Implementation Processes as outlined on Page 9 of the Interim Expectations document.
- Jurisdictions engage these representative constituencies in the review of Draft Planning Targets.

The Local Government Engagement Initiative will be holding a conference call January 16th. Participants will discuss their approaches to establishing local area planning goals, hear a presentation by Emily Trentacoste on priority watershed analysis, and discuss their needs for additional communications and engagement tools and resources. To support the jurisdictions with local engagement, LGAC members in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware will be holding a series of forums for local officials to discuss watershed protection and restoration, and Phase III WIP development during 2018. LGAC staff is working closely with state WIP leads to coordinate schedules and agendas. Any questions about these forums should be directed to Mary Gattis.

LGAC and the Chesapeake Legal Alliance presented their draft report on Legal Barriers to Pay for Success in Pennsylvania to the Budget and Finance Workgroup in December. Comments on the draft report are being reviewed now and a final report should be available by the end of January. The final report will be shared with the Management Board.

The next LGAC meeting will be held in Laurel, Delaware on March 21-22, 2018.

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org) or 717-475-8390.

### **Citizens’ Advisory Committee – December Update**

*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.*

CAC held a quarterly meeting in DC on November 29-30. The Committee heard updates on DC’s Phase III WIP local engagement plans, DC Water’s environmental impact bonding initiatives, toured a stream restoration site on the grounds of the National Arboretum, received a primer on water quality nutrient trading with examples of helping VA landowners meet their conservation goals, had an update on the Midpoint Assessment and upcoming PSC policy decisions, and was briefed on the citizen stewardship index. The members thanked Nick DiPasquale for his service to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Action items include: exploring a future webinar to introduce CAC members to CAST, sending letters to editors of local papers to highlight the importance of the Bay Program partnership and local examples of lessons and successes learned at CAC meetings, and sending a letter to the new VA Governor stress the importance of making the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries a high priority for the Commonwealth.

CAC's next quarterly meeting will be in Annapolis on February 22-23, 2018.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray [abray@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org)  
For program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

*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.*

#### ***Upcoming Meetings:***

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2017 on March 13-14, 2018 at a location to be determined. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, [hinrichse@chesapeake.org](mailto:hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

#### ***Workshops:***

**Now Accepting Proposals for FY2018 Workshops:** The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY2018 STAC workshops was released on December 8, 2017. To access the RFP announcement, go to <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/assistance.php>. **Proposals are due January 31, 2018.**

STAC will be hosting a three-day workshop on January 17-19 entitled "*Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025: A Proactive Visioning Workshop*". This meeting will bring together scientists and managers to understand the status of the current CBP management modeling system. Participants will also discuss future directions for management modeling in the CBP with a view toward developing a road-map for future CBP modeling in 2025 and beyond. More information can be found [here](#).  
On December 12-13, STAC hosted a workshop entitled "*Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond*" in Annapolis, MD. The goal of this workshop was to provide a mechanism for a focused exchange among the scientists leading the efforts to explain water-quality change and the managers working to incorporate those explanations into management of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. More information can be found [here](#).

STAC is planning for two additional workshops this spring. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 2) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision

#### ***Upcoming and Recent Reports***

STAC will be releasing the following two technical review reports early this month. For more information, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
- 2) CBP Partnership's Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

STAC is working to finalize the following nine reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to FY2016 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). All STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 2) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 3) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design
- 4) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 5) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 6) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 7) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 8) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 9) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org)

### **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

#### **Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup**

The following indicators were updated since the December Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (tidal segments achieving water quality standards and USGS assessment of monitored nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads)	<p>During the 2014 to 2016 assessment period, an estimated 40 percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met water quality standards: the highest estimate of water quality standards attainment since 1985.</p> <p>Between October 2015 and September 2016, approximately 241 million pounds of nitrogen, 13.6 million pounds of phosphorus and 2.5 million tons of sediment reached the Bay: a 12 percent, 35 percent and 56 percent increase from the previous year, respectively.</p>	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogram.org/clean-water/water-quality">http://www.chesapeakeprogram.org/clean-water/water-quality</a>
Student MWEE* (baseline – 2015 data)	<p>Of school districts responding to ELIT survey in 2015,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37% reported providing system-wide MWEEs to at least one grade level in elementary school.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogram.org/engaged-communities/student">http://www.chesapeakeprogram.org/engaged-communities/student</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43% reported providing system-wide MWEEs to at least one grade level in middle school.</li> <li>• 31% reported providing system-wide MWEEs in at least one required course in high school.</li> </ul>	
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Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Sustainable Schools (January 2018)
- Environmental Literacy Planning (2017 data – available in February 2018)
- Student MWEEs (2017 data – available in February 2018)
- Planting Forest Buffers (Winter 2018)
- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (Winter 2018)

NOTE: an asterisk\* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, [free.laura@epa.gov](mailto: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 Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team held their [winter biannual meeting](#), which convened their diverse membership to discuss fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay. The meeting was held on December 18 -19 at St. Mary's College of Maryland. All presentations can be found at the [meeting website](#). Staff are currently developing a meeting summary.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force hosted an Invasive Catfish Symposium on November 6-7 at the VCU Rice Rivers Center to discuss the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery. Topics included population dynamics, movement and habitat use, diet, and harvest. Presentations are posted to the Catfish Symposium [website](#).

