



## Management Board

### Program Update May 9, 2024

#### CBPO Calendar

May 8	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Meeting
May 8	Virginia Oyster Workgroup Bi-Monthly Meeting
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Management Board Meeting</b>
May 10	Agricultural Modeling Team Meeting
May 13	Water Quality GIT Meeting
May 14	LLWG Quarterly Meeting
May 29	Goal Team Chairs Quarterly Meeting
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Meeting</b>
June 4-5	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
June 10	Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
June 11	Federal Facilities Workgroup Meeting
<b>June 13</b>	<b>Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting: Healthy Watersheds Cohort</b>
<b>June 25</b>	<b>Principals' Staff Committee Meeting</b>

#### General Updates

##### **CBP Partners Continue to Chip Away at Pollution Entering Bay**

The most recent data for how each of the six watershed states and Washington, D.C. are doing in meeting their [2025 Watershed Implementation Plan](#) (WIP) goals was released on May 2.

- Overall nitrogen entering the Bay decreased 17% from 297.8 million pounds in 2009 to 247.6 million pounds in 2023, meeting 57% of the goal to reduce nitrogen by 2025.
- Overall phosphorus entering the Bay decreased 17% from 17.2 million pounds in 2009 to 14.2 million pounds in 2023, meeting 67% of the goal to reduce phosphorus by 2025.
- Overall sediment entering the Bay decreased 6% from 18.9 billion pounds in 2009 to 17.8 billion pounds in 2023, meeting 100% of the goal to reduce sediment by 2025.

Currently, 57% of nitrogen goals, 67% of phosphorus goals and 100% of sediment goals to have 100% of pollution reducing practices installed by 2025 are being met.

The partnership's suite of models show that between 2022 and 2023, the agricultural sector was responsible for 43% of nitrogen reductions and 26% of phosphorus reductions. The wastewater sector, during the same period, was responsible for 53% of nitrogen reductions and 67% of phosphorus reductions.

For more, see the full press release: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-program-model-estimates-decline-in-nutrients-sediment>.

### **CBPO to Issue 2024 Grant Guidance to Partners**

The *2024 Chesapeake Bay Program Office Grant and Cooperative Agreement Guidance*, which communicates annual policy updates and priorities, was issued to jurisdictional partners on May 2, 2024. The delays in receiving an annual appropriation have impacted CBPO's timeline for issuing its draft guidance over the past few years. To resolve this moving forward, CBPO will separate programmatic guidance from communication of funding allocations. CBPO is further examining how it can improve readability and user experience of the Grant Guidance with the goal of issuing a significant redesign in Fiscal Year 2026.

**Contact:** Autumn Rose ([rose.autumn@epa.gov](mailto:rose.autumn@epa.gov)) and Erin Chapman ([chapman.erin@epa.gov](mailto:chapman.erin@epa.gov))

### **Hickman Farm and Great Cypress Swap visit**

On Wednesday, April 24, several CBPO staff and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control staff went on a spring visit of a tree planting project. They met with Marcia Fox, Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands at the Hickman Farm restoration project in the Great Cypress Swamp, which is Delaware Wild Lands' largest land holding, and the largest freshwater wetland and contiguous block of forestland in Delaware. This project used Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and is a particularly important piece of property in the state of Delaware which is not open to public access.

**Contact:** Emily Heller, [heller.emily@epa.gov](mailto:heller.emily@epa.gov)

### **Pennsylvania Stream Delisting Event**

In celebration of four stream segments coming off the impaired waters list in Pennsylvania's newly final Integrated Water Resources Report, a press conference and farm tour was held in Turtle Creek near Lewisburg, Union County, PA on Thursday, April 25. The delisting is a result of the Rapid Stream Delisting strategy which aims to improve stream health until the stream meets certain biological and/or chemical standards to be removed from the list of "impaired" waterways, per section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Chesapeake Conservancy currently coordinates the strategy across 7 Pennsylvania counties with 60+ partners including conservation districts, state and federal agencies, local nonprofits, municipalities, academic institutions, and funding partners.

