



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
June 15, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Jun 17	Cecil County Wade-in
June 19-20	Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team meeting
Jun 21	Chesapeake Bay Goundation Board of Trustees meeting
Jun 22	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team meeting
Jun 26	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team call
July 11	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management (GIT 6) meeting
July 13	Management Board meeting

Updates

EPA Senior Staff at Chesapeake Executive Council meeting

On June 8 in Annapolis, Md., the Chesapeake Executive Council met for their annual meeting. The meeting was hosted by Governors Hogan of Maryland and McAuliffe, of Maryland, as well as representatives for the Council from the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. The theme for this year's meeting was the "Power of the Partnership" to help underscore the important work and accomplishments this three-decades old state-federal partnership has accomplished in protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed ecosystem. During the meeting, members of the EC adopted a resolution to encourage "the President and the United States Congress to continue the current level of federal support for the Chesapeake Bay Program and the participating partners for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, including the active, coordinating role of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office." EPA was not a signatory to the resolution. There was a press event following a private lunch of the members.

Contact: Carin Bisland (410) 267-5732, bisland.carin@epa.gov

CBP Partnership Diversity Workgroup panel discussion

The CBP partnership Diversity Workgroup held a panel discussion on June 13 in Petersburg, Va. During the meeting, community leaders explained the water quality/water infrastructure issues that are impacting local communities of Virginia, the larger Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and how these issues impact food security, sustainable agriculture and public health within underserved/underrepresented communities. Meeting materials are available at www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25245.

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

Chesapeake Bay Congressional Delegation Field Trip

On June 1, USGS and other Chesapeake Bay federal partners hosted a 'field trip' to inform Congressional staff on how science is used to inform partner decisions for restoring and conserving the Chesapeake

Bay watershed in Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia. About 30 Congressional staffers joined USGS scientists and NE Region Leadership, and federal partners from NOAA, Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service who discussed their management activities and how they use science to support efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

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

Above-average dead zone predicted for Chesapeake Bay

Scientists predict the Chesapeake Bay will see a slightly larger-than-average dead zone this summer, due to above-average nutrient pollution flowing into the estuary from the Susquehanna River this spring. The 2017 forecast predicts a mid-summer hypoxic, or low-oxygen, zone of 1.89 cubic miles—slightly above the 30-year average of 1.74 cubic miles. The anoxic, or no-oxygen, zone is expected to reach 0.35 cubic miles in early summer and grow to 0.49 cubic miles by late summer.

This forecast, funded by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, is based on models developed at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the University of Michigan and relies on nutrient load estimates from the U.S. Geological Survey. This spring, 81.4 million pounds of nitrogen flowed into the Chesapeake Bay from the Susquehanna River, slightly higher than the long-term average.

For more information: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-usgs-and-partners-predict-larger-summer-dead-zone-for-chesapeake-bay>

'Sneaker index' of 41.5 inches measured at Bernie Fowler Wade-In

At the 30th annual Patuxent River Wade-In on Sunday, former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler saw his sneakers through 41.5 inches of water. This year's "sneaker index"—the deepest point at which Fowler can still see his shoes as he wades into the water—measured higher than last year, when high winds and rough waters led to a measurement of just 31 inches. Since 1988, the now 93-year-old Fowler has held the wade-in on the second Sunday in June. Clad in his signature white sneakers and cowboy hat, he hosts the event to bring attention to the polluted waters of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. Held for decades near Fowler's childhood home on Broomes Island, the event moved to Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in 2010.

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For more information: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-usgs-and-partners-predict-larger-summer-dead-zone-for-chesapeake-bay>

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 each in the District of Columbia, New York and Virginia.

On June 7, 2017, LGAC co-hosted the Future Land Use Growth Scenarios forum with the CBP's Land Use Workgroup. The purpose of the forum was to assist the Land Use Workgroup with developing plausible growth scenarios. The Forum was held in conjunction with LGAC's quarterly meeting. LGAC members attended the Annual Chesapeake Executive Council public meeting and Chair Bruce Williams shared LGAC efforts and concerns with EC members during the private meeting as well as gave remarks during the public meeting.

