



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
October 19, 2017**

**DRAFT Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Oct. 26	STAR Meeting
Oct 28	South Wings Fly-In
Oct. 30	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
Nov. 3-5	Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, WV)
Nov. 6-7	Invasive Catfish Task Force Catfish Symposium
Nov. 8	Habitat GIT Fall Meeting (Virginia Beach, Va.)
Nov. 9-10	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting (Md.)
Nov 16	Management Board Strategy Review System (SRS) meeting
Nov 29-30	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting

**Updates**

**Anacostia River Festival**

On October 14, CBPO Deputy Director Jim Edward, who is also chair of the CBP partnership Diversity Workgroup participated in the 2nd Annual Anacostia River Festival (aka, Festival Del Rio Anacostia) in Bladensburg, Md. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership had outreach and diversity representatives manning an information booth and providing a new Fish Consumption Advisory Infographic and additional CBP outreach materials. The festival included on-hands activities, crafts, entertainment, ethnic food and more. Participants experienced the outdoors with nature walks, boat trips, and got to see local fish and birds close up. All activities were conducted in Spanish. The CBP partnership coverage of the story is at

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/naturally\\_latino\\_naturally\\_environmental\\_stewards](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/naturally_latino_naturally_environmental_stewards)

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

**Chesapeake Bay Dead Zone 2017**

On October 9, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) issued a "2017 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxic Volume Report." VIMS joined with Anchor QEA to release this first retrospective seasonal analysis of the severity of hypoxia in Bay. Researchers found the dead zone to be about ten percent larger in 2017 than it was in 2016. The cause for the increase is attributed to higher-than-average springtime flows from the Susquehanna River, as well as summer winds and temperatures. Relatively strong winds in late spring delayed the onset of this year's hypoxia, leading it to increase rapidly in early June and peak at an unusually higher value than in previous years. Additional windy periods throughout the rest of the summer decreased the dead zone from its earlier peak. The duration of this year's dead zone was slightly less than in previous years, but the impact much worse. This annual forecast, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, is determined by a three-dimensional, numerical model that simulates dissolved oxygen levels in the bottom waters of the Chesapeake Bay's main stem.

For additional information:

[http://www.vims.edu/research/topics/dead\\_zones/forecasts/report\\_card/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/research/topics/dead_zones/forecasts/report_card/index.php)

### **Oyster Restoration in the Lafayette River**

Grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund was awarded to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Elizabeth River Project to complete oyster restoration in the Lafayette River. Once completed, the river will become the first fully restored tributary since the signing of the 2014 Agreement. This final step toward completion was celebrated on September 25 at the Hermitage Museum in Norfolk, Virginia. The Elizabeth River Project work, once completed, will include 2.25 acres of constructed oyster reef, with another 3.25 acres constructed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to provide habitat not only for oysters, but also for fin fish, crabs and mussels and provide feeding ground for birds. This will bring the total of coastal reef, including natural and added reef structures, on the Lafayette River to 80 acres.

The oyster outcome in the Watershed Agreement calls for the restoration of native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025. Currently, six Chesapeake Bay tributaries in Maryland and Virginia have been selected and are in various degrees of restoration.

### **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.*

#### **New Members**

LGAC welcomed new members Markus Batchelor (DC) and Chip Jones (VA) at their October quarterly meeting in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Les Knapp from the Maryland Association of Counties also attended the meeting to provide a voice for Maryland Counties. Members expressed a strong interest in exploring financing issues and opportunities at the 2018 Local Government Forum. They also provided their recommendations on trusted sources within each jurisdiction for watershed education. In addition, there was extensive discussion with jurisdiction leads on local engagement strategies.

#### **Chesapeake Legal Alliance Pay for Success Research**

The Chesapeake Legal Alliance has finalized a draft report for LGAC on statutory barriers to implementing pay-for-success programs in Pennsylvania. Once finalized, LGAC will share the report with the Management Board. LGAC's Virginia delegation would like to have a similar study done in Virginia.

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York.

LGAC's next meeting will be held December 14-15, 2017 in Lancaster, PA. The committee will explore legacy sediments, floodplain restoration, and mill dam removal.

Contact: Mary Gattis, [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@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.*

CAC sent a letter to the EC Chair, Governor Hogan, encouraging him to support federal funding for the Bay Journal.