**Contact:** Khesha Reed, [reed.khesha@epa.gov](mailto:reed.khesha@epa.gov)

### **Advisory Committee Updates**

#### **Scientific Technical Advisory Committee**

STAC welcomed two new Virginia appointees to the committee in April 2024:

- Dr. John Bovay, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech
- Dr. Carl Friedrichs, Research Coordinator and Associate Director of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Both Dr. Bovay and Dr. Friedrichs bring a wealth of related knowledge and expertise that will allow them to contribute greatly to the work of STAC. Gubernatorial appointments are selected by their chief

executives based on the jurisdiction's needs and priorities and serve until replaced. The [current membership list](#) can be viewed here.

### **June 2024 Quarterly Meeting**

The June 2024 Quarterly Meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 4th and Wednesday, June 5th** at Point of View Retreat in Mason Neck, VA and updates can be found on the [June 2024 STAC Quarterly Meeting page](#).

### **Recently Published Reports**

All STAC review and workshop reports are available for download on the STAC [Publication webpage](#). So far in 2024, STAC has published four workshop reports:

- Mason, P., G. Noe, Berlin, C., D. Clearwater, S. Claggett, D. Goerman, B. Landry, and A. Santoro. 2024. *Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services*. [Download](#).
- McPhillips, L., A. Buda, Z. Easton, W. L. Daniels, S. Fathel, J. Ignosh, C. Raj, D. Sample. (2024). *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality*. [Download](#).
- Berger, K, K. Filippino, G. Shenk, N. Goulet, M. Lookenbill, D. Moyer, G. Noe, A. Porter, J. Shallenberger, B. Thomas, and G. Yactayo. (2024). *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model*. [Download](#).
- Hanson, J., K. Brownson, E. Gilinsky, K. Gootman, B. Jenkins, R. Rossi, K. Saunders, L. Wainger, B. Williams, and S. Yee. (2024). *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of Multiple CBP Outcomes*. [Download](#).

### **FY24 Workshops: Approved proposals**

The first call for FY24 Request for Workshop Proposals (RFP) was released [earlier this year](#), with a second call planned to be posted in mid-June 2024. Workshops are organized to gather critically needed scientific and/or technical information related to protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. FY24 workshops approved for funding so far are the following:

- Identifying Natural and Social Sciences Gaps to Support Market-Based Approaches to Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration
- Leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning to advance Chesapeake Bay research and management: A review of status, challenges, and opportunities

### **Stakeholders Advisory Committee**

The Stakeholders' Advisory Committee will hold their spring quarterly meeting in Columbia, MD on May 22-23. The members will engage in discussion on the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee updates, will hear a panel on the history of the CBP in land use decisions, and will have conversations with PSC Chair, Secretary Kurtz, and EPA Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz.

To be added to Stakeholders' Committee Interested Parties List, please contact: Alex LoCurto [alocurto@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:alocurto@allianceforthebay.org) For program questions, contact Jess Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Local Governments 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 has scheduled a 2024 Local Government Forum on the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report for [July 11th, 2024 at the Turf Valley Resort](#) in Ellicott City, Maryland. LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be the following day, July 12th, also at the Turf Valley Resort. Agendas for the Forum and July LGAC meeting will be posted on the meeting web page in the upcoming weeks.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Laura Cattell Noll at [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staffer, Kayli Ottomanelli at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

### **GIT, Workgroup, Communications Team, and STAR updates**

#### **GIT1 Updates**

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team ([Fish GIT](#)) held our spring meeting at Hampton University (Hampton, VA) on March 20/21, 2024. This meeting consisted of project updates and a focus on DEIJ within the Fish GIT. We heard baywide oyster restoration updates from Virginia and Maryland, as well as updates on the blue crab stock assessment from the chair from the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee. We also had a discussion on Beyond 2025, heard an overview of the Forage Action Team's Forage Report, and listened to a presentation on what small groups of the Invasive Catfish Workgroup are focused on.

The rest of the meeting was focused on discussion around DEIJ and how we can work to diversify the Fish GIT. We heard a presentation from Hampton U faculty on Marine Science at Hampton U and the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC). We also heard from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) about local oyster restoration and living shoreline projects in the Hampton River. We also received an educational tour of the campus and learned some of the history of Hampton U. We had a working session designed to answer the question "What more can we do to incorporate DEIJ into the Fish GIT?" We tasked different GIT members with developing ideas to answer these questions and recorded responses. Several Hampton U students also attended this session and provided valuable input and feedback on response. Students then had the opportunity to network with Fish GIT members and exchange contact information, discuss internships, etc. On the second day NOAA also held a student centered event that discussed job searching, networking, and provided students with valuable resources.

