



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Management Board
Program Update
June 8, 2023

CBPO Calendar

June 9	Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) Meeting
June 12	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
June 13-14	STAC Quarterly Meeting
June 14	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Meeting
June 15	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
June 15	Hypoxia Collaborative Team Meeting
June 15	Brook Trout Workgroup Spring 2023 Meeting
June 15	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
June 16	Stream Health Workgroup June 2023 Meeting
June 20-21	Modeling Workgroup Meeting Quarterly Review
June 20	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
June 20	Wetlands Workgroup Meeting Tidal
June 21	Nontidal Network Workgroup June 2023 Meeting
June 22	Management Board Meeting
June 26	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3) Meeting
June 27	SAV Workgroup Summer 2023 Meeting
June 27	Strategic Engagement Team Meeting
June 28	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
June 28	GIT Chairs Quarterly Meeting
June 28	Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) Quarterly Meeting
June 29	STAR June 2023 Meeting
July 5	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
July 6	Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup Meeting
July 6	Watershed Technical Workgroup Meeting

Program Updates

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 met June 1-2, 2023 in Havre De Grace, MD with a virtual option. Agenda items for discussion include aquatic invasive species, fish passage and culverts, living resources on the Susquehanna River, partnerships for regional invasive species management, submerged aquatic vegetation and the role of local government in all of the above. In addition, Member conversation of the STAC report on Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response and a tour of the Conowingo Dam and its fish lift is included.

LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be September 28-29, 2023 in Leola, PA with a virtual option.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@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 Citizens (Stakeholders) Advisory Committee met in Cambridge, MD on Feb 23-24. Their local watershed context was provided by ShoreRivers when they learned about the challenges and approaches to the impacts of the Eastern Shore's industrial-scale agriculture and sediment flows from Conowingo Dam releases.

The members heard from a panel of Bay Funders to continue the discussion on equitable access to grants. Members are interested in further exploring examples of participatory grantmaking and model equitable grant tools.

They learned from MD DNR about MD's progress toward 2025 water quality targets and Watershed Agreement goals. They learned from CBPO about the various options to participate in the Beyond 2025 process and in the future will likely hear a detailed briefing on the Watershed Agreement indicators behind the outcomes.

Chuck Herrick of DC was elected CAC Vice-Chair.

The quarterly meeting was held on May 24-25 in Harrisburg, PA immediately following the annual Choose Clean Water Coalition conference.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy. The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and, Vice-Chair, Chuck Herrick (DC).

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Alexa Maione
amaione@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn
jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

STAC 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2023 Quarterly Meetings. Meeting in June and September are planned to in-person.

June 13-14th, September 12-13th, and December 5-6th. Two meeting will be held virtually and two in person with a hybrid option.

June 13-14, 2023: in-person at the [Potomac Science Center](#) in Woodbridge, VA

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Location TBA

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

STAC-Sponsored Workshops

The following STAC FY22 workshops have already convened:

1. Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality (State of the Science Workshop): **April 6-7th, 2023 in Manassas, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
2. Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities (State of the Science Workshop): **May 25-26th, 2023 in Hershey, PA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
3. Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model (Programmatic Workshop): **March 7-8th, 2023 in Fairfax, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)
4. Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes (Programmatic Workshop): **March 16th, 2023 on Kent Island.** [Workshop webpage](#)
5. The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes (State of the Science Workshop): **March 21-23rd, 2023 in Woodbridge, VA.** [Workshop webpage](#)

The following STAC technical review is in the process of being planned:

1. Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Proposal: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in Acid Mine Drainage Impacted Watersheds

Information regarding future workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the STAC [workshop homepage](#).

STAC Reports

STAC recently released the following reports:

- 1. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21):** [Workshop webpage](#)
2. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21)
3. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens (FY 2020)
4. Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap (FY20)

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the STAC [publication page](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership.

Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.

- 1. Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services (FY21):** [Workshop webpage](#)
- 2. Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations (FY20):** [Workshop webpage](#)
3. *Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (FY21):* [Workshop webpage](#)
4. *Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21):* [Final Workshop Session webpage](#)

Several 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. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the STAC past [workshop webpage](#).

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org) Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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.

- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- **JOINT FWG/SHWG MEETING:** The Forestry and Stream Health Workgroups will be meeting on Wednesday **6/7 from 9:00-11:00 ET** for a joint-workgroup meeting. This will be a virtual meeting and the meeting information can be found at [this link](#).
 - **BROOK TROUT WORKGROUP MEETING:** The Brook Trout Workgroup Spring 2023 meeting will be on Thursday **6/15 from 1:00-5:00 ET**. Additional information on this virtual meeting can be found at [this link](#).
 - **STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP MEETING:** The Stream Health Workgroup meeting will be on Friday **6/16 from 10:00-12:00 ET**. Additional information on this virtual meeting can be found at [this link](#).
 - **WETLANDS WORKGROUP TIDAL MEETING:** The Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Meeting will be on **Tuesday 6/20 from 10:00-12:00 ET**. Additional information on this meeting can be found at [this link](#).
 - **SAV WORKGROUP MEETING:** The SAV Workgroup meeting will be on Tuesday **6/27 from 1:00pm – 5:00 ET**. Additional information on this meeting can be found at [this link](#).
- **INDICATOR UPDATES:** The Stream Health and Fish Passage Outcomes have updated their indicators. These updates will be made available on ChesapeakeProgress in the near future.
 - **OUTCOME ATTAINABILITY DOCUMENTS:** The [2022 Executive Council charge](#) has asked the CBP Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) to develop a plan that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. CBP staff and representatives from jurisdictions, NGOs, and other advisory committees are preparing a report to be delivered to the Executive Council at their annual meeting later this year. The workgroups have been asked to provide an update regarding our Outcome Attainability status. All six Habitat Outcomes (Black Duck, Brook Trout, Fish Passage, SAV, Stream Health, and Wetlands) are currently working on updating outcome attainability documents, which includes going out for review for workgroup-member feedback. The final documents will be submitted on Friday, June 2nd. We will also be providing feed back on the Wetlands chapter prior to public comment on June 22.
 - **SRS HEALTHY WATERSHEDS COHORT:** The **Brook Trout** and **Fish Passage, and Stream Health Outcomes** are preparing to begin their next 2-year review cycle starting in July 2023. The Workgroup Co-Chairs have begun creating their SRS documents and will be requesting feedback from their

respective workgroup members and the Habitat GIT Steering Committee in the near future. The current 2022-2023 Logic & Action Plans can be found online on each workgroup's CBP webpage.

- **FY2021 & FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** Contractors have been selected based on proposals received from the advertised scopes of work for the following projects. The estimated start date for the project timelines is 6/1.
 - **FY2021:** *"Understanding and Addressing the Impacts of Wetland Mowing to Facilitate Meeting the Chesapeake Bay Wetland Enhancement Goals"*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome. (This project was funded in 2021 but did not receive bids on the SOW which is why it's being readvertised with the 2022 projects.)
 - **FY2022:** *"Mapping non-tidal wetlands in areas with outdated wetland maps"*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
 - **FY2022:** *"Monitoring vegetation condition through the Delmarva peninsula"*; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG.

Habitat GIT Contact: Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus, and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held a meeting on May 22, 2023, and discussed the following topics:

AAPFCO Data Update

Lee McDonnell and Kaylyn Gootman, EPA, summarized the AAPFCO data efforts and updated the WQGIT on agriculture and urban fertilizer work.

CAST Phase 6 Timeline Update

Following the presentation last month on the proposed updates to the Phase 6 CAST release timeline, Lee McDonnell met with each of the WQGIT members in individual calls to get feedback on the options presented. At this meeting, Lee gave an overview of the feedback received during the calls and highlighted two options to move forward. Another round of individual calls will be scheduled to get additional feedback. The WQGIT will need to approve a path forward by July in order to get MB approval in August and PSC approval in September.

NASS Surveys Presentation

In light of the completion of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, Tony Dorn of the USDA- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provided some background on NASS Surveys, including both Agrochemical surveys as well as the Census of Agriculture.

Briefing on the BMPVAHAT Final Report and Suggestions

In 2020, the WQGIT was charged by the Management Board to convene the BMP Verification Ad-hoc Action Team (BMPVAHAT) to discuss and revisit elements of the Partnerships verification efforts, including BMP credit duration and alternatives to the current approach to verification. Following the sunset of the group in October 2022, the BMPVAHAT leadership drafted a summary of findings and suggestions. Vanessa Van Note, Former BMPVAHAT Coordinator, and Jackie Pickford, Former BMPVAHAT Staffer, briefed the WQGIT on the suggestions outlined in the final report and potential next steps and asked for feedback (via discussion and JamBoard) on how to prioritize them. The final report can be accessed here:

https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/Draft_BMPVAHAT-Final-Report-and-Suggestions_v6_04202023_clean.pdf

The WQGIT will hold their next meeting on Monday, June 26, 2023 – agenda and topics are TBD.

