



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
July 13, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

- July 25-26 Modeling WG Quarterly Meeting
- July 27 STAR Team Meeting
- Aug. 1 Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Meeting
- Aug. 2 Land Use Workgroup Meeting
- Aug. 10 Management Board Meeting
- Aug. 18 Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) meeting

Updates

Bipartisan Chesapeake Bay Congressional Briefing

On June 28, US House Representatives John Sarbanes, Rob Wittman, Bobby Scott and Andy Harris, co-chairs of the bipartisan Chesapeake Bay Watershed Caucus, held briefing on Capitol Hill about the ongoing state-federal restoration efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Chesapeake Bay Commission played a key role in organizing and scheduling the briefing. The sponsors' opening remarks reemphasized their strong commitment to the Bay and highlighted their personal connections to watershed. The briefing included two panels of speakers: 1) Ann Swanson, CBC; Walter Boynton, UMCES; and Keith Martin, General Counsel, Virginia Chamber of Commerce; and 2) CBP jurisdiction representatives Ben Grumbles (Maryland), Molly Ward (Virginia), Russell Redding (Pennsylvania), Kenny Bounds (Delaware), and Tommy Wells (District of Columbia). Participants spoke about the progress and successes the CBP has had over the past years, the importance of science in informing policy, and the direct and significant detrimental impact proposed budget cuts would have to jurisdictional partners.

Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

Final Chesapeake Bay Interim 2016-2017 Milestone Evaluations

As part of its role in the accountability framework described in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) EPA performs evaluations of Bay jurisdictions and federal agency progress in achieving the goals of the Bay TMDL. The interim evaluations include EPA recommendations for actions prior to the end of the milestone period to ensure jurisdictions remain on track. EPA completed final discussions with the Bay jurisdictions and federal agencies regarding the content of the final 2016 Interim Milestone Evaluations. No "fatal flaws" were identified on the proposed final evaluations shared June 15 and EPA accommodated additional language revisions. The interim evaluations for the 2016-2017 Milestones were posted on June 30 to the TMDL website at <https://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl/epa-interim-evaluation-2016-2017-milestone-progress-chesapeake-bay-watershed>.

Contact: Lucinda Power, (410) 267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Budget data request sent to Chesapeake Bay state and federal partners

At the request of OMB and in support of the annual requirement for a cross-cut budget detail per the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act, EPA Mid-Atlantic Acting Regional Administrator Cecil Rodrigues sent a request for funding data to CBP state and federal partners. This request will also fulfill the Chesapeake Bay Program's commitment to provide financial information to the public related to the activities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement 2-year workplans. The cross-cut budget will provide: estimated funding for any state restoration activity to be carried out in FY18; expenditures of state funding during FY15-FY17; and an accounting of funds received from federal agencies during FY15-FY17 (Operating Levels). Data is due to EPA and OMB on July 26 and the final CBARA cross-cut budget is due by Sep 30.

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

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.

LGAC Member Seats

Mayor Bowser appointed Markus E. Batchelor to serve on LGAC. A former Advisory Neighborhood Commission member, Markus was recently elected to serve on the State Board of Education, representing Ward 8. He is Chair of the Public Engagement and Outreach Committee. Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in New York and Virginia.

Local Government Engagement Initiative

LGAC members continue to be involved in the Local Government Engagement Initiative (LGEI) which is being coordinated by Mary Gattis (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay). Mary is working closely with staff in all the jurisdictions, as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Communications Office staff, to enhance local government engagement in Phase III WIP development. On June 15th, Mary and LGAC DE Member Don Phillips attended an MS4 workshop to discuss local engagement in Phase III WIP development. Mary worked closely with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in preparing materials for upcoming municipal association conferences. LGAC Chair Bruce Williams represented LGAC at the Maryland Municipal League's Summer Conference. He spent most of his time there as a guest in the MDE booth, engaging local officials in discussions about watershed protection and restoration. LGAC will facilitate a session at the August Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference and will again have representation at the MDE booth. Similar efforts are being discussed with staff in Virginia and Delaware.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Upcoming Meeting

LGAC's next meeting will be October 5-6 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia.

Contact: Mary or Jennifer Starr, jstarr@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.

