



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee
August 10, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Aug. 15	Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Aug. 22	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
Aug. 25	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Meeting
Sept. 8-9	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting (Pa.)
Sept. 15	Management Board Meeting
Sept. 19	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
Sept. 27	Executive Council Meeting (Boyce, Va.)
Sep 29-30	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Shepherdstown, W.V.)
Sept. 29-Oct 2	Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Shepherdstown, W.V.)
Oct. 26	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting (Gettysburg, Pa.)

Updates

Independent Evaluator

The Partnering and Leadership Goal Team (GIT 6) has completed its work developing a draft charge for the Independent Evaluator as called for in the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act (CBARA). CBARA calls for the selected independent evaluator to provide to Congress its first report within 180 days of appointment with subsequent reports be due every two years. The PSC agreed at its May meeting that the charge should include a review of previously completed evaluations and audits on the Chesapeake Bay Program as well as recommendations for next steps for future evaluations. The draft charge and recommended committee member expertise will be discussed on the August 10 PSC conference call.

White House Roundtable on Chesapeake Bay Natural Resource Investment

On July 19, EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay Christophe Tolou, CBPO Deputy Director Jim Edward, and EPA Region 3 Ag Advisor Kelly Shenk participated in a roundtable with senior officials from the White House and Administration at the Center for Environmental Quality offices in Washington, D.C. The forum was intended to identify ways to leverage private capital and utilize markets to address water quality, habitat and other natural resources challenges in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The meeting highlighted innovative projects and programs in development, the challenges and opportunities these initiatives are experiencing, and specific actions that can be taken to increase incentives and reduce barriers.

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

Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Profile Questionnaire

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is hoping a high percentage of CBP partners will participate in the effort to create a demographic profile baseline of individuals engaged in watershed restoration efforts. On July 26, reminders were sent to Management Board, Principals' Staff Committee and other partnership groups to remind them to please complete the brief questionnaire (only 11 questions). The

deadline for participating in the CBP Diversity Profile Questionnaire is now August 31. The questionnaire is completely voluntary, confidential, and takes only a few minutes to complete, but will provide a basic understanding of the diversity of CBP participants and help establish a foundation for future work as outlined by the program's Diversity Management Strategy.