We left this meeting with valuable feedback on steps we, as a GIT, can take to ensure that DEIJ remains on the forefront of our minds. Likewise, the GIT made a commitment to continue to build relationships with Hampton U and work to provide valuable connections and opportunities to students. We are determine to continue to integrate DEIJ into our work and build connections with underrepresented communities. Likewise, we plan to utilize the feedback from GIT members and Hampton U students and faculty to take necessary steps to continue to diversify our GIT and respective workgroups.

Responses from students, faculty, and GIT members can be found [HERE](#).

## **GIT2 Updates**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- **HABITAT GIT SPRING MEETING:** The Habitat GIT Spring Meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a hybrid meeting with both in-person and virtual attendance options. The in-person location will be at the D.C. DOEE office in Washington D.C. The calendar webpage for the [HGIT Spring Meeting can be found here](#).
- **BROOK TROUT WORKGROUP SPRING 2024 MEETING:** The Brook Trout Workgroup will be meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link](#).
- **WETLANDS WORKGROUP TIDAL TEAM MEETING:** The Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Team will be meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00-12:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link](#).
- **FISH PASSAGE WORKGROUP SPRING 2024 MEETING:** The Fish Passage Workgroup will be meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00-1:00 ET. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link](#).

**STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM (SRS) – LIVING RESOURCES COHORT:** The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Workgroups have completed the most recent SRS cycle. During the December 14<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Progress Meeting ([link](#)), the Workgroup Chairs presented their Outcome's findings and next steps to the Management Board. All three outcomes have since finalized their new 2024-2025 Workplans and both Fish Passage and SAV have updated their respective Management Strategies. The Brook Trout Outcome will be updating their Management Strategy after receiving the updated brook trout patch dataset later this year. The updated SRS documents were submitted to the SRS Team and will be posted to the workgroup webpages in the near future.

**STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM (SRS) – HEALTHY WATERSHEDS COHORT:** The Stream Health Workgroup has begun the SRS process and will be presenting to the CBP Management Board at the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. [More information on this meeting can be found at this link](#). After the June meeting, the workgroup will be updating their Workplan and Management Strategy.

**BEYOND 2025:** The Habitat GIT supports the Beyond 2025 efforts and HGIT leadership is heavily involved in the Healthy Watersheds, Climate, and Shallow Water small groups. Workgroup members are acting as technical experts in all 5 small groups (Healthy Watersheds, Climate, People, Water Quality, and Shallow Water).

**FY2024 GIT FUNDING:** The following project proposals were submitted to CBP Leadership for GIT Funding:

- **Joint-Brook Trout/Toxic Contaminants Workgroup:** *Investigating the Potential for and Presence of 6PPD-q in Brook Trout Habitat*
- **Fish Passage:** *Social Science Behavior Change Project*
- **SAV:** *Chesapeake Bay Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program Development*
- **Stream Health:** *Phase 3B – Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators – Physicochemical Metric Analysis*
- **Wetlands:** *Increasing Effectiveness of Landowner Engagement to Accelerate Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*

## **GIT3 Updates**

The WQGIT held a [meeting](#) on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, and discussed the following topics:

### **Workgroup Updates**

- WTWG
  - The Modeled Load Reduction Indicator (MLRI) has been updated with 2023 implementation data and is available on the Chesapeake Progress [website](#).
  - The official 2023 Progress scenario is now available on CAST-19. This scenario reflects the BMPs that are implemented and functioning this year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023) as reported by the jurisdictions to the Chesapeake Bay Program for annual progress and verified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### **Overview of SPARROW Updates**

The USGS is updating nitrogen and phosphorus SPARROW models for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. To inform their process and its subsequent use to stakeholders, they described the modeling effort for the WQGIT and requested feedback on planned model inputs and output. These SPARROW model updates and resulting science may indirectly inform Phase 7 Watershed Model Development, but they are not direct component or task.