The Alliance has hired a new CAC assistant, Adam Bray, who will work closely with Jessica in the Richmond office supporting the Citizens Advisory Committee.

An Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay appointment to CAC, Christy Everett, is ending her term as a CAC member to serve as a gubernatorial appointee on the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Christy Everett is the Hampton Roads Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The VMRC manages recreational and commercial fishing, including oyster and crab harvesting, and habitat management. The Alliance Board will be seeking a replacement for Christy.

CAC member, Joe Maroon the Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment, funded and co-presented to CAC the polling results from the Christopher Newport University's Wason Center for Public Policy on a 2017 poll of environmental public opinion in Virginia. The findings were that overall Virginians perceive the environment is improving; the most important environmental issue is protecting drinking water; there is strong support for continuing the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay; and that tax payers are willing to pay more for clean water and clean air when they can see positive results of how the money is being spent.

CAC's next quarterly meeting will be held in Pennsylvania on September 7-8.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2017 on September 12-13, 2017 at a location to be determined. Please direct any quarterly meeting inquiries to STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org. To be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, please contact STAC Staff.

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting the following six workshops in FY17. Planning is underway for several of these upcoming activities.

- 1) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond

- 3) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 4) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design
- 5) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions
- 6) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop

FY16 Workshops

STAC hosted four workshops so far in 2017. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. Information regarding each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) – **March 29-30, 2017**
- 2) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads – **April 24-25, 2017**
- 3) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change – **March 28 (Blue Crab), April 25 (Submerged aquatic vegetation), April 26 (Oysters)**
- 4) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters – **February 6-7, 2017 (Part I), May 2-3, 2017 (Part II)**

Upcoming Reports

STAC distributed two workshop reports on July 6, 2017:

- Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation

The 'Integrating Monitoring Networks' workshop acknowledges the vast potential to expand networks by collaborating with a wide variety of ongoing monitoring efforts currently underway across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and highlights solutions to optimize limited resources and overcoming barriers to integration from a regional to a Bay-wide scale. The final report is posted at:

http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/371_Tango2017.pdf

In the Optimization workshop, participants assess optimization as a potential solution to address certain challenges in the future planning for the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment, the development of Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) and 2018-2019 milestone planning - and examines the CBP's capacity to integrate an optimization engine construct within existing tools. The final report is posted at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/373_Davis-Martin2017.pdf

STAC is working to finalize three reports from the following FY2015 workshops. Information regarding each of these workshops can be found on the STAC webpage, or please contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation

- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

Reviews:

STAC has five review activities currently in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. These STAC-sponsored reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment. For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org. All review reports (as available) can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.

1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The panel completed their review. The final report is currently under review by STAC membership and will be distributed to the Partnership in early July.

2) Follow-up Review: James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation

STAC completed the review request from CBP for a review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation in October 2016. The review panel has been re-assembled to assess how well their findings and recommendations have been implemented in the revised chlorophyll criteria assessment methodology. The panel have completed summarizing their findings and are finalizing a report.

3) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

The panel is working on their review of the remaining two questions, focusing on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill. The review will take place over the next month

4) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

The review panel convened on June 5-6 to discuss the material to be reviewed with CBP representatives. The panel’s review will take place over the next month, with a goal to assemble an initial document of their findings by late June.

5) CBP Partnership’s Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

STAC received the official review request from STAR’s Climate Resiliency Workgroup on the approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Mid-point Assessment in late June. A review panel is being formed and formal approval of the review is being secured from the STAC membership.

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

Contact: dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

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 our Partnership products.

The Water Quality Standards Attainment team discussed several options for further assessment or analysis to compliment the [Water Quality Standards Attainment indicator](#). Recommendations were gathered from the communications team and the states on prioritizing next steps for future presentation of results, improved messaging, and extending the analyses to support messaging on water quality attainment.