Mary Gattis and members of LGAC continue to facilitate the Local Government Engagement Initiative (LGEI). Participants in LGEI met on May 22nd to discuss updates to the Phase III WIP schedule, share progress and lessons learned, and discuss their needs for support from the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, including the Communications Office. A summary of jurisdiction needs and recommendations for improving Case Studies will be delivered to the CBPO in June. On May 23rd Mary and LGAC DE Member Don Phillips met with Delaware staff to discuss engagement of Phase III WIPs. Any questions about LGEI should be directed to Mary at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Contact: jstarr@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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2017 on June 13-14, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, MD. 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 supporting the following 6 workshops in FY17:

- 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 is working to finalize five 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) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation
- 4) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- 5) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

Reviews:

STAC distributed a review report entitled "Review of Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion and Potential Solutions for the Chesapeake Bay" on May 12, 2017. The report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/368_Bilkovic2017.pdf.

STAC has four other review activities currently in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. 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 June.
- 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 review is on target to be finalized by the end of the month.
- 3) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

The panel have completed their review of the requested documentation and finalized a report of their recommendations. The panel is currently awaiting the remaining documentation on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill from the Modeling Workgroup to complete their review.

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.

Upcoming Reviews

STAC is working closely with the CBP to plan for one additional STAC-sponsored review in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment.

1) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

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 of our Partnership products.

Indicators

No indicators were updated since the May Management Board meeting.

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

- Blue Crab Management (June 2017)
- Black Duck (June 2017)
- Reducing Pollution (June 2017)
- Population (June 2017)
- Forest Cover (Summer 2017)
- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands

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 is preparing for their [biannual meeting](#), which will take place on June 19-20 at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in Wallops Island, Virginia. The meeting will include a special session on fish habitat on the first day and focus on blue crabs and forage on the second day. Please see the [draft agenda](#) for further details. We invite other Goal Team Chairs and Management Board members to attend. Register [here](#).

The Forage Action Team held a meeting in June to analyze workplan progress, identify gaps and challenges, and prepare their strategy review presentation to the Management Board in August. Members provided feedback on the proposed forage strategy and discussed future actions.

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.

- *"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 is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

The Habitat Goal Implementation Team's Spring 2017 took place on May 9 at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) office in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. PFBC Director John Arway addressed the group and PA's Coldwater Heritage Partnership Director Tali MacArthur presented on the program's efforts to provide fish habitat restoration grants to small organizations. Each of May's SRS review outcomes (Fish Passage, Stream Health, Brook Trout, and Fish Habitat) previewed their presentations to the group for feedback in preparation for the Management Board meeting. This proved to be a helpful exercise that will be repeated at future meetings. The group agreed to plan a discussion with the Sustainable Fisheries GIT for a proposed joint meeting this fall.

The Habitat GIT will be hosting a Steering Committee meeting July 10th to review Management Board feedback and next steps from May SRS review (Fish Passage, Stream Health, Brook Trout, and Fish Habitat outcomes), discuss expectations and timeline for FY18-19 workplan updates (including results of June 28 discussion with Budget and Finance Workgroup), and prepare for the August SRS review (SAV outcome).

Chairs, coordinators, and members of the Habitat GIT are currently reviewing NFWF Small Watershed Grant proposals, providing subject matter expertise and commentary as requested.

The Wetland Workgroup, in collaboration with the CBP Web and Communications Teams, has refined the project scope of a GIT Funded project "Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs –information access and program cross-training." Contracts are expected to be awarded by early summer.

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 will be available in the coming weeks.

Contact: 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 May 8 and 22.