### **Watershed Data Dashboard Migration**

Kaylyn and Ruth presented on the transition of the Watershed Data Dashboard tool from its previous setup using Tableau to one using ESRI software. They highlighted improvements, updates, and reviewed the current schedule for release, followed by a live demo and Q&A. There was some discussion of future roll-out plans or training. The WQGIT will be updated on major developments, opportunities, or release dates.

### **‘SRS History Museum Tour’**

Greg reviewed the history of adaptive management in the Chesapeake Bay Program and what eventually became the Strategy Review System (SRS) process. The presentation provided historical backdrop for subsequent presentations and discussion by Sarah and WQGIT leadership, respectively.

### **Overview of Revised SRS Process**

Sarah gave an overview of the SRS process and changes made this cycle, tailored to the WQGIT and its workgroups. There was discussion about how the WQGIT may wish to proceed in light of the ongoing Beyond 2025 discussions and the Management Strategy that the 2025 WIP outcome shares with the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome.

### **Road Ahead and Planning Update**

WQGIT Leadership provided an interactive update on the road ahead for the WQGIT this year. They recapped past WQGIT discussions and feedback, and reinforced known milestones, e.g., for SRS and Beyond 2025. They solicited general feedback and ideas, and requested volunteers to assist with Face-to-Face meeting planning, Submersion Series webinars, and other tasks. Jeremy and Suzanne described plans to reserve recurring agenda time for partners to share rotating success stories or lessons learned.

Virginia (Kevin McLean) and Pennsylvania (Jill Whitcomb) volunteered to share first, at the May 13<sup>th</sup> WQGIT [meeting](#).

#### **GIT4 Updates**

#### **GIT5 Updates**

Chesapeake Research Consortium welcomes its newest staffer, Meredith Lemke, supporting the Stewardship GIT (GIT 5) and the Stewardship, Education and Diversity Workgroups. Meredith will be located with the National Park Service Chesapeake office in Annapolis, and will work closely with the NOAA education team.

#### **Stewardship Workgroup**

Work is on course for the Stewardship Network Study & Asset Mapping “Scope 9” GIT Funded Project with contractors from Local Concepts LLC. The project is working to develop a visualization (a “map”) of the network of networks supporting stewardship work in the watershed, in order to assess and use networks more effectively to strengthen collaboration and increase progress toward our shared goals and outcomes. This will serve many outcomes, both under the Stewardship GIT as well as those outcomes that can benefit from increased stewardship efforts (such as tree canopy, riparian buffers, etc.). The network visualization tool, now called “Chesapeake Steward Map,” will provide a platform for stewardship providers to share their information (such as who they are, what they do and where, which other providers they interact with), which will be used to help show existing and facilitate new connections among the various entities working in the field. This tool will highlight strengths and gaps in partner relationships and geographic areas to inform future efforts. Invitations to join the network map have been sent out to a first round of network members. Individuals have begun joining the map. The map is being tested for functionality and refined to suit needs.

The Workgroup completed its biennial progress review with the Management Board in March, and is working to update the Management Strategy and develop the new two year action plan (2024-25) during April and May.

In February, Workgroup co-chair Michael Weyand left his position at the City of Gaithersburg for a different role with Montgomery County in the agriculture sector, and will not be able to continue leading the Stewardship Workgroup. The Workgroup will be recruiting for a new co-chair this spring, to work with the current co-chair, Ashley Traut from the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition.

#### **Education Workgroup**

The GIT funded project entitled, “How Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes,” referred to as “Scope 7” just wrapped up the first phase of the project. This included gathering data from school and school district personnel through surveys and focus groups to identify key areas where nonformal education organizations should be focusing to increase school district engagement. A summary document is now under review. The next step of this project includes developing a rubric/tool based on the results of the summary document and field testing it with partners across the region.

Work continues with contractor WE Strategies on the Workforce Landscape Assessment “Scope 8” GIT funded project. The contractor team and advisory committee have been meeting regularly. The contracting team has conducted their interviews and presented findings to the Education WG during the April Quarterly meeting.



The Workgroup provided a brief update to the Management Board in March on the 2022 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool which measures and tracks progress on the Student Outcome of the Environmental Literacy Goal.