CAC's next quarterly meeting will be held in DC on November 29-30. The meeting theme will be urban stormwater and will include updates from DC agencies and a tour of a stream restoration at the National Arboretum.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray [abray@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org)  
For program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

#### ***Upcoming Meetings:***

STAC will hold its third quarterly meeting of FY2017 on December 5-6, 2017 at a location to be determined in Annapolis, MD. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, [hinrichse@chesapeake.org](mailto:hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

#### ***Workshops:***

STAC will be hosting five workshops over the next several months, listed here in order of anticipated date. Planning is underway for all five activities. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation – **November 14-15, 2017**
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond – **December 12-13, 2017**
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop – **January 17-19, 2018**
- 4) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 5) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision

STAC is working to finalize four reports from the following FY2016 workshops held in spring 2017. All STAC activity reports (as available) can be found on the [STAC publication page](#).

- 1) Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- 2) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- 3) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- 4) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters

STAC is also working to finalize three reports from the following FY2015 workshops. Information regarding each of these workshops can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

### **Reviews:**

STAC has two review activities currently in progress. These STAC-sponsored reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. For more information, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

The review panel convened on June 5-6 to discuss the material to be reviewed with CBP representatives. The panel is working to finalize a report of their findings and recommendations.

- 2) CBP Partnership's Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

STAC received the official review request from STAR's Climate Resiliency Workgroup on the approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Mid-point Assessment in late June. The panel is working to finalize a report of their recommendations in the coming weeks.

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

### **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

#### **Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:**

No indicators were updated since the August Management Board meeting.

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

- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (tidal segments achieving water quality standards and USGS assessment of monitored nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads) (October 2017)
- Toxic Contaminants (October 2017)
- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (October 2017)
- Student MWEE\* (October 2017)

- Planting Forest Buffers (October 2017)
- Sustainable Schools (Fall 2017)
- Citizen Stewardship\* (Fall 2017)
- Adult Striped Bass Abundance and Fishery Management (Fall 2017)

NOTE: an asterisk\* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, [free.laura@epa.gov](mailto:free.laura@epa.gov)

### **Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

*The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.*

Grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund was awarded to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Elizabeth River Project to complete oyster restoration in the Lafayette River, one of the tributaries selected for restoration under the Oyster Restoration Outcome.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force is hosting an Invasive Catfish Symposium on November 6-7 at the VCU Rice Rivers Center to discuss the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery. Topics will include population dynamics, movement and habitat use, diet, and harvest. If you are interested in attending, please email [sara.coleman@noaa.gov](mailto:sara.coleman@noaa.gov). Space is limited.

The Fish and Habitat GITs successfully competed for a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) sponsored workshop for fiscal year 2017. The workshop will help fill scientific and technical gaps in understanding of fish habitat stressors. The steering committee is planning the workshop, researching previous approaches, and preparing pre-materials.

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

The Fish Habitat Action Team is working with a small group from the Chesapeake Bay Program to develop communication materials that recommends inclusion of fish habitat into the Watershed Implementation Plans.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team is planning their winter biannual meeting, which convenes their diverse membership to discuss fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay. More details will be sent out regarding the meeting soon.

Contact: Kara Skipper; [kara.skipper@noaa.gov](mailto:kara.skipper@noaa.gov)

## **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

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

### **Fall Meeting**

The Habitat GIT will hold its Fall meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA. Select workgroups will present updates to their biennial workplans, and the team will explore opportunities for alignment of key actions with partners including USACE, NFWF, USGS, and the Southern Tip Partnership. Agenda and other materials will be added to the [calendar event](#) as they become available.

### **Nature's Network Training Workshop**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Habitat GIT will host a half-day Nature's Network training workshop at the Brock Environmental Center following the full GIT meeting. Participants will be introduced to the suite of scalable conservation design tools and will explore (through Chesapeake-specific case studies) their potential to help CBP partners achieve the wetland and black duck outcomes. Members of the HGIT, its workgroups, STAR and CBP's GIS team are encouraged to attend; please contact [Hobaugh.paige@epa.gov](mailto:Hobaugh.paige@epa.gov) for more information.

### **Stream Health Permitting Committee**

A committee within the Stream Health Workgroup has formed to resolve issues with permitting of restoration projects. The group is seeking state and regulatory agency representation. Please contact [cumming.margot@epa.gov](mailto:cumming.margot@epa.gov) if your jurisdiction or agency would like to participate.

### **Fish Passage Map**

An updated Fish Passage map has been posted [on ChesapeakeProgress](#) that shows barriers removed, passage installed and stream miles opened. It is interactive and can show change over time relative to the 2012 baseline.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, [hobaugh.paige@epa.gov](mailto:hobaugh.paige@epa.gov)

## **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**

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

### **The WQGIT held a conference call on September 11.**

- The WQGIT was briefed on the decision points of scenario years for Phase III WIP planning targets and Phase III WIP development, and the key criteria of consideration for each planning target scenario year. Options for planning target scenario years include 2010, 2012, 2017, and 2025.
- The WQGIT was briefed on options for addressing climate change qualitatively in the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT was briefed on preliminary results of the 2025 growth forecast using a historical trends scenario to predict land use growth.

