



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
November 14, 2019**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Nov. 12 – Dec. 2	Public and Signatory Review of Management Strategies and Logic & Action Plans
Nov. 14-15	14 th annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, WV)
Nov. 18	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
Nov. 21	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting
Nov. 21	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
Nov. 21-22	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Washington, DC)
Dec. 3	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
Dec. 4	Joint Land Use Workgroup and Forestry Workgroup meeting
Dec. 4-5	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Adamstown, MD)
Dec. 9	Wetland Workgroup meeting
Dec. 9	Water Quality GIT conference call
Dec. 10-11	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting
Dec. 12	Management Board meeting

Updates

Exploring Satellite Image Integration for SAV Monitoring Program

Carin Bisland, CBPO Chief of the Partnerships and Accountability, participated in the first of four workshops to explore ways to integrate satellite imagery into the current Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) monitoring program in the Chesapeake Bay. This first workshop focused on ensuring a common understanding of the current monitoring program for underwater grasses, what satellite imagery can and can't do, and what is needed to maintain consistency with the 30-year monitoring record of SAV monitoring. The remaining workshops will focus on providing a path forward for the SAV monitoring program that (1) is consistent with and comparable to the current monitoring program, (2) improves predictability that imagery will capture the extent and density of SAV for a given year, and (3) that the cost stays within current bounds.

Contact: Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732

Meeting with Maryland Congressional Delegation

EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio and CBPO Director Dana Aunkst met with members of the Maryland Congressional delegation on October 22 in Washington, D.C. to provide an update on Chesapeake Bay issues. The meeting, which also included the Maryland Department of the Environment, focused on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and federal-state strategies to address watershed issues.

Contact: Dana Aunkst, 410-267-5100

CBPO Director Joins Partners in Planting Stream-Side Trees

On Thursday, November 7, CBPO Director Dana Aunkst joined volunteers in planting a protective buffer of more than 300 trees along the West Branch Conococheague Creek, a Class A wild trout stream in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The event was sponsored by Transource Energy, in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The riparian buffer will reinforce the stream bank and help prevent pollutants from entering the stream during storms. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources also participated in the planting.

Contact: Dana Aunkst, 410-267-5100

Environmental Tribal Summit

Lucinda Power, Acting Chief of the Science, Analysis & Implementation Branch, attended the Environmental Tribal Summit in Providence Forge, Virginia on November 12 and 13. The Summit, hosted by the Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, provides an opportunity for EPA and other organizations to meet with Virginia-based federally recognized Indian tribes, exchange information, make contacts and network with other federal and state environmental professionals that work with tribes.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 410-267-5722

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.

- Virginia: In October LGAC's Virginia Delegation meet with Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler and Deputy Secretary Ann Jennings to share local priorities and offer thoughts on local government impacts. The meeting was very productive and LGAC Members appreciated the time provided.
- Waterways Bus Tour: October 24-25, Virginia LGAC members hosted a peer-to-peer learning exchange of non-tidal local elected officials to meet with tidal local elected officials. The two-day bus tour, called Wandering Virginia's Waterways, included 26 local elected officials from the Shenandoah area as well as the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula area. Guests heard a presentation at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, toured living shoreline projects at Westmoreland State Park, viewed a stream restoration project at Hull Spring Farm, looked at a bioretention project in the town of Warsaw, went out on a boat on the Rappahannock River to see oystermen and toured the Rappahannock Oyster Company. Deputy Secretary Jennings and VA DEQ James Davis-Martin attended as well and provided their expertise to the conversations. Overall, the two days were very successful and the local elected officials appreciated the learning experience.
- Next meeting: LGAC's next quarterly meeting is December 4-5 in Adamstown, Maryland. Members will hear about three case studies on sustainable businesses, forest restoration and local economic development as well as provide feedback on the Phase III Forest Retention Study and STAC Microplastics Report.
- LGAC still seeks New York representative.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jestarr@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.

- Next meeting: CAC will hold their final 2019 meeting in DC on November 21-22. The members will learn about and discuss DC Tree Canopy, Environmental Education and Workforce Development, the STAC report on Microplastics, a recent CBP Communication toolkit and updates on BMP verification and milestones at the Bay Program. The CAC will vote on the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The slate of officers are Chair Matt Ehrhart and Vice-Chair Julie Lawson. If elected both members would be serving a second one-year term.
- Letters: Since the September CAC meeting, the CAC issued two letters: (1) to the WQGIT encouraging them to continue to draft and report on numeric commitments in the 2-Year Milestones and (2) to EPA CBPO requesting the WIP reviews be issued soon and include a thorough review of the jurisdictions' ability to fund the WIPs, ensure enforcement on existing regulations, and fulfill the BMP verification program. The CAC also requested the EPA create a chart that shows the jurisdictions' approaches to their WIP so stakeholders can compare and innovation could be replicated.
- 2020 meeting dates: Feb 20-21; May 21-22; Sept 17-18 and Dec 3-4 which will be partly held with LGAC.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), Vice-Chair.