The 2024 implementation of the Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (that tracks implementation of the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience across the watershed) is postponed because EPA is renegotiating their contract. We expect a summer launch rather than spring.

We are about to begin an Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) Network Leadership Course. Proposals to participate are due May 30th. <https://cbtrust.org/grants/olni/>

### **Public Access Workgroup**

The Public Access Workgroup presented its progress review to the Management Board in March, 2024. During March and April, the workgroup has been developing their new two year action plan (2024-2025). They held their quarterly meeting on April 23rd, 2024 and are planning to initiate their 2023 data call for new Public Access sites. The Public Access Workgroup is currently on track to meet the Outcome target by 2025.

### **Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)**

The Protected Lands Workgroup has been developing their new two-year action plan for 2024-25. This process is a bit off-cycle, but the new cycle of cohorts for the SRS process would have delayed the plan, and an updated, new approach was needed. The plan is being developed by new workgroup members who joined the reformed group last year, and should be in place this spring. The most recent indicator shows sufficient progress to expect meeting the target for the Outcome by 2025, if the pace of land conservation stays on course; therefore the action plan will focus on actions needed to help accelerate or maintain the rate of conservation.

PLWG hosted its first meeting with their new GIS Community of Practice in early February. The group is enthusiastic about working together to coordinate the process of gathering annual land conservation data in the future.

### **Diversity Workgroup**

The Diversity Workgroup has been exploring the process and timing for restructuring and growing the capacity of the Steering Committee and Workgroup membership, along with redefining the roles within these groups. This restructuring effort aims to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the workgroup as a whole. There is also an effort to broaden the group's membership to include entities currently missing that would help to round out the group's capacity to implement actions and achieve progress toward the Outcome. Recent Workgroup and Steering Committee meetings have included many new members who are eager to contribute to the work, and these groups are pleasingly the most diverse we've seen in any CBP meetings!

The Diversity Workgroup has been involved in contributing to the internal assessment and the development of recommendations as part of the CBP's "Beyond 2025" process. Forward-looking discussions have been held with Workgroup and Steering Committee members and other partners over the past year to explore ways to center people in Chesapeake Bay efforts beyond 2025, and to consider a vision and hopes for the future of the watershed. These insights have been carried by staff to the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee meetings and the "People" topic small group.



The Diversity Workgroup presented its progress review to the Management Board in March, 2024. During March and April, the workgroup has been developing their new two year action plan (2024-2025). They held their quarterly meeting on March 22nd, 2024 and are currently in the process of getting feedback from the Workgroup and Steering Committee in regards to said action plan.

### **GIT6 Updates**

The next GIT6 quarterly meeting is Thursday, June 20th, 2024. This meeting will be completely virtual and can be accessed, along with all meeting materials, by clicking this [link](#).

Contacts: Lucinda Power(Chair) [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov), James E. Martin(Chair) [james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov), Greg Allen (Coordinator) [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov), Erin Sonnenburg (Staffer) [Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov).

### **SRS Workgroup**

The Strategy Review System (SRS) Workgroup is soliciting nominations for Chair and Vice/Co-Chair. Experience with the science and practice of adaptive management, public policy or the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance and structure are valued. After new leadership is confirmed, the SRS Workgroup will revisit the team's purpose and scope of work to ensure progress is being thoughtfully made on key priorities. Please contact SRS Coordinator Sarah Brzezinski, [Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov](mailto:Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov), to self-nominate or to recommend a colleague for consideration.

The next Quarterly Progress Meeting (QPM) of the Management Board (MB) will be June 13<sup>th</sup> and it will feature the Healthy Watersheds Cohort. The Stream Health and Healthy Watersheds outcomes will go through the full SRS process and present full updates to the Management Board. Brief updates will be provided on the Land Use Methods and Metrics Development, Land Use Options Evaluation, Tree Canopy, and Forest Buffers outcomes, which will be formally participating in the SRS process in year two of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle.

All meeting information and materials can be accessed by following this [link](#). Finalized copies of the Outcome Review Summary and (optional) presentations are due by May 30<sup>th</sup> to the SRS planning group.