- The WQGIT was briefed on the Oyster BMP Panel's progress toward developing protocols involving the nitrogen and phosphorus assimilation in oyster shell and enhanced denitrification crediting pertaining to oyster aquaculture and/or restoration practices.
- The WQGIT was briefed on newly released calibration inputs for the draft final Phase 6 model, and transitioning between Phase 5 and 6 CAST tools.
- The WQGIT approved an extension of the MS4 Nutrient Discovery program by another 3 years.
- The WQGIT approved final revisions to the Phase 6 Model Review Strategy document; the final draft has been circulated as a guideline for Phase 6 review.
- The webinar series on the phase 6 model is progressing, and all but one webinar have been completed:
 - 2025 Growth Projections on April 14, 2017
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25069/>
 - Phase 6 Sediment Simulation Webinar on April 19, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/24949/>
 - Overview of the Integrated Air Watershed and Bay Models, the Midpoint Assessment Decisions the Models Were Designed to Address, and the Decision Framework of Standards, Models, and Planning Target Method, May 9, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25114/>
 - Phase 6 Loads Webinar, May 23, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25115/>
 - Poultry Data Webinar, May 24, 2017:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25117
 - Phase 6 Inputs Webinar, May 25, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25087/>
 - Phase 6 Physical Transport Webinar, June 13, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25116/>

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

- Phase 6 model documentation was released on June 1. This documentation will be available on CAST beta until June 15, when it will be available on CAST. To access the documentation, please refer to the Modeling Workgroup webpage under the Projects & Resources Tab:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/modeling_team

- Phase 6 CAST will be released June 15. Several scenarios requested by the Partnership will also be released on June 15. Scenarios requested include: Everyone, Everything, Everywhere (E3), 1985 – 2013 Progress, No Action, and Phase II WIPs.

The WQGIT held a conference call on June 12.

- 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 the majority of the watershed.
- The WQGIT requested several additional scenarios to be run over the summer beyond the scenarios to be released June 15. The WQGIT requested several different base years, diminished trapping capacity at Conowingo Dam, and several timeframes for phosphorus changes.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on June 26. A subset of the planned topics includes:

- The WQGIT will be briefed on the timeline for FY17 Goal Team Funding RFP release and submission deadline.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the results of the initial round of Phase 6 scenarios (E3, No Action, 1985-2013 Progress, WIP II)
- The WQGIT will be 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.

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 hosted the first Quarterly Progress Meeting on May 11, 2017 with the Management Board. The GIT met afterward with the participants of the meeting to review the outcome(s) of the meeting, including action items, follow-up, successes, and opportunities for improvement at the August 2017 meeting. The GIT is preparing the follow-up to the May meeting, to be presented on June 15, 2017.

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

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Workgroup is meeting 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 working on putting together a larger financing work session to include multiples GITs, workgroups, and outcomes that will be presenting through the SRS in the next 12 months.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup

The Workgroup is hosting a meeting in early July 12, 2017 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.reggie@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.

The May STAR meeting included presentations on the development of Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Indicators that have significance to decision-making and adaptive management across the GITs, the key findings of Technical Synthesis 3 (the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation science synthesis), and the EPA-CBPO supported Citizen Monitoring Cooperative's work on an Indicator Matrix, a reference document that supports indicators to consider for the GITs given the information provided in their Bay Agreement Management Plans. The May seminar by Ethan Weikel, USGS Deputy Director of the MD-DC-DE Water Science Center, addressed lessons learned for project management considerations and project completion under budget resource limited conditions.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The CRWG is currently working on developing Climate Resiliency Indicators for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This is 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 recently given at the STAR meeting](#).