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

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Statement of Progress</i> | <i>Link</i> |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Reducing Pollution | Computer simulations show that pollution controls put in place in the Chesapeake Bay watershed between 2009 and 2016 lowered nitrogen loads 9%, phosphorus loads 20% and sediment loads 9%. Experts attribute the drop in estimated nitrogen loads to technological upgrades at wastewater treatment plants, as well as to agricultural best management practices (BMPs). Agricultural BMPs have also contributed to the drop in estimated phosphorus and sediment loads, but increased phosphorus and sediment pollution from urban development has offset or reduced the overall benefits these practices have engendered. | http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans |
| Blue Crab Management | The Chesapeake Bay's blue crab stock is not depleted and overfishing is not occurring. According to the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), an estimated 16 percent of the female blue crab population was harvested in 2016. This is below the 34 percent overfishing threshold. | http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/blue-crab-management/ |
| American Shad | Data from the James, Potomac, Rappahannock, Susquehanna and York rivers show the abundance of American shad in the Chesapeake Bay fell from 39 percent to 38 percent of the goal in 2016. | http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/american_shad_abundance |
| Population | In 2016, an estimated 18.1 million people lived in the Chesapeake Bay watershed: a 0.4 percent increase from 2015. Experts | http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/chesapeake_bay_watershed_population |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | predict the watershed's population will pass 20 million by 2030 and reach 21.1 million by 2040. | |
|--|---|--|

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

- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (Summer 2017)
- Black Duck (Summer 2017)
- Forest Cover (Summer 2017)
- Toxic Contaminants (Summer 2017)
- Student MWEE (Summer 2017)
- Citizen Stewardship* (Summer 2017)

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

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 [biannual meeting](#), which took place on June 19-20 at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in Wallops Island, Virginia. The meeting included a special session on fish habitat on the first day and focused on blue crabs and forage on the second day. Fisheries GIT staff will produce a meeting summary in the upcoming weeks to capture the key points from the presentations and discussions.

The Forage, Blue Crab, and Oyster Restoration Outcomes are developing materials and evaluating progress on their workplan actions for the Strategy Review System. These outcomes will present to the Management Board at the [August 10th meeting](#).

The Fish and Habitat GITs successfully competed for a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) sponsored workshop for fiscal year 2017. The workshop will help fill scientific and technical gaps in understanding of fish habitat. The steering committee held their first planning meeting in June and will follow up through preparing pre-materials and arranging logistics.

- *"Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions"* will be coordinated by Gina Hunt (MD DNR), Mark Monaco (NOAA) and Donna Bilkovic (VIMS) to evaluate and determine the significance of factors influencing habitat function for a range of representative species across Chesapeake Bay habitats.

Contact: Kara Skipper; 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.

Strategy Review System

The Habitat Goal Implementation Team and Workgroups presented outcome achievements, challenges, and requests to the Management Board during the first Strategy Review System meeting on May 11th. The Stream Health Workgroup requested funding for an indicator development and workgroup member participation. The Fish Passage Workgroup requested that discussions between fish passage coordinators and dam safety offices be coordinated. The Brook Trout Action Team stressed increased participation from team members and assistance with outreach.

Wetlands Workgroup

Chesapeake Environmental Communications has been awarded the contract to the Wetland Workgroup's GIT Funded project, "Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs – information access and program cross-training." Work has begun between the Wetland WG and the CBP Web and Communications Teams. A kickoff meeting with the contractor is scheduled for July.

SAV Workgroup

The SAV Workgroup hosted a workshop on March 29th at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD to focus on the SAV Survey and potential changes in design to help ensure continued monitoring under uncertain funding. Data users have been surveyed and an outcome of the workshop will be consensus on a path forward to continue SAV data collection in the Chesapeake. A workshop report has been distributed to the Habitat GIT, Water Quality GIT, Management Board, Federal Office Directors, and STAR. [The report is also available online.](#)

Nature's Network

The NALCC project formerly titled Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas is now named Nature's Network. Nature's Network is a collaborative effort between several U.S. States, federal, academic, and NGO partners to identify the best opportunities for conserving and connecting intact, resilient ecosystems capable of supporting rare and imperiled species in the northeastern U.S. Habitat GIT staff participated in a training workshop in Hadley, Massachusetts in late June to become familiar with products available through Nature's Network. Trainings are being planned for CBP partners throughout the watershed.

Steering Committee

The Habitat GIT will hold a Steering Committee meeting on July 10th to prepare for the August SRS meeting, where the SAV Outcome will be reported upon, discuss GIT Funding proposals, and being to plan for the fall HGIT meeting.

