



**Principals' Staff Committee**  
**Program Update**  
July 21, 2023

**CBPO Calendar**

July 24	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3) Meeting
July 26	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
July 27	STAR Meeting
July 27	Beyond 2025
August 2	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
August 3	Watershed Technical Workgroup Meeting
August 9	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Meeting
August 10	Management Board Meeting
August 11	Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) Meeting
August 14	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
August 14	Status and Trends Workgroup Meeting
August 14	Reaching 2025 Meeting
August 15	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
August 15	Wetlands Workgroup Meeting Tidal
August 16	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
August 16	Nontidal Network Workgroup August 2023 Meeting
August 17	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
August 17	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
August 18	Stream Health Workgroup August 2023 Meeting

**Program Updates**

**Advisory Committee Updates**

**Local Government Advisory Committee**

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LGAC's June 1-2 quarterly meeting focus on living resources and shallow waters inspired a lot of discussion on the role of local governments to support this possible alignment of CBP efforts. Member conversation of the STAC report on Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response was engaging and

well received. Discussion will continue over the summer to expand on at the September 28-29 LGAC meeting in Leola, PA.

LGAC Member Leo Lutz, Mayor of Columbia Borough, PA, facilitated a June 16th Lancaster County local elected officials breakfast roundtable to discuss local priorities around water resources.

LGAC's Delaware representative, Don Phillips, is a member of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee**

*The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.*

"The Citizens Advisory Committee met in Harrisburg, PA on May 24-25. The meeting objectives were: (1) Learn and discuss Pennsylvania's progress, successes and challenges in meeting the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement; (2) Receive briefings on the Executive Council charge of setting the course to 2025 and Beyond; (3) Gain collective understanding on what and how Bay restoration and climate goals are at risk if the current trend of tree loss continues. The overall goal aimed to prepare a CAC recommendation around incentives to protect tree canopy including exploring land conservation as water quality credit in the TMDL.

The members discussed their support for inviting the Choose Clean Water Coalition to be a member of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee since they represent over 280 NGOs. They also support continued priority Bay Program funding for land use mapping tools particularly to inform local government land use decisions.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Sept 13-4 in Fredericksburg, VA.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and, Vice-Chair, Chuck Herrick (DC).

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Alexa Maione  
[amaione@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:amaione@allianceforthebay.org) For program questions, contact Jess Blackburn  
[jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole  
([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org))

Visit the STAC website at [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

### ***STAC Seeking At-large Membership Nominations until August 9th, 2023***

STAC has released a call for open call for self-nominations for at-large members. At-large members provide guidance and input based on their network connections, expertise and research.

Opportunities and expectations for At-large Members include...

- Provide input on various STAC and CBP partnership activities that are related to members expertise and interests. STAC activities include (but may not be limited to) technical workshops and reviews, synthesis projects, and ad-hoc groups examining topic of interest.
- Participate in at least two of four quarterly STAC meetings. Meetings last typically 1.5 days/each.
- Serve a term of four years, with potential to be reappointed for one additional four-year term- Engage with the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership through participation in meetings, activities, and discussions that are of relevance and interest to you and to STAC

For more information and a link to the online self-nomination form, follow this link. Please share this announcement with your networks and specifically to those who you may think be interested!

### ***Upcoming September Quarterly Meeting: September 12-13, 2023***

The upcoming STAC September Quarterly Meeting will be held in-person on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the [Frederick Douglass- Isaac Myers Maritime Park](#). The meeting will center on 'STAC Reflections and Next Steps'. There will be multiple changes in membership, most notably the rotation of Chairs. Kathy Boomer (FFAR) will rotate off as STAC Chair and Larry Sanford (UMCES) will rotate on for a two-year term. STAC Vice Chair will be decided in the coming months.

If you are interested in attending either in-person or virtually, you can find more information on the [meeting webpage](#) or reach out to STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org)).

### ***June Quarterly Meeting: June 13-14, 2023***

The June 2023 STAC meeting was held *in-person* on Tuesday, **June 13th** and Wednesday, **June 14th** at the [Potomac Science Center](#) in Woodbridge, VA. On the morning of Day 2, STAC took a guided hike of [Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#), provided by Gabriela Youngken of Potomac River NWRC. The meeting centered around the theme of using multiple models for adaptive resource management. Two panels were conducted with 2-3 invited speakers sitting on each.