WQGIT Contact: Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov) and Sushanth Gupta (gupta.sushanth@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.

The HWGIT has been actively involved with the SRS process for the Land Use Options and Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes. Both outcomes presented on their last two years of adaptive management at the March 9 Management Board Meeting. Both land use outcomes and the Local Leadership workgroup are currently updating their Management Strategies and Logic and Action Plans; those documents will be posted for a public review period beginning in May.

The HWGIT is sponsoring two GIT funding projects that are well on their way. The CHWA 2.0 project is in the process of refining the CHWA and updating it with the latest data. The CCP Habitat Scoping Project is in the process of meeting with stakeholders through a workshop aimed at getting feedback on how a new habitat dataset would be used and other considerations for the update.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: Sophie Waterman (swaterman@chesapeakebay.net)

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists residents, communities, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase engagement and active stewardship.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust launched its Request for Proposals (for bids to conduct the GIT Funding projects) on February 10th. The Stewardship Workgroup's project is Scope 9 "Stewardship Network Study and Asset Mapping." Requests close at 4pm on March 13th.

- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently reviewing its Logic and Action Plan following the example set by the Diversity Workgroup to gauge progress and find areas where resources can be focused to move items forward.
- The Stewardship Workgroup meeting was held on May 5. The agenda included presentations from other Outcome areas that are relevant to engaging stewards – regarding tree canopy recommended actions as well as messages and best practices for audiences resulting from the STAC Rising Water Temperatures report.

Education Workgroup

- The Education Workgroup facilitated a debrief of the Environmental Literacy Forum & Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN) partner meetings held in January at the National Conservation Training Center. Discussions centered on the relationship between the Workgroup and ROLN (a state-centered stakeholder effort aligned with CBP priorities that was launched with GIT funding). These conversations are ongoing.
- The Education Workgroup and National Park Service are working on a refined version of the Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative for this year. Feedback from those involved in last year's program noted that a highlight was engagement of youth with CBP leadership as a means to learn more about CBP priorities and about career options. This year's program will incorporate this feedback and look to draw in participants from existing youth leadership programs across the watershed.
- NOAA partnered with Pennsylvania partners to hold virtual and in-person workshops focused on the new PA science standards. Over 200 representatives from across Pennsylvania's school districts joined in to discuss implementation of MWEEs into environmental literacy standards.
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Request for Proposals launched on February 10th includes the Education Workgroup's two GIT-funded projects: Scope of Work 7, "Determining EvidenceBased Criteria to Highlight how Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes;" and Scope 9, "Career and Workforce Programming Landscape Assessment," which will serve multiple Outcomes.
- Staff are in the process of updating the Bay Backpack website with the environmental literacy planning toolkit for school districts and their partners.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup convened its initial meeting of the year on March 27th, 2023 to review upcoming goals and actions. The agenda for the meeting included a presentation on the conclusive results of the Benefits and Barriers Research, which was completed in February. Additionally, the workgroup provided an update on the status of public access sites for the year 2022 by the first week of May.
- Longtime Public Access Workgroup member Lisa Gutierrez, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has stepped up to serve as the new chair of the Workgroup, in place of Jackie Kremer, NPS, who retired at the end of 2022. Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)
- An active effort to recruit members for the Protected Lands Workgroup from each of the Bay jurisdictions has resulted in interest from multiple individuals. Representatives from

- most states have agreed to join the Workgroup, though we are still working to identify participants from New York. The first meeting for the workgroup took place on March 29th, 2023 and members were able to introduce themselves as well as get more information about workgroup responsibilities and conservation concerns from other States. The Workgroup will soon work on assessing, prioritizing, and mobilizing more of the planned actions to help address state needs to accelerate land conservation.
- Based on the CCP meeting in November, preliminary discussions and research have begun in an effort to help partners become more aware of available funding with specific connections to geography. This effort would involve identifying land conservation programs or grant programs that lend themselves to conservation with criteria that imply eligibility based on mappable features. These funding programs may be from different sources such as federal and/or state. Initial research has been focused on compiling a comprehensive list of grant programs and identifying the geographic criteria that could be used to create GIS layers, and eventually to produce a useful tool to help partners find funding to match where they're working on priority projects.