Contact: Kyle Runion, Runion.kyle@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 held conference calls on June 12 and 26:

- The WQGIT was briefed on options for representing changes to phosphorus in Phase 6 scenarios. Options included 1, 10, 25, 50 and 100-year time frames. The WQGIT approved the Agriculture Workgroup recommendation of a time frame of 25 years initially for the scenario results released June 15, with other years run over the course of the summer.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the final report and scoring tools from the Goal Team Funding project assessing co-benefits of BMPs.
- The WQGIT approved a suggestion for improving land use mapping accuracy on agricultural land in Virginia by using land cover data accuracy scores in lieu of the less accurate Agricultural Census reporting accuracy scores used in most the watershed.
- The WQGIT requested several additional scenarios to be run over the summer beyond the scenarios to be released June 15. Requested scenarios to be modeled include: several different base years, diminished trapping capacity at Conowingo Dam, and several timeframes for phosphorus changes.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the timeline for FY17 Goal Team Funding RFP release and submission deadline.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the results of the initial round of Phase 6 scenarios (E3, No Action, 1985-2013 Progress, WIP II)
- The WQGIT was briefed on water quality standards attainment progress and a new potential “beyond attainment” assessment approach.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on tools for visualizing outputs of the Phase 6 Watershed Model.

The Phase 6 Model Review Period began on June 1 and will continue until July 31:

- Phase 6 CAST was released June 15. Several scenarios requested by the Partnership were released on June 15. Scenarios available on CAST include: 1985-2013 Progress, draft No Action, and draft E3 scenarios.
- A log of fatal flaw comments on the phase 6 suite of modeling tools has been posted to the [WQGIT](#) web page under Projects and Resources, and will be updated every Tuesday through the end of July.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on July 10 and 24. A subset of planned topics include:

- The WQGIT will be briefed on options for land based strategies to address Conowingo phosphorus inflow.
- The WQGIT will continue to address submitted fatal flaw comments on the phase 6 suite of modeling tools.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on results from water quality monitoring in the Choptank watershed, and implications for implementing Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on ideas for 2017 goal team-funded projects and approve three priority projects to submit for goal team funding.

- Following the Agriculture Workgroup conference call on July 20, the WQGIT will approve the Agriculture Workgroup recommendation to adopt the revised E3 and No action draft scenarios in the phase 6 watershed model.
- Following the Agriculture Workgroup conference call on July 20, the WQGIT will approve the Agriculture Workgroup recommendation on defining timescales for future phosphorus scenarios in the phase 6 watershed model.

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.

Contact: Katherine Wares; 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

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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The GIT has been assigned the role of "Lead SRS Coordinator and Adviser to the Management Board." The function of this role is to coordinate the activities and information flow from the GITs/Workgroups presenting at Quarterly Progress Meetings. The GIT's SRS group is working on incorporating feedback from the Management Board, GIT Chairs, Coordinators, Staffers, and other groups for future Quarterly Progress Meetings, and helping the Fisheries and Habitat GITs prepare for their outcome reviews at the August Quarterly Progress meeting.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

GIT Funding

The Chesapeake Bay Program will continue the GIT Funding process for FY2017 at a level of \$900,000. The first meeting with GIT Chairs, Coordinators and Staffers to discuss project ideas took place on July 6. GITs and workgroups are currently developing proposals for their top three to four project ideas, and will submit these priority proposals to the GIT Funding leads in early August.

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

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

On June 28, the Workgroup met with the leads from the “Healthy Watersheds” outcome suite who presented at the May 11 Quarterly Progress Meetings with the Management Board, to discuss areas of opportunity for including finance considerations and financing strategies in their Management Strategies and 2-Year Work Plans. The Workgroup is also considering the idea of a larger financing work session to include multiples GITs, Workgroups, and Outcomes that will be presenting through the SRS in the next 12 months, and will be using feedback from the June 28 meeting to draft a proposed format.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup

The Workgroup hosted a meeting on July 12 to review the report on local elected officials’ information content needs and preferred delivery mechanisms developed by EcoLogix. The Workgroup will use the information in this report (and other sources) to implement the third phase of the local official watershed education project, *Implementation Support for Local Official Watershed Education and Capacity Building*.