Presentations and recordings are available on the [meeting webpage](#).

### ***STAC 2023 Remaining Quarterly Meeting Dates***

The final STAC quarterly meeting dates are scheduled for September 12-13<sup>th</sup> and December 5-6<sup>th</sup>.

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

### ***STAC-Sponsored Workshops***

All STAC FY22 workshops have convened, details on the STAC-funded efforts below:

The following STAC-funded workshops commenced during the second half of the project year:

1. [Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model](#) (Programmatic Workshop) commenced in-person on March 7-8, 2023, at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) in Fairfax, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to recommend ways in which local monitoring data can be used to inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model, identify gaps between modeled and monitored data, and be used to validate model predictions at the local scale.
2. Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes (Programmatic Workshop) commenced over two-and-a-half non-consecutive days: [Day 1](#) commenced in-person on March 16, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club on Kent Island, MD; the [Planning Session \(Day 1.5\)](#) commenced in-person on April 18, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD; and [Day 2](#) commenced in-person on June 6, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD. The purpose of this workshop series was to have investigators engage with stakeholders on effective application of new ecosystem services results into tools and decision making at multiple levels and to develop recommendations for an actionable workplan of how ecosystem services can be used to address multiple CBP outcomes.
3. [The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes](#) (State of the Science Workshop) commenced in-person on March 21-23, 2023, at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together a diverse cross-section of experts and stakeholders in the field of restoration to review and distill lessons learned from past stream corridor restoration projects to improve restoration outcomes.
4. [Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality](#) (State of the Science Workshop) commenced in-person on April 6-7, 2023, at George Mason University in Manassas, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to explore the potential impact of land use transition renewable energy within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and our ability to meet TMDL goals.
5. [Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay \(and Watershed\) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities](#) (State of the Science Workshop) commenced in-person on May 25-26, 2023, at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together leading experts to elevate the use of biochar in practice Bay-wide by evaluating and translating current research for integration into current Chesapeake Bay protocols. A STAC-funded technical review is underway:

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

### ***FY2023 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals***

STAC released an RFP for FY2023 workshops in January 2023 and received one proposal. During the March quarterly meeting STAC members reviewed the initial scores and comments, and voted to approve the proposal. Planning for FY2023 workshops began on June 1, 2023.

1. *Climate Change Modeling 3.0*

### **STAC Reports**

STAC recently released the following reports:

1. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21): [Link to publication](#)
2. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21): [Link to publication](#)

### **Upcoming Reports:**

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

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

1. **Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model** (FY22): [Workshop webpage](#)
2. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (FY20): [Workshop webpage](#)
3. **Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria** (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
4. Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21): [Final Workshop Session webpage](#)

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the [STAC past workshop webpage](#).

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

#### **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

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

#### **● UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- **WETLANDS WORKGROUP NONTIDAL MEETING:** The Wetlands Workgroup Nontidal Meeting will be on **Tuesday 7/18 from 2:00-4:00 ET**. Additional information on this meeting can be found at [this link](#).

- **HEALTHY WATERSHED COHORT SRS DRY RUN MEETING:** The healthy watershed Cohort SRS Dry Run Meeting will be on **Thursday 7/20 from 11:00 - 12:30 ET**. Additional information on this meeting can be found on [this link](#).
- **SRS HEALTHY WATERSHEDS COHORT:** The **Brook Trout** and **Fish Passage, and Stream Health Outcomes** are preparing to begin their next 2-year review cycle starting in July 2023. The Workgroup Co-Chairs have begun creating their SRS documents and will be requesting feedback from their respective workgroup members and the Habitat GIT Steering Committee in the near future. The current 2022-2023 Logic & Action Plans can be found online on each workgroup's CBP webpage.
- **FY2021 & FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** Contractors have been selected based on proposals received from the advertised scopes of work for the following projects. The estimated start date for the project timelines is 6/1.
  - **FY2021:** *"Understanding and Addressing the Impacts of Wetland Mowing to Facilitate Meeting the Chesapeake Bay Wetland Enhancement Goals"*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome. (This project was funded in 2021 but did not receive bids on the SOW which is why it's being readvertised with the 2022 projects.)
  - **FY2022:** *"Mapping non-tidal wetlands in areas with outdated wetland maps"*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
  - **FY2022:** *"Monitoring vegetation condition through the Delmarva peninsula"*; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG.