Integrated Monitoring Networks

During the May 2017 IMN workgroup meeting, Ann Chudoba of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay supporting the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) reviewed current initiatives to involve and assist volunteer monitoring groups in becoming members of the CMC, acquiring and submitting data, as well as highlighting the upcoming citizen monitoring integration workshop “Data to Decisions 2.0”. The workshop will take place on the Eastern Shore of MD in June. Jeremy Carton, a graduate of ST. Mary’s College, reviewed the results of his successful senior thesis project that piloted a method for evaluating fish forage in shallow tidal waters of Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. The presentation covered an assessment of, and recommendation for, sampling techniques for citizen scientists to collect benthic macroinvertebrates in nearshore tidal water habitats. [Click here for presentations](#). In coordination with the Climate Resiliency WG, Chris Lamie of ERG presented a spreadsheet of potential climate indicators for use by the Chesapeake Bay Program; IMN WG.

Status and Trends Workgroup

The June Status & Trends workgroup meeting will discuss several options for further assessment or analysis to compliment the [Water Quality Standards Attainment indicator](#). In the May meeting, Steve Raabe from OpinonWorks, provided an overview of the Citizen Stewardship Indicator, which measures adoption of stewardship behaviors, volunteerism behavior, civic engagement behavior, likelihood of future adoption of behaviors, and keys to individual engagement. [Click here for more information](#).

Data Integrity Workgroup

Durga Ghosh, USGS, is the acting Quality Assurance Coordinator for the DI Workgroup. She is available at the CBPO office two-three days per week, with time also at the USGS location in Baltimore. The DIWG had their quarterly in-person meeting in March to continue final edits to the Methods and QA for CBP WQ Monitoring Programs document, as well as standard check-ins with Chesapeake Bay Program partnering labs on Split sample analyses. The Methods and QA manual will be available on the web soon, with physical copies to be printed for each lab and field office.

Modeling Workgroup

Development of the Watershed Model Phase 6 final version will be released for fatal flaw review on June 1. The Phase 6 fatal flaw review will be ongoing on through June and July with a resolution of any fatal flaw issues scheduled for the month of August. 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. 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 STAC WQSTM peer review will be held on June 5-6. The full schedule of webinars for the review of the Phase 6 model have been posted under the projects tab of the [modeling workgroup 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.

At its June meeting, the Communications Workgroup heard from Melissa Fagan (Chesapeake Research Consortium) about CRC's new [Chesapeake Bay Expertise Database](#). They also discussed plans for [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#), which took place June 3-11. The CBP Communications Office collaborated with the Choose Clean Water Coalition and Virginia Conservation Network to develop and share a social media toolkit with members in order to highlight common themes throughout the week. Catherine Krikstan (Comm. Workgroup Chair, UMCES/CBP) updated the workgroup on the Bay Program's first Biennial Strategy Review System meeting and potential action items for the workgroup. The Communications Workgroup will hold its biannual retreat/in-person meeting on July 11 in Richmond, Virginia.

In May, the CBP Communications Office put out a press release and blog post on the 24 new [public access sites](#) opened in the watershed in 2016. The office also put out a press release following the 2017 Executive Council meeting, which received significant press attention, including the Associated Press, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun and CBS and ABC affiliates in Baltimore.

The [2017 Executive Council meeting](#) was held on June 8 at the State House in Annapolis, Maryland. It was attended by Governor Terry McAuliffe (Virginia), Governor Larry Hogan (Maryland), Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (Vice-Chair, Chesapeake Bay Commission), Secretary Austin Caperton (West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection), Secretary Shawn Garvin (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control), Secretary Patrick McDonnell (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection), Director Tommy Wells (District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment) and Ken Wagner (Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection Agency).

The Executive Council signed a [resolution](#) in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. They also elected Governor Hogan as their new Chair, succeeding Governor McAuliffe. During the meeting, the Executive Council heard from Dr. Walter Boynton, professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, as well as Paula Jasinski (Chair, [Citizens Advisory Committee](#)), Bruce Williams (Chair, [Local Government Advisory Committee](#)) and Lisa Wainger (Chair, [Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee](#)), who also voiced their support for the partnership. See also the State of the Program [executive summary](#) and [report](#).

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

June 7-8, LGAC Quarterly Meeting

June 8, Executive Council Meeting

June 13-14, STAC Quarterly Meeting