The Fish Habitat Action Team is working with a small group from the Chesapeake Bay Program to develop communication materials that recommends inclusion of fish habitat into the Watershed Implementation Plans.

Workgroups under the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team are planning to meet in January to discuss the 2018-2019 workplans as well as other ongoing issues in Chesapeake Bay fisheries.

The Fish Habitat Workshop Steering Committee is continuing to plan for the upcoming workshop in spring 2018. This [workshop](#) will compile datasets on habitat condition and stressors in freshwater and estuarine habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, develop a strategy to assess the watershed habitat condition using these prioritized datasets, and identify use and users for a regional fish habitat assessment.

Contact: Kara Skipper; [kara.skipper@noaa.gov](mailto:kara.skipper@noaa.gov)

### **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

*The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.*

A committee within the Stream Health Workgroup has formed to resolve issues with permitting of restoration projects. The committee recently held a productive kick-off call and is planning to meet in the next few months. Please contact [cumming.margot@epa.gov](mailto:cumming.margot@epa.gov) if your jurisdiction or agency would like to participate.

The Fish Habitat STAC Workshop on Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed will take place in the spring of 2018. The STAC Workshop steering committee has considered several methods to achieve the workshop goals. After a presentation on the National Fish Habitat Assessment (NFHA), the committee has decided to build from this assessment and information at the workshop. The Steering Committee is interested in reducing scientific uncertainty with the NFHA by evaluating the availability and inclusion of additional Chesapeake Bay regional data. This is an ambitious outcome for a 2-day workshop. There are regional data available that could fill some of the data gaps in the assessment and can be examined for use at the workshop, but the data are not compiled. The USGS has agreed to provide technical assistance in identifying and begin to compiling additional regional data as well as complete some exploratory analysis for the workshop. With USGS help, the workshop's product and recommendations can be significantly enhanced.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, [hobaugh.paige@epa.gov](mailto:hobaugh.paige@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 and Modeling Workgroup held a joint meeting on December 4-5. A full summary of actions, decisions and recommendations will be posted to the December 4-5 [meeting page](#).**

**The WQGIT will hold a conference call on December 11. A subset of planned topics includes:**

- The WQGIT will approve the revised timeline and process document for the 4-month review of the Phase III planning targets.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on Appendix A of the EPA's interim Phase III WIP expectations, which includes segment-shed expectations for the four tidal jurisdictions of MD, VA, DC, and DE.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Forestry WIP development guide, developed by the CBP Forestry Workgroup.

**The WQGIT will hold conference calls on January 8 and January 22. A subset of planned topics includes:**

- The WQGIT will review nominated candidates for WQGIT membership and leadership positions will take place on January 8. Voting will take place via email until January 19, and the candidates with the most votes will be confirmed on January 22.
- The WQGIT will review actions and decisions from the December 19-20, 2017 PSC retreat



- The WQGIT will approve a new true-up methodology from the Land Use Workgroup for 2025 growth scenarios.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the work of the Management Board WIP Template action team on developing Phase III WIP guides for incorporating multiple Watershed Agreement outcomes in Phase III WIP development and implementation.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Modeling Workgroup's analysis of outstanding issues following the December 19-20, 2017 PSC retreat, including analysis of assimilative capacity, available air allocation pounds, and jurisdictional planning targets.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on new trend results from nutrient and sediment monitoring in the Chesapeake watershed.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Forestry Workgroup's materials to assist WIP developers to address forest and tree cover concerns in the Phase III WIP development process.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on resources available to assist jurisdictions in engaging local governments in the Phase III planning targets review process, and request local government contacts from the jurisdictional WQGIT members.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on PA's approach for developing local planning goals as part of PA's Phase III WIP.

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto: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: Katherine Wares; [kwares@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:kwares@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: Drew Pizzala; [drew\\_pizzala@partner.nps.gov](mailto:drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov)

#### **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.*

#### **FY2017 GIT Funding**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust released the FY2017 CBP GIT Funding RFP in early December 2017. The RFP will remain open for competitive bidding until January 19, 2018. A second RFP for delayed proposals, or for any proposals that do not receive complete/satisfactory bids, will be released for competitive bidding in February 2018.