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

### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**

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

The WQGIT met on June 26th to discuss the following:

- **Urban fertilizer update:** The Urban Stormwater Workgroup (USWG) came to a consensus decision to adjust urban fertilizer methods in CAST-21. The WQGIT was briefed on the decision and there was an opportunity for questions/feedback.
- **Oyster BMP Expert Panel Report:** The WQGIT approved the Oyster BMP report and recommendations from the expert panel. This oyster BMP panel focused on protocols for nutrient reductions associated with oyster reef restoration and licensed oyster harvest practices. In contrast, the first oyster BMP panel's recommendations focused on oyster aquaculture practices.
- **CAST and PSC Decision Updates:**
  - **Phase 6 CAST schedule:** The WQGIT is discussing the proposed options and changes to the Phase 6 CAST release schedule. The WQGIT plans to seek consensus at our July meeting.
  - **PSC Decision #2 and Ag Fertilizer Update:** The WQGIT was briefed on the recommendations developed by the Fertilizer Expert Group (FEG) on incorporating ag

fertilizer data into CAST. The WQGIT plans to seek consensus for approval at our July meeting.

- PSC Decision #3: The WQGIT was briefed on the Watershed Technical Workgroup's recommendations developed in response to the Decision 3 charge to develop a process for dealing with data abnormalities. The WQGIT plans to seek consensus for approval at our July meeting.

The next WQGIT meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2023.

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

### **Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

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

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

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

### **Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

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

#### **Stewardship Workgroup**

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust launched its Request for Proposals (for bids to conduct the GIT Funding projects) on February 10th. The Stewardship Workgroup's project is Scope 9 "Stewardship Network Study and Asset Mapping." Requests close at 4pm on March 13th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently reviewing its Logic and Action Plan following the example set by the Diversity Workgroup to gauge progress and find areas where resources can be focused to move items forward.

- The Stewardship Workgroup meeting was held on May 5. The agenda included presentations from other Outcome areas that are relevant to engaging stewards – regarding tree canopy recommended actions as well as messages and best practices for audiences resulting from the STAC Rising Water Temperatures report.

#### *Education Workgroup*

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

#### *Public Access Workgroup*

- The Public Access Workgroup convened its initial meeting of the year on March 27th, 2023 to review upcoming goals and actions. The agenda for the meeting included a presentation on the conclusive results of the Benefits and Barriers Research, which was completed in February. Additionally, the workgroup provided an update on the status of public access sites for the year 2022 by the first week of May.
- Longtime Public Access Workgroup member Lisa Gutierrez, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has stepped up to serve as the new chair of the Workgroup, in place of Jackie Kremer, NPS, who retired at the end of 2022. Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)
- An active effort to recruit members for the Protected Lands Workgroup from each of the Bay jurisdictions has resulted in interest from multiple individuals. Representatives from most states have agreed to join the Workgroup, though we are still working to identify participants from New York. The first meeting for the workgroup took place on March 29th, 2023 and members were able to introduce themselves as well as get more information



about workgroup responsibilities and conservation concerns from other States. The Workgroup will soon work on assessing, prioritizing, and mobilizing more of the planned actions to help address state needs to accelerate land conservation.

- Based on the CCP meeting in November, preliminary discussions and research have begun in an effort to help partners become more aware of available funding with specific connections to geography. This effort would involve identifying land conservation programs or grant programs that lend themselves to conservation with criteria that imply eligibility based on mappable features. These funding programs may be from different sources such as federal and/or state. Initial research has been focused on compiling a comprehensive list of grant programs and identifying the geographic criteria that could be used to create GIS layers, and eventually to produce a useful tool to help partners find funding to match where they're working on priority projects.

#### *Diversity Workgroup*

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

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

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

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

### **Strategy Review System (SRS) Planning Team**

On June 12, 2023, a proposal was submitted to Management Board members via email, seeking to adjust the SRS 4<sup>th</sup> cycle starting point that was originally set for August 2023. Twenty-three responses were received. **Responses largely supported the straightforward acceptance of the proposal**, and no rejections of the proposal were received. Four respondents expressed a desire to discuss this proposal at the July Management Board meeting and supported delaying the initial date of the first 4th cycle QPM to November 2023 to accommodate this discussion.