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

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC held its second quarterly meeting of FY19 on September 10-11, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, MD. STAC received presentations on themes from restoration efforts from other regions of the world to help focus the STAC Scientific Gap Analysis effort. Members also heard from Emily Trentacoste and Scott Phillips on the science needs from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System. More information and presentations are available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

The third quarterly meeting of FY19 will be on December 18-19, 2019 at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, MD. More information will be made available on the [December meeting webpage](#).

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2019, listed here in order of anticipated date. Information regarding recent workshops- including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

1. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program:
 - a. **Session 1: October 15-16, 2019 (VIMS)**: This first session reviewed the state of the programming and science for assessing Chesapeake Bay SAV. Participants also developed a game plan for the next sessions that will support development of workshop products.
 - b. **Session 2: December 17-18, 2019 (VIMS)**
2. Targeting Non-Point Source BMP Implementation: **November 12-13, 2019 (Fairfax, VA)**
3. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Management to Soil and Watershed Health: **January 23-24, 2020 (WVU)**
4. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership: **March 5-4, 2020 (CBF Merrill Center, Annapolis, MD)**

Upcoming Reports:

STAC has recently released the following report. STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#).

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The Triblet Connection (FY2017)
6. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
7. Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers (FY2018)
8. Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management (FY2018)
9. Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings (FY2018)

**Please note that the STAC Website is undergoing a major update and some links may not be accessible during this time. If you are unable to access a page, please contact STAC Staff.*

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Indicators

Contact: Doreen Vetter, 410-267-5780, vetter.doreen@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.

- GIT Biannual Meeting: The [Winter Sustainable Fisheries GIT Biannual Meeting](#) is scheduled for January 7-8, 2020, taking place at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences campus in Gloucester Point, VA. The focus of the meeting will be on oysters, including restoration updates and research results on oyster reef ecosystem services, with a special focus on climate impacts to oysters.
- Fish Habitat Action Team meeting: The Fish Habitat Action Team worked to develop a new workplan for 2020-2021, focusing on gathering fish habitat data and analysis, continued steps toward a regional Chesapeake Bay fish habitat assessment, mapping to target high-value fish habitat, communications about fish habitat, and ongoing regional collaboration with other assessments. The workplan also included actions aimed to increase cross-outcome collaboration, such as working to determine intersections with the watersheds assessment.
- Joint meeting: The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) held a joint meeting with the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee on October 15, working to narrow down a list of over 30 science needs to a short list of high priority science needs for blue crab. Discussions will continue to evaluate the feasibility of meeting needs and resources available, to inform the next 2020-2021 workplan for blue crab.
- Webinar: NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office will host a webinar on November 19 showcasing ongoing research projects from the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research Program focused on fish habitat utilization by key managed species, including striped bass, black sea bass, and summer flounder. Contact Mandy Bromilow for details (mandy.bromilow@noaa.gov).

Contact: Bruce Vogt; bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

- GIT meeting: The Habitat Goal team held its bi-annual meeting at the Columbia Crossing River Trails Center from November 6-7, 2019. The Stream Health, Fish Passage, Fish Habitat, Brook Trout, and Wetlands workgroups presented their updated Management Strategies and 2020-2021 workplans. The materials from each group were approved by the full Habitat GIT and will be submitted to the Management Board on November 8, 2019.
- Wetlands: The Wetland Workgroup held a meeting on October 18th, 2019. The focus of the meeting was updating the biannual workplan and Management Strategy to reflect the actions and goals of the workgroup for the following two years.
- Stream Health: The Stream Health Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on October 25, 2019. The focus of the meeting was updating the biannual workplan and Management Strategy to reflect the goals of the workgroup for the following two years. The group also discussed the

potential for future collaboration with other workgroups in the Bay Program to share knowledge and resources as we work towards our goals.

- SAV: The SAV workgroup has submitted SRS materials to the Management Board for review and is presenting at the MB on November 14th.
- Habitat GIT Contact: Jennifer Greiner, jennifer_greiner@fws.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 a conference call on October 15. A subset of topics is included below:

- An information update on final Phase III WIP Planning targets and a presentation on final Phase III WIP sediment targets.
 - **Decision**: WQGIT approved the final Phase III WIP sediment targets.
- A presentation on Land Use WG's recommendations for land use updates to 2019 CAST.
- An overview on the Outfall and Gully Stabilization Memo, which provides a new method for calculating prevented sediment erosion in incised outfall and gully areas.
- A discussion on the Milestone WG's recommendations on the proposed milestone timeline and product development.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on November 12. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Numeric Milestones
- BMP Cost Analysis
- Potomac Tributary Report

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.

- Members of the HWGIT met on October 3rd to review key actions as a result of the quarterly progress meeting where our chair Angel Valdez presented our accomplishments to the Management Board. Other items covered during the HWGIT meeting included:
 - Sherry Witt, General Dynamics IT Solutions, helped facilitate feedback on updates to the logic and action table and amendments to the management strategy. The HWGIT added a new management approach, "Improved Cooperation, Coordination, and Integration," to commit to specific actions that further articulate actions that will be taken across outcomes that also support progress towards the Healthy Watersheds Outcome.
 - Members were also presented information on USGS new science directions and the upcoming release of the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) to

discuss possible next steps and utilization of the final report and geodatabase. A draft report can be viewed [here](#).

- Members confirmed that State Identified Healthy Watersheds (SIHW) are fixed, and that the CHWA can be a productive proxy to indicate “signals of change” in SIHW. They also recognized that synergies exist between the CHWA metrics and other outcomes such as Fish Habitat and Stream Health. These agreements will shape our work moving forward.
- GIT Funding: We received the final report from Phase III of the Forest Retention Study, a GIT funding project from 2017 which can be viewed [here](#). The HWGIT coordinator and staffer are assisting in the planning of the upcoming [Conservation Finance Workshop](#) as part of a 2018 GIT funding project, RFPs for two upcoming GIT funding projects will be part of forthcoming CBT release.
- At the end of October, HWGIT Coordinator Renee Thompson and Peter Claggett USGS presented the CHWA to the GIT chairs and outlined the next steps for relating it to direct measures of stream health. The discussion yielded cross-GIT collaboration opportunities on how the CHWA can be applied along with other data to inform multiple outcomes.

Contact: Renee Thompson; rthompso@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.

- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
 - Over sixty-five members of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) gathered Oct 21st and 22nd for the Partnership's tenth Annual Meeting at the National Conservation Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. A decade after first coming together to explore actions for advancing land conservation and public access in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the group reflected on major successes and planned for the decade ahead. Strategy discussions focused around two major opportunities and challenges for the next decade of their work: engaging a new, intentionally inclusive generation of conservationists; and addressing the climate crisis.
- Citizen Stewardship Team
 - The Stewardship workgroup continues to advance the development of a web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) has made significant progress recently and has positively evolved to ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The evolution of this effort will ensure existing and future social science tools developed (such as the existing Behavior Change Case Study database or the

under development Outreach Program Audit tool) are better integrated into one easy to access location.

- Education Workgroup
 - The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative was launched in September to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The WV local network, consisting of Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, will be convening Thursday November 14th in Charles Town, WV. The OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals.
 - The Education Workgroup is preparing for the 2020 Environmental Literacy Forum on January 22-23, 2020 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Forum will host 200 teachers and environmental education professionals. Participants will develop skills in planning and delivering Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) at the classroom or school district level in order to better understand, advocate for, and deliver these important programs. Ensuring that all students participate in MWEEs in elementary, middle, and high school is a key piece of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Public Access Planning Team
 - The Fall Meeting of the Public Access Team was held November 13th where members discussed the status of the public access outcome, 2019 data collection schedule, National Park Service updates on Gateways Program, and refinements to the GIT funding project - surveying the public on access usage.

Diversity Workgroup

- The Diversity Workgroup will meet in Arlington, Virginia on November 21. The meeting will cover the following topics:
 - Sherry Witt (General Dynamics Information Technology) will facilitate a discussion on our progress towards meeting the diversity outcome. The takeaways from this discussion will be key in our preparations for the Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board in February.
 - Jake Leizear (Chesapeake Conservancy) will lead a discussion on geospatial needs.
 - Skeo Solutions will present and seek feedback on the draft Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategy that is being developed for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Diversity workgroup contact: Francesca King; king.francesca@epa.gov

Contact: Amy Handen; amy_handen@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.

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS). [ChesapeakeDecisions](#) is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Goal Implementation Teams \(GITs\) and Management Board members](#) through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Fall 2019

The GIT 6 Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting took place on Tuesday, October 8 at the UMCES-IAN Office in Annapolis, MD. Agenda topics included: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System process and facilitation updates and workgroup updates. The GIT 6 Winter 2019 Quarterly Meeting will take place on December 3 at the CBPO's Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room [also known as the "Fish Shack"] in Annapolis, MD. Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY 2019 GIT Funding

Goal Implementation Teams, and their respective workgroups, submitted Table 2 final drafts on September 24. This month, the Chesapeake Bay Trust will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek bidders. Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting took place on November 4, 2019 at the CBPO's 305 Conference Room. Agenda topics included feedback on the EFAB Webinar, the SAV Finance Report and Finance Forum planning. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Fall 2019 Quarterly Meeting took place on November 6, 2019 at the Harrisburg Area Community College in Gettysburg, PA. Agenda topics included feedback on tree canopy resources, consolidating CBP outcomes requiring local engagement and workgroup membership. In 2020, the workgroup plans to create cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a new GIT-funded project and is excited to start sharing these and other vetted resources via workshops, panels and roundtable discussions in collaboration with trusted sources. Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@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.

CAP Workgroup

The most recent CAP WG meeting was held on 3/8/2019. Topics were:

- **James River chlorophyll *a* criteria updates.** The proposed updates to the James River chlorophyll-*a* criteria summarizing work from a seven year study have been published to the Virginia register of regulations <http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss11/v35i11.pdf> . Tish Robertson (VADEQ) reviewed the proposal highlighting the remaining time for input as the public review and comment period was closing on 3/22/19.
- **Status of restoration variances – dissolved oxygen.** Gary Shenk (USGS) provides a summary of the process underway documenting the most recent variances that will be needed for 303d listing assessments and therefore also updating in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards Indicator score assessments.
- **K_d Regression Updates** – In 2018, the CAP WG highlighted a desire to revisit the K_d regressions used for water clarity acres assessments. The workgroup action item is documenting the updated technique on local calibration over regional calibration.
- for producing water quality acres assessments. **Assessing possible advances in SAV acreage assessment: a STAC workshop proposal** – Brooke Landry (MD DNR, Chair of SAV Workgroup) highlighted directions for advancing new protocols and procedures through workshop support. We anticipate some members on the workgroup will be participating in those workshop meetings if the proposal is funded.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on July 18 at the Chesapeake Bay Laboratories in Solomons. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by the co-chair Bruce Michael, DNR. A summary of the Summer Hypoxia results was presented to the group by Bruce with specific details from the June monitoring cruise results. Also discussed was the Mid-Bay Hypoxia study. A brief update on the status of Tier III water quality monitoring program was provided by Caroline Donovan (UMCES). Two new groups, Arundel Rivers Federation and MDE are already collecting Tier III data, with Shore Rivers being targeted as a likely candidate in the near future. An assessment of Data Quality Indicators as a performance measuring tool for watershed-wide data was presented by Durga Ghosh, Chesapeake Bay Program QA Coordinator. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) presented data from historical pH trends and posed the question of method/lab changes affecting these trends. Jerry Frank (CBL) discussed the Spring 2019 Blind Audit Results. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager), and USGS Reference Sample results Breck Sullivan (STAR staffer). The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The new Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) coordinator, Julie Reichert-Nguyen, started on October 15th. She is located at the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and her email and phone number are julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov and 410-267-5665. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) held their in person meeting on October 21st where speakers from Pennsylvania (Department of Environmental Protection), Maryland (Department of Environment), DC (Department of Energy and Environment), Delaware (Department of Natural Resources), New York (Department of Environmental Conservation), and Virginia (Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources) presented information on their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Available websites with information on these efforts will be provided in the November Climate Resiliency newsletter. During the meeting the workgroup members

also heard more about the Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy and provided input on additional climate change considerations for forest restoration efforts. Additionally the workgroup heard presentations on land use and healthy watershed efforts. The CRWG will be following up on requests to provide climate-related input on the new land use classification scheme and climate indicators for healthy watersheds. The CRWG next meeting is scheduled on November 18th from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

STAR

At the [October STAR meeting](#), a representative from each outcome: Blue Crab, Forage Fish, Oysters, and SAV provided their SRS Biennial Review presentation planned for the August Management Board meeting. Participants at the STAR meeting provided constructive feedback on each presentation. STAR has also been working with these outcomes to review and update their associated science needs as part of the SRS process and Strategic Science and Research Framework. Next STAR meeting will be held on [November 21st](#).

Modeling Workgroup

The CBP Modeling Team is actively working to complete, by the close of 2019, a fully operational model assessment system of the influence climate change has on Chesapeake water quality. During the October Quarterly Review Meeting, Modeling WG approved the changes to the model proposed by the modeling team. The [next Modeling WG meeting](#) will be held on December 5th delivering the final climate assessment result.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Between April and June 2019, ITAT organizers will work with STAR to establish future priorities and activities based on outcomes from the SRS process.
- Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. The purpose of these webinars is to communicate management-relevant research findings to the CBP Partnership's natural resource managers. December 2018 – March 2019 presentation topics included:
 - Agricultural Conservation Practice Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Dean Hively, USGS)
 - A pilot implementation of high frequency nutrient monitoring to assess effects of large storms (Lora Harris, UMCES)
 - Assessing urban BMP function, performance, and delivery of co-benefits to stream ecosystems (Rosemary Fanelli, USGS)

Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

Integrated Monitoring Network

The Non-tidal Network Team of the Integrated Monitoring Network Workgroup met on October 22nd to provide an [overview](#) of the high flows of 2019 and interactive “Freshwater Flow into Chesapeake Bay” [website](#) by the USGS. They also discussed having less than one year to accommodate funding to sustain the Conococheague monitoring station which is one of the most historic sites. The Team is considering a face-to-face annual meeting in June 2020 in Shepherdstown, WV. Topics for the annual meeting will be finalized over the next few months.

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; cwu@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.

Communications Workgroup:

The Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting on November 6. We coordinated shared messaging around Native American Heritage Month, Thanksgiving (November 28) and Opt Outside day (November 29). We also heard from workgroup chair Deb Klenotic, who presented on the communications toolkit that the Watershed Implementation Plan Engagement Action Team put together. The toolkit aims to highlight community and economic benefits of conservation projects.

On October 31, as part of a GIT funded project between the Communications Workgroup and the Stewardship Goal Team, contractor Action Research provided a full-day training on community-based social marketing, a behavior change model, to 50 participants. These participants came from across all of the Goal Teams, as well as from the Advisory Committees, the Communications Workgroup and STAR.

Communications Office and Web Team:

Will Parson, our Multimedia Specialist, recently finished a [video](#) project focused on urban heat islands and tree canopy in Baltimore, Md. This video will be featured in a blog about how rising temperatures impact human health and in a larger Bay 101 video project on climate change.

On Wednesday, November 13, CBP Communications Director Rachel Felver and Coreen Weilminster, Education Coordinator at Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, spoke to a group of visiting Gonzaga University professors about how we communicate about climate change in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Several members of the Communications Office will be presenting at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum. Joan Smedinghoff, Web Content Specialist, will be giving a presentation on "How accessible content is inclusive content." Will Parson, Multimedia Specialist, and Caitlyn Johnstone, Outreach Specialist, will be giving a joint presentation called "Sparkling engagement through storytelling." Rachel Felver, Director of Communications, will be giving a joint presentation called "Translating 'Bay-speak' to engage local decision-makers" with Laura Cattell Noll, Local Leadership Workgroup Chair and Kathy Stecker, Watershed Specialist, Maryland Department of the Environment.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in September:

- [Bringing back the eastern bluebird](#): How community action has sent a bird population soaring skyward
- [Harvesting the rain](#): Combat pollution at home by collecting your own rain water
- [Sandy Point State Park embraces its changing visitorship](#): Park introduces new bilingual interpretive program

- [Long-awaited Conowingo plan begins to take shape](#): Funds awarded to help address financing, oversight of Conowingo WIP
- [Clearing up creeks in Baltimore County](#): Uniting communities and businesses in Baltimore is cleaning up the city's drinking water
- [Rainbow scales and colorful tails](#): Get to know the Bay's colorful collection of reptiles and amphibians
- [Upon release, inmates in Pennsylvania look to the outdoors](#): Training answers the demand for green jobs while reducing recidivism
- [Owl myths to keep you up at night](#): Owls have been featured in our scary stories for centuries

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Oct. 18	Wetland Workgroup meeting
Oct. 21	Climate Resiliency in-person meeting (new coordinator starting)
Oct 21-22	10th annual Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Meeting (Shepherdstown, WV)
Oct. 24	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team meeting
Oct. 25	Stream Health workgroup meeting
Oct. 29	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting
Oct. 30	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting
Nov. 4	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
Nov. 6	Local Leadership Workgroup meeting (Gettysburg, Pa.)
Nov. 6-7	Habitat GIT meeting (Columbia, Pa.)
Nov. 7-8	Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting (Maryland)
Nov. 12	Water Quality GIT conference call