Diversity Workgroup

- The Workgroup is exploring options to utilize a small budget (funds from National Park Service Chesapeake) to support advancing its work. The Diversity Workgroup staff team is reviewing its Logic & Action Plan for a current progress check as well as to see which action items could be benefitted by funding to enable additional services, in particular as a move toward equity. If effective, this pilot could be spread to other workgroups. After this review, the action items that were considered for utilizing the small budget were brought forward to the larger workgroup to get their input and gauge their interest in accomplishing tasks identified. Their feedback has been collected and is being looked at to see how to move forward with the new small budget.
- The Diversity Workgroup's quarterly meeting was held from 1pm-3pm on March 16th and featured a guest presentation from Rona Kobell of the Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative.
- The Diversity Workgroup is hosting a four-part virtual workshop series focused on building capacity for equitable grant funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed which concluded in the last week of March. The virtual workshop series was designed to help improve awareness about equitable funding challenges, best practices, experiences of under-resourced communities, and strategies for funders to measure their progress in improving equity in grantmaking. Over the fall of 2022, consultants interviewed under-resourced organizations and government and foundation funders to (1) understand the challenges communities face when applying for grant funding; and (2) understand equitable changes funders in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are currently making to grantmaking. These workshops have been designed to respond to the challenges heard during the interviews, and to build community among grantmakers and between grantmakers and community-based or community-serving organizations. Workshops 1 & 2 were for funders only, and workshops 3 & 4 were open to funders, nonprofits, intermediaries, and technical assistance (TA) providers working in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Registration numbers were high for all four of the workshops.

GIT 5 Contact: Britt Slattery, britt_slattery@nps.gov (Coordinator); Wuillam Urvina, urvinaw@chesapeake.org (Staffer); Jimmy Looper, looperj@chesapeake.org (Staffer)

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.

2022 GIT Funding Program – For the 2022 GIT Funding Program, 11 projects were identified by CBT to be funded. The GIT Funding RFP was released on February 10, 2023 to 2,300 recipients including the organizations specified by tech leads and MBE/WBE/DBE firms and HBCUs in the watershed. The RFP application deadline was March 23, 2023 and the applications are currently under review by CBT. Contractor work for the projects began May 15, 2023.

Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GDAT presented the Governance Document at the December 14, 2022 GIT 6 meeting with the approved edits from the October Executive Council Meeting regarding roles of staff and grammatical edits to EC Leadership language. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEI Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making. An updated Governance Document version 5.0 can be found on Chesapeakebay.net.

Organizational Analysis – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in 2023.

Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov; and Kristin Saunders (ksaunders@umces.edu)

Budget and Finance Workgroup - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Quarterly Meeting took place on May 31, 2023 as a conference call. Meeting topics included an update on the NCEE Environmental Justice proposal, a review on the BFWG Workplan, and a discussion on upcoming innovative environmental finance opportunities. The BFWG will hold its next meeting on August 16, 2023 as a conference call.

Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), shimkin.martha@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup - The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its Summer Quarterly Meeting on May 9, 2023. The meeting focused around highlighting technical assistance available to help local governments access funding for water infrastructure and identifying gaps in technical assistance to local governments. Presentations on technical assistance programs were given by local governments, environmental finance centers, planning districts, and nonprofits. Additional meeting topics included an update on Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. The LLWG will hold its next meeting on August 29, 2023 as a hybrid meeting at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), johnson.caroline@epa.gov; Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Michelle Edwards (Chair), medwards@rrregion.org; Martha Narvaez (Vice Chair) mcorrozi@udel.edu

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) johnson.caroline@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.

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)

The [May STAR meeting](#) focused on addressing science needs through academia. The meeting began with a review of the Strategic Science and Research Framework and the science needs database, which are used to track the science needs of the 31 outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. This was followed by a presentation on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey, EPA, and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) which was created to support UMBC students, strengthen the recruiting of diverse talent into the federal workforce, and develop capacity to meet key science needs. Following these presentations, the bulk of the meeting was comprised of a panel of researchers from a mix of academic programs STAR has already worked with and those STAR has yet to collaborate with on the CBP science needs. Panelists discussed how to align academic research efforts with the CBP science needs and how to improve the database to increase its usability. The next STAR meeting is on June 29th, 2023.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup held its [quarterly review on April 4th and 5th](#), 2023. The April 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the Phase 7 suite of models in development. The 12 presentations ranged from the modeled consequences of climate change on SAV habitat, to recommendations from the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report for CBP modeling. The new [integrated watershed-wide indicator](#) of the TMDL-required reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus was also presented. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on June 20th and 21st, 2023.

Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

ITAT held two meetings in May. The [first meeting](#) featured students from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) who presented their analysis of Patuxent River hypoxia, which was followed by a discussion with stakeholders and analysts. The [second May ITAT meeting](#) began with updates on EPA Regional-ORD Applied Research (ROAR) program funding, the Bay Oxygen Research Group work, and the Strategy Review System Biennial meeting that took place earlier in May. Following a presentation on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mussel Watch program and the NOAA [Coastal Pollution Data Explorer tool](#), ITAT members provided feedback on improving tool functionality and its applicability to their analyses. The next ITAT meeting will take place on June 28th, 2023.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute the Tributary Summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan (bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net) and Kaylyn Gootman (gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov).

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their [quarterly meeting on February 28th](#). The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, citizen monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, blind audits, and field audits. Elgin Perry provided an overview of the 4-Dimensional Interpolator tool being developed by the Bay Oxygen Research Group. Alex Fries gave updates on citizen monitoring and proposed the citizen science groups to prioritize moving from Tier 2 to Tier 3. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator

The March BORG team meeting focused on results for expanding the Generalized Additive Models (GAMs) model development from the mainstem of the Bay to the Patuxent. The Patuxent was chosen to test out results because it one of the larger tributaries to help understand challenges for using GAMs and the boundary between the tributaries and the Bay mainstem. Two versions of a coordinate system serving as the analysis framework were developed by the GIS Team as options for analysts to use. During April and May, developmental testing that leverages techniques piloted for the mainstem and Patuxent daily means work that now targets short duration (sub-daily) dissolved oxygen dynamics with surface water data from Gooses Reef mainstem bay time series have yielded encouraging results. Tuning the surface water work, and deep water short duration dissolved oxygen dynamics are targets that will be further explored. A conference abstract was submitted to the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference (November 2023) that aims to present the latest updates on 4D interpolator development by the group.

Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup

The [April 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting](#) included updates on small agricultural watershed monitoring sites and field audit check-ins. A compilation of historical NTN database for loads and trends through 2022 was presented. Participants discussed standardizing data quality assurance across jurisdictions prior to data submission and any other data-related issues. The next NTN Workgroup meeting is scheduled for June 21st, 2023, and will operate on a bimonthly meeting schedule.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The [April 2023 CAP Workgroup meeting](#) focused on providing updates on ongoing projects and discussing key questions associated with each project. Ongoing projects include the 4-Dimensional water quality interpolator, hypoxia monitoring, and satellite-based assessments of SAV, chlorophyll-a, and harmful algal blooms. Discussion focused on methods for these assessments, documentation, and where to find additional support for these key questions. The next meeting of the CAP WG is being scheduled for July 2023. Anticipated topics for the next meeting agenda include 1) Questions/discussion regarding the potential to have temperature adjusted criteria, 2) decision rules on criteria attainment that utilize the output of the new 4D interpolator under development, and 3) open discussions for

consideration to revise the Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment outcome language of the 2014 Watershed Agreement for the CBPs “Beyond 2025” Action Team and its upcoming considerations for updating any Goal and outcome statements by the end of 2025.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup’s [2023-2024 Logic and Action Plan](#) and their updated [Management Strategy](#) were officially finalized at the end of March and approved by the Management Board.

In April, workgroup’s [monthly meeting](#) focused on sharing information about how various partners are defining and measuring climate resilience effectiveness of natural infrastructure strategies. [Sabine Bailey](#), a Digital Coast Fellow with The Nature Conservancy and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, shared her work on defining community resilience metrics which aim to understand a community’s ability to adapt to climate impacts, and that’s the resulting impacts to natural habitats and resources. Katie May Laumann, with UMCES, presented her work developing a Coastal Adaptation Report Card. This effort addresses the need to clarify adaptation goals in order to measure progress and hold the state accountable. Lastly, Emily Trentacoste, with EPA ORD, presented her work supporting the “Building and Maintaining Coastal Community Resilience through Blue Carbon Resources” project, which focuses on working with a local Chesapeake Bay community (Crisfield, MD) to help solve its coastal resilience issues, identify and assess co-benefits associated with coastal resilience solutions, and investigate natural infrastructure options that have blue carbon sequestration potential. The workgroup held a discussion on how this information could be utilized to help inform workgroup efforts in defining and measuring resilience effectiveness.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup did not hold a May meeting, as staff resources were focused on supporting current workgroup efforts and Chesapeake Bay Program efforts (e.g., GIT Funded Marsh Adaptation project, CBP Biennial Meeting).

The [June CRWG Meeting](#) will be held **June 15th, 2023 from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**; the meeting will focus on recent research and management efforts to address climate change impacts in the nontidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

The [STWG met on May 24th](#) to discuss next steps for prioritizing outcome progress tracking that reflect takeaways from the 2023 SRS Biennial Meeting. The meeting involved suggested revisions to the living workplan for 2023 to reflect these next steps and the workgroup approved of the suggested revisions. This included the decision for the workgroup to begin meeting on a quarterly schedule, with ad-hoc meetings scheduled when there is an indicator in need of approval. The workgroup will next convene in August to reflect on the progress made toward the workplan within the different spheres of work agreed upon.

CRWG Contacts: Julie Reichert-Nguyen, julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov (Coordinator); Jamileh Souidan, jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov (Staffer)

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June 2023 Management Board Indicators Update

June MB Indicators Update

Since the May MB meeting, we have not updated any indicators to ChesapeakeProgress.

We anticipate finalizing the following additional indicator updates in advance of the July MB meeting:

- Land Use Methods and Metrics: Impervious surface cover (2013/14 and 2017/18 data)
- Local Leadership (2022 data)
- Tree Canopy (2021 data)
- Fish Passage (2021 data)
- Stream Health (2012-2017 data)
- SAV (2022 preliminary data)
- Toxic Contaminants (2020 data)
- Climate Monitoring and Assessment: Average Air Temperature and Total Precipitation (2021 data)

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov

Strategic Engagement Team

On March 28, the Strategic Engagement Team held their quarterly meeting, and met with members of the Local Action Cohort (Land Use Metrics and Methods, Land Use Options Evaluation, Local Leadership and Tree Canopy) to review the communications, engagement, social science, education, diversity and stewardship needs identified during their quarterly SRS review. Core members of the Strategic Engagement Team will meet on April 20 to discuss the actions and decisions from the meeting and follow-up with the Local Action Cohort outcomes on next steps.

Communications Office

On February 14, the Communications Office published a press release announcing the completion of the design for the Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure (TOGI) pilot program.

- Access the press release: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bayprogram-funding-helps-four-local-communities-in-designing-beneficial-green-infrastructureprojects>

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week will take place from June 3 to 11, 2023. The theme for 2023 will be "Chesapeake Journeys."

- Learn more about Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week>

40th Anniversary Planning Committee

The Communications Office is leading the 40th anniversary planning effort and convened a team of planners for each jurisdiction and federal agency. The Communications Office hosted one on one

meetings with each partner and is beginning to feature blogs with each partner. To celebrate the 40th anniversary, we will host two events during Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week to highlight how the Chesapeake Bay Program has worked towards meeting the Watershed Agreement goals. The events will consist of site tours highlighting restoration work in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland. More details will be available in the coming weeks. The 40th anniversary blogs can be found below.

- Celebrating 40 years of science, restoration and partnership
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/celebrating-40-years-of-science-restoration-andpartnership>
- From the fish kills to Conowingo Dam, USGS investigates the Bay watershed's most complex issues <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/from-the-fish-kills-to-conowingo-dam-usgsinvestigates-the-bay-watersheds-most-complex-issues>

Executive Council

Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting began on January 11, 2023. The meeting will take place in the Washington, D.C. area in October. The planning team is currently searching for a meeting location.

The following blogs were published in March:

- Watch ospreys, eagles, otters and more with these Chesapeake wildlife cams
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/watch-ospreys-eagles-otters-and-more-with-thesechesapeake-wildlife-cams>
- Who's afraid of the big, bad wolf? <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/whos-afraid-ofthe-big-bad-wolf>
- From the fish kills to Conowingo Dam, USGS investigates the Bay watershed's most complex issues <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/from-the-fish-kills-to-conowingo-dam-usgsinvestigates-the-bay-watersheds-most-complex-issues>
- An outdoor recreation group for women is offered across the Chesapeake region
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/an-outdoor-recreation-group-for-women-isoffered-across-the-chesapeake-region>
- 5 LBBs (little brown birds) to see in the Chesapeake
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/5-lbbs-little-brown-birds-to-see-in-the-chesapeake>

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