The SRS Planning Team **will discuss details of the proposal** with Management Board members at the July Management Board Meeting. While we continue to evaluate the timelines for the first Quarterly Progress Meeting, we anticipate **adjusting the SRS 4<sup>th</sup> cycle starting point to November** to accommodate these discussions.

*SRS Contact: Sarah Brzezinski (Coordinator), [Brzezinski.Sarah@EPA.gov](mailto:Brzezinski.Sarah@EPA.gov)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov)

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)**

The [June STAR meeting](#) focused on sharing science and data for application in the CBP's work. The first portion of the meeting entailed a presentation on the watershed component of the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report. This concluded a three-part series where STAR digested and discussed how to implement the three major sections of CESR: estuarine, living resources, and watershed. The second topic of the meeting was focused on debuting and discussing the new website, Chesapeake Data, which will serve as an umbrella site for CBP targeting tools and related resources. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the uses of the CBP high resolution land use and land cover change data sets and a discussion of how these data might be further applied in CBP projects. The next STAR meeting is on July 27th, 2023.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its [quarterly review on June 20th and 21st](#), 2023. The June 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on [the Phase 7 suite of models in development](#). The 15 presentations ranged from updates on the BMP optimization approaches, to a case study on the benefits of a decarbonized economy for nitrogen reductions to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The new multiple tributary model (MTM) team for the Rappahannock River was introduced and they presented their initial workplan. The [Request for Assistance to select the Patapsco River and Choptank River MTM teams](#) closes July 3rd. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on October 3rd and 4th, 2023.

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

ITAT held two meetings in May. The [first meeting](#) featured students from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) who presented their analysis of Patuxent River hypoxia, which was followed by a discussion with stakeholders and analysts. The [second May ITAT meeting](#) began with updates on EPA Regional-ORD Applied Research (ROAR) program funding, the Bay Oxygen Research Group work, and the Strategy Review System Biennial meeting that took place earlier in May. Following a presentation on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mussel Watch program and the NOAA [Coastal Pollution Data Explorer tool](#), ITAT members provided feedback on improving tool functionality and its applicability to their analyses. The next ITAT meeting will take place on July 26th, 2023.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute the Tributary Summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan ([bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net](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 [quarterly meeting on February 28th](#). The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, citizen monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, blind audits, and field audits. Elgin Perry provided an overview of the 4-Dimensional Interpolator tool being developed by the Bay Oxygen Research Group. Alex Fries gave updates on citizen monitoring and proposed the citizen science groups to prioritize moving from Tier 2 to Tier 3. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled.

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

The BORG team met in April and May. During April and May, developmental testing that leverages techniques piloted for the mainstem and Patuxent daily means work that now targets short duration (sub-daily) dissolved oxygen dynamics with surface water data from Gooses Reef mainstem bay time series have yielded encouraging results. Tuning the surface water work, and deep water short duration dissolved oxygen dynamics are targets that will be further explored. A conference abstract was submitted to the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference (November 2023) that aims to present the latest updates on 4D interpolator development by the group. Other BORG updates are that a Regional-ORD Applied Research (ROAR) grant was awarded which will fund a fellow for one year to work on shallow water monitoring, hypoxia monitoring and the 4-D interpolator. This fellow, who will be part of the ORISE program, will start in January 2024 and work closely with the BORG and Hypoxia Collaborative Team.

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

The [June 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting](#) included updates on small agricultural watershed monitoring sites, 5 of which are funded through EPA for one year, while discussions are underway with multiple partner agencies in MD, VA, PA and DE to find additional funding sources. Efforts to document and describe nontidal network funding sources are well underway, with MD wrapped up and the team moving to do the same in PA and VA. An update was also provided on the work to reconstruct the historical and current data sets in a single database. This will be completed around late July, followed by

review with each jurisdiction as well as the lab partners in the Data Integrity Workgroup. The next NTN Workgroup meeting is scheduled for August 16th, 2023, as the group now operates on a bimonthly meeting schedule.