### **Following up on prior QPM updates:**

The Living Resources Cohort's QPM with the MB was hosted on December 14, 2023. Since then, the Blue Crab, Oyster, Fish Passage, and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation outcomes have submitted and posted their Management Strategies and Work Plans. The Brook Trout Work Plan has been completed and posted, and the associated Management Strategy is expected later this summer. These documents are available on [Chesapeake Decisions](#), which was recently updated to reflect process changes implemented for the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the SRS.

The People Cohort's QPM with the MB was hosted March 14, 2024. The cohort is in the process of reviewing and revising their Management Strategies and developing their two-year Work Plans. The deadline for finalized versions of both the Management Strategies and Work Plans is May 6, 2024.

Contacts: Sarah Brzezinski, [Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov](mailto:Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov) or Erin Sonnenburg, [Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov)

## **Budget and Finance Workgroup**

During the GIT6 quarterly meeting, the Budget and Finance Workgroup introduced its new co-chair, Khesha Reed.

Contacts: Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair) [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov); Khesha Reed (Co- Chair) [reed.khesha@epa.gov](mailto:reed.khesha@epa.gov)

## **Local Leadership Workgroup**

Our next LLWG meeting is on May 14th. The location will be at Masonville Cove Education Center. The meeting time is from 11 am to 3 pm, followed directly by a tour of the grounds from 3 to 4 pm. The meeting agenda, meeting materials, and instructions on ordering lunch can be found by accessing this [link](#). If you are attending the meeting and have questions, please email Erin Sonnenburg, LLWG Staffer, at [Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov) .

The LLWG submitted a funding proposal to the GIT Funding Proposal process. The LLWG funding request calls for funds to support a technical gap analysis, performed across the watershed's local governments. The results of the analysis will lead to discussion of best practices to fill technical assistance needs. More information on the request and its pending approval can be accessed by emailing Laura Cattell Noll. We ask that you cc Erin Sonnenburg, staffer, and Rick Mittler, the new LLWG coordinator.

This past week the LLWG welcomed its new Coordinator, Rick Mittler.

Contact: Erin Sonnenburg (Staffer), [Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov) or [sonnenburge@chesapeake.org](mailto:sonnenburge@chesapeake.org); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Martha Narvaez (Chair) [mcorrozi@udel.edu](mailto:mcorrozi@udel.edu); Les Knapp (Vice Chair) [les.knapp@maryland.gov](mailto:les.knapp@maryland.gov)

## **Communications Team Updates**

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

On April 11, the Strategic Engagement Team met with the people cohort (Diversity, Environmental Literacy, Public Access, Stewardship and Student outcomes) to discuss their people-oriented needs and actions. SET will put together a list of best practices for integrating DEIJ into work and will follow up with the Diversity Workgroup on this effort soon. The next bi-weekly SET meeting will take place on May 7th for a mid-year check in.

### **Communications Office**

#### **Executive Council:**

The Executive Council planning committee has started preparing for this year's meeting. The Executive Council meeting will take place in early December in Maryland, with more information and details coming soon.

#### **Staff**

- The Communications Office issued the Modeled Loads Reduction press release on May 2. This announcement supports the 2025 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) outcome. The [press](#)

[release](#) notes that the model is estimating a continued decline in nutrients and sediment pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay.

- The Communications Office achieved a record with the announcement on their Instagram site of the recent completion of the York River oyster restoration. This one reel received just under 1.4 million views, reached almost 602,000 unique Instagram accounts, received 13,196 likes and 145 comments. To date, this is the most engaged social media post the Communications Office has noted across their four social media accounts.
  - o <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6HiTMvOgsD/>
- The CBP Communications Office will be attending the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference taking place on May 20-22 in Ellicott City, MD.
- Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week will be taking place June 1-9, events will be posted on the website calendar as they become available.
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week>

#### **Published blogs:**

The following blogs were published in April:

- Sustainable harvests play a role in growing forests
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/sustainable-harvests-play-a-role-in-growing-forests>
- The eastern painted turtle: A natural work of art
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the-eastern-painted-turtle-a-natural-work-of-art>
- Seven land conservation success stories from around the Chesapeake region
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/seven-land-conservation-success-stories-from-around-the-chesapeake-region>
- Community tree planting takes place “Where the green is golden”
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/community-tree-planting-takes-place-where-the-green-is-golden>
- Boom or bust
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/boom-or-bust>
- Building a 21st-century National Recreational Area
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/building-a-21st-century-national-recreational-area>