Contact: Reggie Parrish, parrish.reginald@epa.gov

FY 16 GIT Funding Project Update

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agroecology (Maryland) received GIT funding and have launched a project to start a local elected officials watershed education program. This project builds upon the FY 15 GIT funded Ecologix report which summarizes key local government priority issues and considerations for engaging local governments. The contractors will develop of an overall project approach which will help determine sustainability and will deliver existing educational materials to local elected officials using existing trusted sources.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

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.

CURRENT PROJECTS of STAR

Opportunities for Capacity Building

An increasingly diverse range of monitoring programming support will be needed for tracking progress towards meeting our tracking needs towards meeting Bay Agreement outcomes. Data needs are evolving to support information needs to track indicators, indicator metrics and factors affecting progress. Without additional funding investments, citizen science support provides opportunities to grow our monitoring capacity by leveraging existing resources. Targeted program integration is already occurring through the CBPO work with the Alliance for the Chesapeake and the Citizen Science Cooperative. In the June STAR meeting, opportunities were discussed to apply such a framework to build capacity across the growing diversity of GIT monitoring needs.

SRS Scientific Needs Follow up from May Management Board Meeting

STAR and the Goal Teams have begun to review the monitoring and science needs requested by the Outcomes Teams during the May Management Board meeting. STAR has started the discussion of which STAR WG and science providers can help address the science needs or if they should be considered for

GIT team funding RFP topics. STAR is 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.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

The CRWG is currently working on developing Climate Resiliency Indicators for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This is a project from GIT funding to help track indicators that relate to climate and the 2014 Bay Agreement. The current phase of this project is to compile lists of potential indicators and data sources in terms of three indicator types: physical climate trends, ecological and societal response, and programmatic progress towards resilience. For more information, and to provide feedback, see the [presentation given at a recent STAR meeting](#).

There will be a "Climate-Smart Toxic Contaminants Workshop" on July 31 - August 1, 2017 at the [UMCES Annapolis Office](#). The workshop will be facilitated by Tetra Tech, the lead for the Chesapeake Bay Program's Climate Resiliency Analysis Matrix project. This two-day workshop will be a hands-on event, focused on applying the "Matrix" to Chesapeake Bay Program's Toxic Contaminants Management Strategy.

MODELING WORKGROUP

The Watershed Model Phase 6 draft final version was released for fatal flaw review on June 1. The Phase 6 fatal flaw review will be ongoing through June and July with a resolution of any fatal flaw issues scheduled for the month of August. The CAST [website](#) has also been finalized, and is available for users to develop scenarios to manage nutrient and sediment reductions. The WQSTM will be calibrated to the June 1 Phase 6 Watershed Model loads. The WQSTM calibration is to be completed by August 1, with an interim calibration ready by early July. Presentations on the need to develop regional factors for the Phase 6 Model were reviewed by the Modeling WG meeting on May 15, with the finding that the Phase 6 calibration without regional factors was quantifiably better than the Phase 5 Model with regional factors, therefore, the Modeling WG determined that Phase 6 regional factors were unwarranted. Plans are also underway to help finalize STAC reviews of pieces of the modeling framework including the approach to simulation of the Conowingo and climate change in both the watershed and estuarine models. The initial STAC WQSTM peer review meeting was held on June 5-6. All webinars for the review of the Phase 6 model have been completed and posted under the projects tab of the [Modeling Workgroup webpage](#). The next Modeling WG quarterly meeting will be held July 25-26, and a draft agenda has been posted to the [meeting webpage](#).

Contact: Melissa Merritt; 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.

The Communications Workgroup held its summer retreat on July 11 at the University of Richmond's Downtown Campus. The day focused on attitude surveys and how polling data can play a role in targeting communications. In the afternoon, the workgroup worked on messaging around actions listed in the Stewardship Index and they brainstormed activities for a two-year work plan.

On June 26, the CBP Communications Office put out a press release on the [Blue Crab Advisory Report](#). It received a lot of media attention and was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared in news outlets around the country, as well as the Baltimore Sun, CBS affiliates in D.C. and Philadelphia and NBC affiliates in D.C. and Richmond.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

July 11, Communications Workgroup Summer Retreat

July 11, GIT 6 Meeting

July 12, Local Leadership Meeting