### **Hypoxia Collaborative Team**

The [Hypoxia Collaborative team met in June](#). Three hypoxia continuous monitoring stations have been deployed in the Mid-Bay, lower Choptank and lower Potomac, with some sensors still needing to be added. Up to 10 total stations will be out by 2025. The collaborative team will continue to have an advisory role. Data from the sensor arrays are posted on [IOOS's Environmental Sensor Map](#). There are some improvements being worked on to the data viewing including standardization of color ramps, automated and manual flagging, and potentially an API for querying and downloading data. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) is working on analysis methods for the data for use in the 4-Dimensional Interpolator and criteria assessment. Marjorie Friedrichs (VIMS), Pierre St-Laurent (VIMS) and Aaron Bever (Anchor QEA) shared applications of the hypoxia continuous monitoring data in improvements of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecasting System (CBEFS). The next meeting of the Hypoxia Collaborative has yet to be scheduled.

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

The [April 2023 CAP Workgroup meeting](#) focused on providing updates on ongoing projects and discussing key questions associated with each project. Ongoing projects include the 4-Dimensional water quality interpolator, hypoxia monitoring, and satellite-based assessments of SAV, chlorophyll-a, and harmful algal blooms. Discussion focused on methods for these assessments, documentation, and where to find additional support for these key questions. The next meeting of the CAP WG will take place on July 6th, 2023. Topics for the next meeting agenda include 1) temperature adjusted criteria, 2) decision rules on criteria attainment that utilize the output of the new 4D interpolator under development, 3) open discussions for consideration to revise the Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment outcome language of the 2014 Watershed Agreement for the CBPs "Beyond 2025" Action Team and its upcoming considerations for updating any Goal and outcome statements by the end of 2025 and 4) incorporation of dissolved oxygen criterion variances into the WQS attainment assessment.

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

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

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's June meeting focused on sharing recent partner efforts around climate change impacts on nontidal watershed regions of the Chesapeake Bay and recommendations to address these impacts. Taylor Woods (USGS) presented her research on the impacts of climate change and land-use/land cover change on stream fishes and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She and her team are also developing a web application to display the results of this research and solicited feedback from the CRWG on what would be useful to include in the application. Olivia Devereux (Devereux Consulting) presented her work utilizing river flow data to help inform climate resiliency

strategies. Rebecca Hanmer (Forestry Workgroup Chair) presented the Watershed recommendations that were developed during the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop. Discussions from all three presentations focused on how each of these efforts can inform each other and how the recommendations presented may align across all three efforts.

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

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) (Coordinator), Amy Goldfisher (Staffer); [agoldfisher@chesapeake.org](mailto:agoldfisher@chesapeake.org), Alex Gunnerson (Staffer); [gunnersona@chesapeake.org](mailto:gunnersona@chesapeake.org)

## **June 2023 Management Board Indicators Update**

### **July MB Indicators Update**

Since the June MB meeting, we updated the following indicators to ChesapeakeProgress:

- Fish Passage (2021 data)
- SAV (2022 preliminary data) *pending: July 6th*

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

- Land Use Methods and Metrics: Impervious surface cover (2013/14 and 2017/18 data)
- Local Leadership (2022 data)
- Tree Canopy (2021 data)
- Stream Health (2012-2017 data)
- Toxic Contaminants (2020 data)
- Climate Monitoring and Assessment: Average Air Temperature and Total Precipitation (2021 data)
- Blue Crab Abundance (2023 data)
- Oysters (2022 data)

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov)

## **Strategic Engagement Team**

On March 28, the Strategic Engagement Team held their quarterly meeting, and met with members of the Local Action Cohort (Land Use Metrics and Methods, Land Use Options Evaluation, Local Leadership and Tree Canopy) to review the communications, engagement, social science, education, diversity, and stewardship needs identified during their quarterly SRS review. The Strategic Engagement Team will meet on September 5 to gather feedback from jurisdiction representatives to ensure SET meetings are as useful for everyone involved as possible. The discussion will be focused on engagement and communications priorities, identifying/engaging with key audiences, and will include examples from jurisdictions. This is a check-in meeting for SET and will not include a cohort.

## **Communications Office**

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

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

### **Executive Council**

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

The following blogs were published in March:

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

Contact: Marisa Baldine, ([mbaldine@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mbaldine@chesapeakebay.net)); Rachel Felver, ([rfelver@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rfelver@chesapeakebay.net))