- D.C. environmentalist shares her biggest takeaways from chairing the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/d-c-environmentalist-shares-her-biggest-takeaways-from-chairing-the-stakeholders-advisory-committee>
- Inaugural State of the Streams report card shows the health of five waterways around Washington, D.C.
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/inaugural-state-of-the-streams-report-card-shows-the-health-of-five-waterways-around-washington-d-c>
- Pennsylvania farmers and environmental partners restore sections of the Turtle Creek watershed
  - o <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/pennsylvania-farmers-and-environmental-partners-restore-sections-of-the-turtle-creek-watershed>

### **STAR Updates**

The [April STAR Meeting](#) continued the theme of emerging monitoring technologies and networks. The meeting opened with a presentation by Dr. Gregory Noe (USGS) on the Stream Team, a USGS study measuring stream ecosystem health responses to Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation and to land use in smaller nontidal watersheds around the Chesapeake. Then Dr. Natalie Hall (USGS) presented some of her work on the monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) using hyperspectral remote sensing. Finally, STAR had a group discussion on informing STAC Science Synthesis needs, which built on information gathered from the Goal Implementation Teams and housed in the [science needs database](#). The next STAR meeting is on [May 23rd, 2024](#).

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its [quarterly review on April 2nd and 3rd, 2024](#). The April 2024 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on [the Phase 7 suite of models in development](#). The 19 presentations ranged from updates on the BMP optimization approaches, to discussions of crop yield calculations for estimating nutrient application and projecting future demand in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. On [April 4th, the Climate Resiliency, Modeling, and Urban Stormwater Workgroups held a joint meeting](#) for two purposes: 1) To support information transfer and facilitate a collective understanding in the opening discussion of the 2027-2028 climate assessment using the Phase 7 Suite of models; 2) Facilitate discussion and provide an opportunity for partners to offer feedback on priorities, remaining needs, and how best to coordinate efforts. Additionally, the modeling team is preparing for and attending the STAC Climate Change 3.0 Workshop in May. The modeling team continues to work on the [development of the Phase 7 suite of models](#). The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on [July 9th and 10th, 2024](#).

### **Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)**

The [April ITAT meeting](#) began with a presentation on the non-tidal water quality data gathering project to inform the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Watershed model calibration. Isabella Bertani has been presenting to interested parties to ensure all appropriate data is included in this project to ensure a robust model calibration. Anyone with feedback on [this project](#) may contact Isabella Bertani ([ibertani@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ibertani@chesapeakebay.net)). The rest of the meeting focused on how to connect CBP monitoring tools with local partners and decision makers. ITAT members discussed possible methods for improved

tailoring of tools to partner needs and venues to have further conversations on this topic. The next ITAT meeting will take place [on June 26th, 2024](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) 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 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee, 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](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net)) and Kaylyn Gootman ([gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov)).

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their spring meeting on [March 18, 2024](#). Participants shared monitoring and laboratory updates. Everyone is on target with their deliverables. Blind audit samples were sent out mid-March. The group discussed the comparison sample requirement for switching to new lab instrumentation. The Data Integrity Workgroup coordinator and CBP's Quality Assurance Coordinator, Durga Ghosh, requested that labs share their minimum certification requirements so she could determine how to proceed with labs' request that they not be required to do 100 samples when all labs are switching from Lachat to SEAL instruments. If an update on comparison sample protocol is deemed necessary, Durga will initiate a Data Analysis Issue Tracking System (DAITS) documentation. The group also discussed the purpose of the Coordinated Split Sample program, and how it is used as a layer of data checks so that labs can proactively address any issues as soon as possible. Finally, the group discussed community science, Tier 3 nontidal monitoring and bacteria monitoring. Severn Rivers Association will likely be the next Tier 3 community science monitoring group. There is interest across multiple groups and states in having Tier 3 nontidal monitoring, but there are challenges associated with differing state standards and data uses and needs for audits. Regarding bacteria monitoring, Tier 1 and Tier 2 standards are established, but there are challenges for a Tier 3 level. These data are often used to help the public make informed decisions based on rapidly changing conditions, and it may not be necessary to pursue Tier 3 status. The next Data Integrity Workgroup meeting will be in the summer with a lab focused meeting in May to discuss the comparison sample requirement as needed.