**The WQGIT held their annual Face-to-Face meeting on September 25-26 at the CBP office, in the Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room. A full record of actions and decisions is available on the Face-to-Face [meeting page](#).**

- The WQGIT discussed recommending a 6-week shift in the PSC-approved Midpoint Assessment Schedule, to allow time to finalize the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools and run analyses needed to establish the draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets. This would shift the PSC retreat from October 30-31 to December 19-20, and release of the draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets would shift accordingly from November 1, 2017 to December 22, 2017.
- In accordance with the proposed 6-week shift in schedule for the release of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets, the WQGIT and CBP Modeling Team discussed convening a joint two-day in-person meeting in early December, 2017 to make final recommendations to the PSC on: how to address Conowingo loads; addressing climate change in the Phase III WIPs, finalizing the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools; and establishing recommendations on the draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- The WQGIT discussed policy options for incorporating climate change considerations into the Phase III WIPs. The options for addressing climate change in the Phase III WIPs are: inclusion of climate change impacts qualitatively through adaptive management and focus on resilient BMP siting, adaptation and design; and/or incorporation of climate change effects as an added load to be addressed numerically in the Phase III WIP planning targets. The WQGIT has requested revised language for the qualitative policy component, and will review the revised language at an upcoming conference call. The CBP Modeling Team will do additional analysis on the calibrated Phase 6 suite of modeling tools to support a WQGIT recommendation on this issue at the December joint Modeling/WQGIT meeting.
- The WQGIT recommended to the PSC that additional loads from Conowingo should be addressed now in the Phase III WIPs, given the current best available knowledge of Conowingo as a changed condition.
- The WQGIT recommended to the PSC to address Conowingo loads as a local planning goal, separate from the jurisdictions' Phase III WIP planning targets. MD, PA, NY and Exelon would determine a path forward for addressing the load associated with the Conowingo infill, possible through use of a multiple-strategy approach.
- The WQGIT approved the recommendation to use 2010 as the scenario year for establishing draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- The WQGIT recommended to the PSC to use 2025 growth projections ("Current Zoning" scenario results + animal numbers and crop mix) as base conditions for the development of their phase III WIPs. The "Current Zoning" 2025 growth scenario will be completed by November 15 and will be available in CAST by January 2018. The "Conservation Plus" scenario (formerly "Utopian" scenario) will be completed by January 2018 and will be available in CAST in March 2018. Other alternative futures scenarios, including "Current Zoning Plus" requested at the June 2017 LGAC/LUWG Forum will be developed later in 2018 as time and resources allow.

**The WQGIT held a conference call on October 12.**

- The WQGIT approved the recommendation to the PSC to shift the PSC-approved Midpoint Assessment Schedule by approximately 6 weeks, to allow time to finalize the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools and run analyses needed to establish the draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets. This would shift the PSC retreat from October 30-31 to December 19-20, and release of the draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets would shift accordingly from November 1, 2017 to December 22, 2017.



- In accordance with the proposed 6-week shift in schedule for the release of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets, the WQGIT will convene a joint two-day in-person meeting with the Modeling Workgroup on December 4-5, 2017 to make final recommendations to the PSC on: how to address Conowingo loads; addressing climate change in the Phase III WIPs, finalizing the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools; and establishing recommendations on the draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- The WQGIT discussed the overall process and timeline for the review of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets. The process and timeline document will be revised and reviewed by the WQGIT for approval at an upcoming conference call. Requested revisions include: inclusion of a separate, detailed timeline for requests of special cases in the Phase III WIPs, and a proposal to ensure adequate transparency of comments and issues raised during the planning target review process.

**The WQGIT will hold a conference call October 23. A subset of planned topics includes:**

- The WQGIT will be briefed on options for data visualization tools to assist in the Partnership's review of the Phase 6 geographic isolation runs and the draft Phase III WIP planning targets.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on updates from the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC), which is the citizen's monitoring project funded by CBP. The work of the CMC may be of interest to local governments and stakeholders, especially in regard to supporting efforts for the development and implementation of local planning goals in the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on outcomes from the October 17 Modeling Workgroup quarterly meeting, including progress on the calibration of the Phase 6 Watershed Model and Water Quality Sediment Transport Model, and initial findings from draft key scenarios.

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

Tetra Tech was just approved to do the FY16 GIT Funding project, "Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed". This project will apply EPA's Healthy Watersheds Assessment Framework to develop an approach for characterizing the health of watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay, thereby supporting the MHWGIT in tracking progress towards the Healthy Watersheds Outcome. Further, this project will assess vulnerabilities in healthy watersheds to help target management efforts.