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

#### **GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Workgroup is working with the SAV workgroup to develop a process for creating finance systems and/or strategies. The second of three "dialogue sessions" was held on November 15, and included



members of the two associate workgroups, as well as stakeholders from federal and state agencies, local government, and other financial and conservation organizations. The third and final session is scheduled for January 17, 2018. This session will expand to include additional stakeholders from industry, banking, and other relevant sectors. Findings will be presented to the Management Board after the third dialogue session, and planning will begin for how to translate the work with the SAV workgroup into a larger, one-day finance system/strategy workshop.

Contact: Dan Nees, [dnees@umd.edu](mailto:dnees@umd.edu)

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, [freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@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.*

### **EPA publishes an 8<sup>th</sup> technical addendum in the Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Chesapeake Bay series.**

The Criteria Assessment Protocol Work Group (CAP WG) of STAR used the recent 2017 CBP-STAC Addendum Review Panel findings to finalize the *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and its Tidal Tributaries: 2017 Technical Addendum*. This addendum was developed and documented through a collaborative effort of the members of the CBPs STAR Team's Umbrella Criteria Assessment Team, CAP WG, the Tidal Monitoring and Analysis Workgroup, SAV WG and the WQGIT. This addendum provides previously undocumented features of existing procedures as well as refinements and clarifications to the previously published Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria assessment procedures. EPA published the addendum which is available online on the Chesapeake Bay website. Electronic copies were distributed to CAP WG and WQGIT members on December, 21, 2017.

### **STAR**

#### **STAR's overview of modeling needs for goal teams.**

In an upcoming modeling workshop, STAR has been invited to provide a brief overview of modeling needs that need to be considered in addition to water quality. It was brought to the attention of the Goal Team Coordinators to provide their modeling needs for the future. STAR will include a slide for each of the CBP Watershed Goals to organize the presentation of modeling needs.

SRS Monitoring and Science Needs are Post-Management Board Meeting focus

STAR and the Goal Teams continue to review the monitoring and science needs requested by the Outcomes Teams during the spring and summer 2017 Management Board meetings. STAR is promoting discussions and capacity building through its work groups and networking with science providers. STAR remains a forum for GIT preparation for the SRS Biennial Review, with dedicated meetings occurring prior to the Management Board's themed SRS quarterly review meetings.

### **Modeling**

2-Day Joint WQGIT and Modeling Workgroup Meeting: The WQGIT and Modeling WG held a joint two-day meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The WQGIT recommended to the PSC the approval of the Phase 6 Modeling tools for Midpoint Assessment application. Application of the suite of Phase 6 Models to develop initial draft Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans has begun. In addition, the WQGIT

recommended a series of approaches to account for the influence of Conowingo infill, climate change, and growth on Chesapeake water quality. Presentations and meeting summary can be found [here](#).

### **Climate Resiliency**

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Principal Staff Committee reviewed the final climate change modeling results and the CRWG's proposed policy options for addressing climate considerations in the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) at their December 2017 retreat. The PSC adopted provisional language to: 1) require inclusion of narrative strategies in Phase III WIPs to outline jurisdictional climate action plans and strategies; 2) develop targeted efforts to gain a better understanding of the science; and 3) address climate change impacts during the 2022-2023 milestone process.

The Chesapeake Bay Climate Resilience Indicator project is moving forward. Twenty-one indicator topics have been selected based on the results of a collective scoring exercise of 65 potential indicators. The project consultant, Eastern Research Group, is currently working on developing an implementation plan for the suite of selected indicators.

The CRWG's proposed project to create a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Climate Data and Mapping Repository was selected for funding. Project proposals are due to the Chesapeake Bay Trust by January 19, 2018.

The CRWG's project to develop a Climate-Smart Framework and Decision-Support Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Program is now complete. This project developed a structured, science-based framework through which the principles of climate-smart adaptation planning can be effectively applied to all Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goals and Outcomes. The decision-support tool has been piloted with the Black Duck Action Team and the SAV, Tidal Wetlands and Toxic Contaminant Workgroups and is now readily available to support the integration of climate-smart principles throughout the CBP at multiple levels, from place-based management actions to restoration strategies and development of partnerships.

The next in-person meeting of the CRWG is scheduled for January 22, 2018.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; [mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mmerritt@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**

Dec. 4-5	Joint Modeling/WQGIT Meeting
Dec. 5-6	STAC Quarterly Meeting
Dec. 7	Management Board Meeting
Dec. 12-13	STAC Workshop: Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change
Dec. 14	STAR Meeting
Dec. 14-15	LGAC Meeting

Dec. 18-19	Full Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
Dec. 19-20	Principals' Staff Committee Retreat
Jan. 8	Water Quality Goal Team Meeting
Jan. 10	Communications Workgroup Biannual Meeting