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

The Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) met on April 15, 2024. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) provided an update on the progress of 4-Dimensional interpolator development. Wes Slaughter (UMD), an ORISE fellow working with BORG, provided an update on his work using continuous monitoring data to better predict Dissolved Oxygen (DO) data at a sub-daily scale, sharing his preliminary findings and getting feedback during a group discussion. Jon Harcum (TetraTech) provided an update on his wavelet analysis work, followed by group discussion. The BORG will continue to meet monthly in small group development sessions to work on the details of interpolator development, and quarterly in the larger group to share updates to the public. The next BORG meeting will be the quarterly public meeting on [May 20, 2024](#).

### **Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup**

The Nontidal Network (NTN) Team of the Integrated Monitoring Network Workgroup had a combined meeting with ITAT on [April 24, 2024](#).

### **Hypoxia Collaborative Team**

The Hypoxia Collaborative Team met on [March 4, 2024](#). Partners shared updates on their ongoing work. Then, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (NCBO) team shared the proposal for the 2024 hypoxia station deployment locations with justification for the proposed placements. This proposal was followed by a robust discussion of the proposed two geographical areas. The collaborative was given an additional week to provide feedback or follow-up thoughts on the proposed locations. Peter Tango (USGS) then went over a proposed model-assisted optimization analysis for a high frequency sensor water quality sampling design strategy for long term and near term to support bay habitat and criteria assessment at the segment scale. This analysis would be proposed for GIT funding.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup**

The CAP workgroup met on [March 7, 2024](#). Carl Friedrichs (VIMS) presented on combined in-situ and remote sensing of water quality in Virginia tidal waters, followed by a discussion on the utility of his approach for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Peter Tango (USGS) then shared an overview of a technical addendum document that he is developing for the 4-Dimensional interpolator. A future STAC workshop will be needed to focus on the issues of rounding and significant digits. Jerry Diamond (TetraTech) then shared Virginia province's approach to setting water quality DO criteria. Finally, Tish Robertson (VA DEQ) presented on Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (VA DEQ) near term plan and how they were looking to use the 4-Dimensional Interpolator. The CAP WG will continue to meet quarterly in 2024, though a smaller team may meet more regularly to focus on individual issues. The next CAP WG meeting is [May 6, 2024](#).

### **Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)**

The [STWG met on January 29th](#) to foster cross-outcome learning and discuss STWG plans for 2024. The meeting began with a presentation on the [Forage Status and Trends Report](#), which synthesized all research findings and projects completed since 2014 in support of the Forage Outcome. This was followed by a presentation and discussion on the ongoing conversation to develop the Oyster outcome post 2025. The meeting wrapped up with an overview of the STWG plans and objectives for 2024. The full workgroup will next convene as needed while individual teams continue to meet to work on new indicator development projects. The sea level rise indicator team will have a broader discussion with partners at the tidal convening of the [Wetlands Workgroup on May 21st, 2024](#).

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

The Climate Resilience Workgroup's (CRWG) [April Meeting](#) was hosted jointly alongside the Urban Stormwater Workgroup and Modeling Workgroup. This meeting focused on sharing information that could inform 2027-2028 climate assessment using Phase 7 and discussing priorities for the effort, remaining needs, and how best to coordinate the effort. The meeting was held in preparation for the upcoming May STAC Climate Model 3.0 workshop that will be held May 7th - 9th, 2024, which workgroup leadership and some members and interested parties will be attending. Presentations and discussions focused on lessons learned from the previous climate models, modeling components that will be included in the new climate assessment, reviewing the agenda for the workshop, living resource and ecosystem considerations for the new model, understanding which urban stormwater and

agricultural BMPs are most implemented, and reviewing the development of tools that support climate-resilient stormwater BMPs.

For May, the workgroup leadership is coordinating a small group effort and working meeting with workgroup members around community resilience, which was an action item that was identified during the March Meeting.

### **May MB Indicators Update**

Since the April MB meeting, we have not updated any indicators on ChesapeakeProgress.

We do not anticipate any additional indicator updates to ChesapeakeProgress ahead of the June MB meeting.

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