The 2017 HWGIT funding proposal for Phase 3 of the "Healthy Watersheds Forest Retention Project" was approved. This phase will test trading mechanisms described in the Phase 2 Final Report, and will provide training to local officials to implement toolbox elements that were also identified and described in the Phase 2 Final Report. In addition, due to the focus of this phase on incentivizing conservation and local engagement, we are working closely with other related Goal Teams to make sure we complement efforts and make connections between multiple outcomes and benefits of related to the recommended land use practices.

Contact: Katherine Wares; [kwares@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:kwares@chesapeakebay.net)



### **Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

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

The Stewardship workgroup met on October 18th to share an overview of the process for developing the new Stewardship Indicator, discuss plans to develop it as an online interactive tool, and propose the Indicator's release on Chesapeake Progress. More information and an agenda can be found on the [calendar](#).

The Public Access Workgroup will be meeting in the coming weeks (likely to be November 14th) to look at the newly organized workplan format we discuss with the Management Board on the 16th, the data call for 2017, and an update on any issues and concerns with public access planning and development.

The Education Workgroup is holding their Biennial Practitioners Forum, formerly known as the Summit, on November 29th and 30th that will focus on creating a cadre of MWEE Ambassadors that we can continue to build on over the next few years. We are inviting representatives from states who are influential at the state level or in school districts that are working to embed MWEEs into their student programming.

On the 29th and 30th of November, the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership will be hosting their Annual Meeting which will convene the full workgroup to celebrate the partnership's new charter, view multiple brand maps, and analyses of the Partnership's conservation agenda, and ground-truth fund-raising strategies using a specific Chesapeake landscape crossing multiple jurisdictions as a case study.

Agendas for both meetings will be available soon.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; [drew\\_pizzala@partner.nps.gov](mailto:drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov)

### **Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.*

Contact: Emily Freeman, [freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@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.*

Contact: Melissa Merritt; [mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net)

## **Communications Workgroup**

*The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.*

The Communications Workgroup began a new Member Spotlight series at its October meeting, with Deb Klenotic from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection explaining how their communications office functions, and what work they have been doing recently to engage and communicate with local governments about the Phase III WIPs. Jenny Beard and Medessa Burian from the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center talked to the workgroup about the Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) website and the new online classes they offer. They asked for support from the workgroup in promoting their new courses.

The workgroup went over the last two goals and actions listed in their work plan, and will have a finalized work plan soon. Nicki Kasi updated the workgroup on efforts to communicate *Watershed Agreement* outcomes to local governments through the Phase III WIPs. Kristin Saunders ran through the templates outcome leads have been using to organize their information and list co-benefits. In September, Communications Workgroup leadership met with the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup to discuss communications needs they have and how the Communications Workgroup could lend support. They discussed misconceptions people have about SAV, potential audiences and how messages might differ in downstream and upstream communities.

At a press event on September 19 in Middle River, Maryland, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced that [\\$12.6 million in Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grants](#) were awarded to 44 projects across the watershed. State-specific press releases were sent to news outlets in each state, and a [general press release](#) was posted on the CBP website. On September 25, a second press event was held in Norfolk to highlight [Stewardship Fund grants](#) that would complete [oyster restoration](#) in the Lafayette River. A third press event will be held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on October 20.

After putting out an RFP, the Communications Office has hired Changing Media, a Baltimore-based firm that worked on branding for Mr. Trash Wheel, to assist in developing a branding strategy for the Bay Program.

The office has also begun work on the 2016-2017 Bay Barometer, and have sent draft text to Bay Program leadership and subject-matter experts. Laura Free is working with outcome leads to get updated data by October 18. The design will be done in house by Dave Yayac.

Caitlyn Johnstone, the Bay Program's Outreach Specialist, is in the process of developing a webinar that could be shared with smaller organizations (such as homeowners associations) that have been reaching out to the Bay Program for speakers to learn more about Bay restoration and the work of the partnership. In conjunction with the webinar, she is looking to develop a network of speakers who could go to these organizations, show the webinar and answer questions afterwards.

Caitlyn is also scheduling meetings with the chairs, coordinators and staffers of the Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams and major workgroups. These meetings are meant to learn about their outreach needs and how they could inform the overall CBP outreach strategy she is developing.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; [jmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net)

**Recent Meetings and Events**

Sep 21	Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum
Sep 25	NFWF grants announcement (Va.)
Sep 25-26	WQGIT F2F meeting
Sep 25-26	Reducing Pollution/Water Quality Standards indicators release
Sep 28	STAR Meeting
Sep 30	CBARA budget report due
Oct. 3	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting (Annapolis, Md)
Oct. 5-6	Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting