



**Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting**  
**10:00AM – 12:00PM March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21546/>

**NEXT MEETING**

**April 2014 STAR Meeting**

Date: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Time: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fishshack) CBPO

Conference Line: 1-866-299-3188 code 410-267-5731

Adobe Connect: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/star2> (enter as guest)

Event webpage: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21547/>

**MINUTES**

**Welcome, Introduction, Updates, and Announcements – William Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)**

STAR Leadership gave an introduction and requested updates from the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs).

- Dr. Evamaria Wysk Koch, of Easton, passed away on Thursday, March 13, 2014.  
[Seagrass expert Evamaria Koch remembered](#)
- [Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Meeting – OC, MD March 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)
- [National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference, April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014](#)
- [Chesapeake Modeling Symposium – Annapolis, MD May 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)
- [Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration – New Orleans, Louisiana July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014](#)
- [Restore America's Estuaries 7<sup>th</sup> National Summit – Washington, D.C. November 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)

If you've submitted to present at the summit, send the information to Margaret Enloe.

**Communications Discussion – All**

STAR members discussed communication ideas including upcoming reports, studies, and videos to recommend to the Communications Workgroup.

**Discussion**

- The CBP Communications Team is working on a blog post about the success of the Clean Water Act for April and Air Act for May.
- Indicators:
  - Reducing Pollution Indicator – Data released 3/17/14.

- American Shad Indicator – Information was released and will be promoted in April when the American Shad are running.
  - Fish Passage – Updated based on the old methods and goal.
    - Next year the Fish Passage Indicator will be updated based on the new 2025 goal and new tracking tool.
  - Striped Bass Indicator – Adding juvenile indices component.
  - Menhaden Indicator – Tracking the Atlantic Coast stock.
  - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Indicator – Updated at the end of April 2014.
    - Changing the zones from “upper”, “middle”, and “lower” to four zones based on salinity.
    - The historical data will be updated based on these new zones.
  - Water Quality Standards Achievement Indicator – Need the SAV data to finish updating the indicator. Could work on the DO and chlorophyll-a now.
  - Many other indicators will be updated in the next 5 weeks.
  - Nita Syvester’s last day is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Indicator data should be sent to her at least a week before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Margaret Enloe and Catherine Krikstan are filling in Nita’s role until a replacement is found (by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014).
- IAN – Developing Climate Resilience Index.
    - SAV Density Indicator.
    - This would be incorporated into the Bay Report Card.
    - May release.
  - [Scientist maps change in duration of Chesapeake Bay dead zone.](#)
  - [Oyster Aquaculture Could Significantly Improve Potomac River Estuary Water Quality.](#)
  - [Management Board Meeting](#)
    - [Blue and Flathead Catfish report](#) covering status and recommendations.
    - MDNR Press Event.
    - General Smallwood State Park.
  - New Bay Agreement draft – Public Comment Period ended March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Comments are being addressed by CBP. The draft agreement is under revision.

### **Evolution of STAR and STAR Workgroups – STAR Leadership**

[2014 STAR Revising Science Support Activities for the CBP Partnership - 20140327](#)

STAR Leadership updated members on the envisioned evolution of STAR and requested feedback from STAR members and STAR workgroups.

### **Discussion**

- Modeling WG edits have been incorporated into the STAR Evolution document.
- Collaborative effort between STAR and the Communications Team to identify products.
- Need increased communications between the GITs and STAR for collaborative efforts.

- STAC works on proactive and responsive workshops and provides recommendations. STAR's role could be to use those recommendations and organize the science providers to carry out the recommendations.
- The Fisheries GIT appreciates the new direction of STAR.
- Synthesis products must include managers and communication teams working with the science teams.
- The Fisheries GIT suggested that CCMP and CBP Modeling WG work on modeling products or scenarios for the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement outcomes. Questions include:
  - How to explore modeling outside of water quality (i.e. ecosystem modeling laboratory)?
  - What data is needed to model these different products?
  - If the Modeling Laboratory is established, this could be a good place for RFP development on these other issues.
  - **ACTION:** STAR will use the Chesapeake Modeling Symposium to begin this discussion. [Chesapeake Modeling Symposium – Annapolis, MD May 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)
- **ACTION:** Peter Tango will add an overview of the responsibilities of STAR to the document.
- **ACTION:** The STAR Evolution document was sent out to STAR and the GITs for comments and recommendations. The final document will be brought to the Management Board.
- **ACTION:** Amanda Pruzinsky will send out Questionnaire to the GITs for response by the next STAR Meeting.

### **BASIN Update – STAR Leadership**

STAR Leadership updated STAR members on the progress and next steps of Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN).

- [1<sup>st</sup> BASIN Panel](#), [2<sup>nd</sup> BASIN Panel](#), [3<sup>rd</sup> BASIN Panel](#)
- [4<sup>th</sup> and final BASIN Panel April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 9:30AM – 11:00AM](#)  
[Shane O'Boyle – Irish Monitoring Program](#)
- Discussion of STAC integration on the Bay Agreement needs.
- Discussion on the timing for a STAC review request.

### **Discussion**

- The focus of BASIN is moving from evaluation of other monitoring networks to reaching out to the GITs and Communications Team to see what products they want the monitoring network to support.
- The new Bay Agreement outcome statements and goals help refocus science and management needs to support Bay restoration.
- Who should be involved in the conversations: Bay Agreement partners and stakeholders, Ecosystem science leaders, GIT leadership, Citizen Science Leaders, BASIN, STAR, CBP Communication Team, Chesapeake Stat, and Monitoring Technology leaders.

- **ACTION:** Develop a full list of needed partners, add specific names, and determine ideas to start communication.
  - Need a starting list, but in the MRAT process started with a small group of people and then had those people dispatch and gain other contacts.
- Discussion on who to engage everyone effectively:
  - SUGGESTION: 15 minute summary webinar with 45 minute discussion to start.
  - Need a combination of virtual and in-person conversations.
  - Determine what to send to who (videos, reports, etc.):
    - Webpage to house all BASIN information.
    - Sector-based webinars.
    - Social media options – Blog that allows comments, videos, etc.
      - Posts focused on different topics and audiences.
      - Example, U.S. Green Building Council – 800 words blog posts.
      - Assign someone to be the conversation starters.
      - Contact important contributors that are reluctant to post and summarize their views.
- Phase II: The BASIN Report.
  - Focused on water quality (short term goal).
  - Requesting STAC review.
  - Release in the next 6 months.
- Timeline:
  - BASIN Report is the short term goal.
  - Virtual posts to help communicate and start the conversations for Phase III.
    - **ACTION:** Amanda Pruzinsky will discuss options with the Communications Team.
    - **ACTION:** STAR will meet with Communications Team to have a planning meeting.
    - First post: Late April / Early May.
  - Recommendations for water quality revisions – December 2014 / January 2015.
- **ACTION:** STAC requests to be part of the strategy and process design to ensure it is aligned with the new Bay Agreement outcomes and goals.
- STAC Workshop on Trends:
  - Start up videos were a success.
    - Allowed the audience to gain the background information prior to the meeting.
  - One of the outcomes of the explaining trends STAC Workshop.
    - Expressed value of the monitoring program and the long term data sets used to explain the trends in the water quality and habitat.

## PARTICIPANTS

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