Contact: Al Todd, atodd@allianceforthebay.org

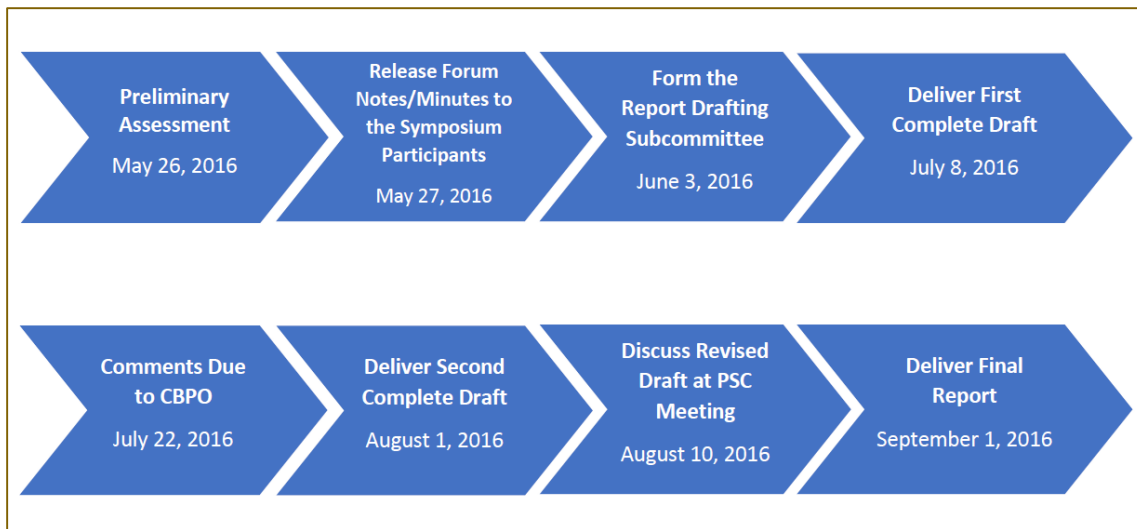
New CRC/CBP Staff

- In early July, the Habitat Goal Team (GIT2) welcomed Paige Hobaugh, who joined Kyle Runion to support the expanding work of the GIT. Paige graduated in 2014 from the University of Delaware with a degree in Environmental Science (with concentrations in Climatology and Geography). She has recent experience working on pollinator habitat issues with the USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office where she completed a term as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer.
- Katherine Wares is the new staffer for the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Team (GIT 4). She replaces Tuana Phillips. Katherine is a 2014 Washington College graduate with a degree in Environmental Science and has recent work experience at Washington College's GIS Lab, Chesapeake BaySavers and Friends of Acadia, an environmental nonprofit in Bar Harbor, ME. Currently, she is also pursuing an M.S. in Environmental Science at Towson University.
- Darius Stanton has replaced Shanita Brown as the CBP diversity staffer. Darius completed a Masters in Environmental Management at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment in May and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science in 2014 from Claflin University. Darius spent two summers as a fusion energy sciences intern with the US Department of Energy in Washington, DC.
- The CRC Career Development Program will also be hiring a replacement for Julie Walker, the Stewardship Goal Team (GIT5) staffer, who is heading off to graduate school in the fall. Interviews for the position are scheduled for August 18 and a new hire is expected in early September.

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium Report Timeline

A draft embargoed copy of the findings and recommendations report from the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium was provided to CBP Management Board members on July 11 for comments (due week of July 25). Since the recommendations and CBP's response to them will be a key announcement during the Chesapeake Executive Council meeting on September 27, partners are asked to refrain from sharing the report with anyone but their EC and PSC representatives. Only those who attended the symposium were asked to provide feedback on the report for now. Comments should have helped clarify and accurately reflect the discussions that took place at the symposium; organizers are not looking for new ideas to be injected at this point in the process. In addition, commenting partners were asked to pay particular attention to the recommendations being offered in the report with an eye toward how the Executive Council might act on those recommendations.

Contact: Julie Winters, 410-267-5754, winters.julie@epa.gov



Indicators

The following indicators were updated between July 14 and August 2, 2016:

Indicator	Statement of Progress	Link
Striped Bass Abundance – coastwide	In 2014, the biomass of adult female striped bass along the Atlantic Coast was estimated to be 141 million pounds. This is above the threshold of 127 million pounds but below the target of 159 million pounds. This indicates the stock is not overfished.	http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/striped_bass_abundance
Striped Bass Management – coastwide	In 2014, fishing mortality among striped bass along the Atlantic Coast was estimated at 0.205. This is above the target of 0.180 but below the threshold of 0.219. This indicates overfishing is not occurring.	http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/striped_bass_management

Note: Both of these indicators are updated when data are available from stock assessments completed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (every 2-3 years). This most recent update is based on the 2015 striped bass stock assessment update.

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

- Water Quality Standards Attainment (tentative for week of August 29, 2016)
 - Completing analysis
 - Data available earlier than usual this year
 - Communications team is working with data experts to use Water Quality Standards Attainment and Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow indicators, along with the USGS Trend data for RIM stations, to tell different pieces of a linked story. This approach will be presented to the Water Quality GIT during its next call on August 8.
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow (tentative for week of August 29, 2016)
 - Communications team working with data experts to use Water Quality Standards Attainment and Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow indicators, along with the USGS Trend data for RIM stations, to tell different pieces of a linked

story. This approach will be presented to the Water Quality GIT during its next call on August 8.

- Forest Buffer: annual miles planted (August 2016)
 - Waiting on availability of data
- Bottom Habitat (Summer 2016)

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, free.laura@epa.gov

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.

LGAC has secured resources to continue leading a collaborative effort to enhance local government communication and engagement. Participants in this initiative include representatives from EPA Region 3, CBPO, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, funders, NGOs, and private sector subject matter experts. Delaware, New York, West Virginia and the District of Columbia are also invited to participate. The primary focus is on communicating key information related to the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP. The group is pursuing development of a road map and schedule to help guide individual and collective initiatives. Questions should be directed to LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

Governor McAuliffe appointed The Honorable Andria P. McClellan, Superward 6 Councilwoman, City of Norfolk to LGAC on July 26, 2016. Councilwoman McClellan replaces former LGAC Chair Janine Burns, who resigned in May 2016. Seats remain open in Virginia (1), Delaware (1), New York (1) and Maryland (2).

LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be held on September 29-30, 2016 in Shepherdstown, WV. Topics to be addressed include water quality trading and local area planning targets. To be added to LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr, at jestarr@allianceforthebay.org. For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at 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.

In June, a group of CAC Members served on a review team to evaluate proposals for The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants and provided their input and comments to NFWF.

CAC Vice-Chair wrote a brief article about CAC and its recent focuses for the CBP Chesapeake Currents e-publication.

CAC participants at the Environmental Finance Symposium submitted comments on the draft report.

CAC will hold their next quarterly meeting in Lancaster, PA on September 7-8

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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.

Quarterly Meeting:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2016 on September 13-14, 2016 at a to-be-determined location in Annapolis, Maryland. A draft agenda will be distributed in the coming month. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY16 Workshops:

STAC will be hosting the following five workshops in FY16. Planning is underway for several of these upcoming activities.

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters

FY15 Workshops:

STAC hosted seven workshops so far in 2016. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. Information regarding the workshops including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the STAC workshop webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

- 1) Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality – January 13-14, 2016
- 2) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation – January 14, 2016
- 3) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System – February 1-2, 2016
- 4) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation – February 17-18, 2016
- 5) The Development of Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments – March 7-8, 2016
- 6) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement – April 12-13, 2016
- 7) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making – April 20-21, 2016

For additional information about the workshops above, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu.

Report:

STAC distributed a workshop report entitled "Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?" on July 26, 2016. The report is a product of a 2015 workshop focused on the need for the establishment of a Chesapeake Bay-wide evaluation program for proprietary or structural best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater treatment. As always, the report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws_pubs.php.

Reviews:

STAC is in the process of finalizing one review and planning for three others. Additionally, STAC is anticipating approximately four additional reviews between now and 2017. Details of those reviews are listed below.

1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The STAC Criteria Addendum review panel is still finalizing its review of the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum. The review panel suggested a clarifying re-write of the addendum and then requested additional revisions to the updated document. Over the next few months, the review panel will work with CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments.

2) Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder

In late June, STAC approved the Scenario Builder/Input Model review request from the CBP Modeling Workgroup. The review panel is working to finalize their comments by late July, and is on track to complete its review by August 31st. This review will take place over the next month.

3) James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation

STAC received the official review request from CBP for a review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation in May. STAC members discussed the request at its June quarterly meeting. Since then, STAC members have approved this review request. A review panel has been formed and is beginning to conduct its review in the next two weeks. The review will take place over the next two months.

4) Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

STAC approved the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested STAC technical review of potential impacts of boat generated waves on shoreline stability and attendant ecosystem properties, and provide advice on available policy actions to minimize adverse effects. A review panel has been formed and an initial call took place mid-June. The review will take place over the next several months.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews are below.

1) Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations

2) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

3) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

4) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit the STAC review webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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.

The [Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team](#) hosted their biannual full goal team [meeting](#) on June 2nd – 3rd at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) at the downtown Richmond campus and Rice Rivers Center located along the James River. The meeting was structured around the team's 2-year workplans and included discussions on land use impacts on aquatic species health, ecosystem approaches to fishery management, the effect of climate change on blue crabs, and a summary of the latest science on Atlantic sturgeon. The team released their [meeting summary](#) which highlights research and presentations discussed at the meeting.

On June 30th the [2016 Blue Crab Advisory Report](#) was released by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), which includes scientists and representatives from state governments and academic institutions in the region as well as federal fisheries scientists. The advisory report includes data from the Bay-wide winter dredge survey (a cooperative effort of Maryland and Virginia) and annual blue crab harvest estimates. The report notes the increase in blue crab population for the second straight year and provides management and research recommendations to promote a sustainable blue crab population and fishery.

Last year, TetraTech developed a review and synthesis of habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species in support of the fish habitat management strategy. The project was expanded 2016 to include additional data on habitat threats and stressors for each life stage of the selected aquatic species. TetraTech presented the final matrix and literature review on June 28th at the Fish Habitat Action Team meeting.

The Fish Habitat and Forage Action Teams conducted meetings to kick off implementation of the 2016-17 workplans. These meetings provided team members with progress reports on ongoing projects, a review of near-term actions, suggestions for approaches to prioritize needs and a schedule for regular check-ins. Both teams will meet quarterly to continue their progress towards achieving workplan actions.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has finished compiling the data sets of recent stream macroinvertebrate counts, habitat scores, and water quality measurements submitted by federal, state and local monitoring staff from across the Chesapeake Bay basin. An updated non-tidal benthic database is being sent to the CBP Data Center in early July. It holds biological data for more than 25,000 sampling events collected since 1986. A refinement of the Chessie BIBI (Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity) is well underway. The important taxa-specific attributes (e.g., feeding guilds, habit preferences, tolerance values) needed to calculate some metrics were updated with the help of a Technical Advisory Group. R-scripts to evaluate the raw data and calculate the Chessie BIBI are nearly complete; they could eventually be expanded to calculate individual, program-specific metrics and indices. A reference-based approach is being used to establish thresholds for scoring individual metrics. Genus-level metrics are being added to the original, family-level metrics in the index. Preliminary results show the new index is sensitive to habitat and water quality degradation. It can correctly identify

Reference or Degraded sites about 80% of the time despite the natural variability in stream populations. When the BIBI refinement is complete, the Stream Health Workgroup will need to decide how to use the index in measuring and reporting progress towards attainment of the CBP stream health goal.

The SAV and Wetland Workgroups are working with the Climate Resiliency Workgroup to implement its FY15 GIT funded project to develop a Climate Resiliency Assessment and Decision-Making Matrix. The project will involve structured decision-making workshops with both workgroups in November 2016 and Spring 2017. To prepare for these workshops, steering committee members have been selected and will be interacting with the project lead, Tetra Tech over the next several months to:

- Clarify related management/restoration actions of importance goal/outcome
- Identify and gather relevant Chesapeake Bay climate change vulnerability research/data
- Identify strategies, actions, restoration/enhancement techniques to achieve goals/outcome

The SAV Workgroup hosted a Riverkeeping Monitoring Workshop on July 25th. The workshop consisted of a morning classroom session at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and an afternoon spent in the Susquehanna Flats identifying and sampling SAV with expert biologists. About 30 local riverkeepers and volunteers participated.

Northeast state fish and wildlife agencies are on track to deliver the results of the years-long work to synthesize SWAP priorities at the regional scale within the coming weeks. The long-term goal of this working group is to build a shared habitat connectivity vision within the Chesapeake watershed.

Contact: Kyle Runion, runion.kyle@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 conference call on July 11th

- The WQGIT held a discussion on the objectives for the Phase III WIPs, and provided feedback on who the target audience(s) are for the Phase III WIPs, what they hope to achieve with the Phase III WIPs and what they see as some of the prominent constraints and risks that could impact the effectiveness of the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT received an update on the development of the Phase 6 land use data, including the schedule for the local land use review, and touched briefly on some of the differences between Virginia's land cover data and the data processed by the Chesapeake Conservancy and University of Vermont. The CBP Land Data Team expect the final pieces of the land cover data, which is being developed by various contractors, to be delivered by the end of July. The CBP Land Data Team will begin processing the land use data on a rolling timeline, starting with Delaware (local review beginning July 25), and ending with Virginia.
- The WQGIT received an update on the progress made in Wastewater Treatment Plant optimization to more effectively remove nutrients from the waste water, and in turn save energy at the plants.
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation gave an overview of their economics report that was recently published in the Journal of Coastal Management. This report includes an analysis which calculates the economic benefits of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, factoring in ecosystem services of the different Bay habitats.

- The WQGIT received an overview of the Chesapeake Atlantis Model (CAM), a decision support tool that simulates ecosystem dynamics under future, modified system conditions for climate, habitat, water chemistry and water quality. The tool is designed to test human impacts on the environment, and to provide information for decision makers on trade-offs of policy choices, in the context of multiple, simulations system stressors.

The WWQGIT will hold conference call on August 8th and August 22nd. A Subset of the planned topics include:

- The WQGIT will received a briefing on the 2015 river input stations monitoring results.
- The WQGIT will begin to review a number of BMP expert panel reports.

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.

At the most recent Healthy Watershed GIT meeting in May, members discussed key action items in the Healthy Watersheds Workplan that the GIT could work toward and produce tangible results in 2016. Members gave recommendations on how the GIT could specifically work on these actions items and comments are being used to outline and begin tracking and assessment of current State-identified healthy watersheds.

There were two GIT funding projects awarded last year that are in the works. The Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project (Phase II) was awarded \$50,000 and is being conducted by the Virginia Department of Forest. This project focuses on evidence gathered in Phase I to negotiate with local officials to get land use policies and decisions that retain forestland in healthy watersheds implemented and includes the creation of a toolbox incentive that can be used to stimulate forestland retention throughout the watershed. The Evaluation of Land Use policy options, incentives and planning tools to reduce the rate of conversion of agriculture lands, forests, and wetlands project was awarded \$66,077 and is being conducted by The National Center for Smart Growth at University of Maryland College, College Park. They are tasked with conducting a comprehensive review/study to implement one of the Management Strategy tasks in the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy. Three project proposals were received for FY16 and are currently undergoing review. Regina Campbell from West Virginia submitted a proposal for Back Creek Watershed Demo – Getting Water Off the Road which is a pilot project studying road sediment erosion and reduction mitigation, the Land Use Workgroup at CBP submitted request for a stream mapping project titled, Methodology for developing high-resolution stream and waterbody datasets for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and NatureServe submitted a proposal to build the LandScope Conservation Registry.

Recently on July 20th, the MHWGIT met with the Integrated Networks and Monitoring Team (INMT). Renee Thompson and Angel Valdez provided status reports on what the GIT has been working on and explained how the INMT could help with their monitoring needs. The INMT will work with the GIT in the future and assist with them with tracking and monitoring of State-identified healthy watersheds.

Contact: Renee Thompson, rthompson@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.

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.

GIT Funding

The Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (the Goal Team) has received project proposals from all Goal Implementation Teams and the Climate Resilience Workgroup. The proposals have been sent to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) and distributed by the Trust to a panel of external reviewers. Final selection of projects to be funded will take place in August/September 2016. The Goal Team submitted two proposals as our top priority project ideas. The first considers the creation of a “Bay 101” video to enhance engagement of local governments and their constituents. The second seeks to coordinate the possible implementation of the Watershed Education Program being designed by Ecologix Inc. under the 2016 GIT Funding.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup convened a small subgroup to draft a 2016–2017 workplan to guide the scope and timing of workflow. The full workgroup will meet on July 27, 2016 to reach consensus on approval of the revised Charge to the workgroup and the draft workplan.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

Independent Evaluator

The Goal Implementation Team 6 has drafted a charge for PSC consideration for the Independent Evaluator called for under the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act. The draft charge and recommended committee member expertise will be discussed on the August 10 PSC conference call.

Contact: Carin Bisland, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Operational Plan & ChesapeakeDecisions

A subgroup of the Goal Team is drafting an operational plan requested by the Management Board to bring to reality the biennial cycle in the Watershed Agreement. Next steps include putting forward initial recommendations and soliciting feedback from GIT Chairs before the Goal Team presents a final recommendation to the Management Board.

Contact: Carin Bisland, bisland.carin@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.

- **Data Integrity Workgroup:** USGS staff from Maryland and West Virginia conducted Nontidal field audits of the Pennsylvania USGS Water Science Center and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in April. Training in the Nontidal network sampling protocols will occur this fall. DI Workgroup members will provide expertise for additional audits of CBP Tidal and Nontidal monitoring programs. The workgroup continues to review and rewrite existing procedures for Tidal and Nontidal WQ sampling, laboratory QA and the methods for ammonia, phosphate, dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus, suspended solids and chlorophyll.
- **Climate Resiliency Workgroup:** The July 18, 2016 Climate Resiliency Workgroup In Person meeting focused on Developing a Climate Change Research Agenda, one of the Key Actions in the CRWG workplan, with feature presentations regarding stormwater management, as well as SAV in response to climate change. The Climate Resiliency workgroup has also kicked off EPA Goal Team funded project, to develop a cross goal climate resiliency analysis matrix and decision-making methodology. The project is being conducted by Tetra Tech and will focus on the wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation outcomes in the Bay Agreement. The workgroup is currently focused on providing scientific and technical guidance related to sea level rise projections and the tidal marsh loss methodology for input into the Midpoint Assessment modeling effort. The Climate Workgroup plans to focus on climate change and diversity issues, as well as Ocean Acidification, at its upcoming in person meetings this fall.
- **Modeling Workgroup:** Work is continuing on the development and refinements to the Phase 6 Beta 3 version of the Watershed Model and refinements to the Water quality and Sediment Transport Model of the Bay in preparation for its delivery at the August 9-10 Modeling WG Quarterly meeting.
- **Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:** The workgroup will use the [Indicators Framework](#) to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products. At the last meeting, workgroup members explored what next steps or pieces of information were needed for indicator development for several parts of Agreement Outcomes and characterized these next steps in terms of Effort Required and Multi-Outcome Benefits to be gained. At the next meeting, the workgroup will complete this activity, discuss the results, and make decisions about priority activities to conduct or support in 2016-2017.
- **Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup:** At the July 2016 meeting of the IMN WG, the Healthy Watersheds GIT Chair reviewed their outcome in terms of the individual state's methods for tracking their healthy watersheds. A representative from Maryland department of the Environment (Angel Valdez) discussed Maryland's definition of healthy watersheds and progress on how they intend to track change over time for this outcome. Action items for STAR are to use this understanding of the baseline conditions assessment and work together for tracking indicator development support. [See presentation.](#) **The Citizen-Based and Nontraditional monitoring project group (aka the Chesapeake Monitoring Consortium)** reviewed what the group has accomplished in Year 1, work plan elements for Year 2, and then requested assistance from work group members on various reviews of products under development. [See presentation.](#)

- **Criteria Assessment Protocols Workgroup:** The CBP has recently charged the CAP workgroup to reconvene with the task of 1) critically reviewing the existing tidal waters chlorophyll a criteria assessment procedures, and 2) providing consensus recommendations on any alternatives to consider in revision of the existing procedures. Recommendations are requested by mid-September 2016. **The first of three meetings is being scheduled for early August 2016.**

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 held a retreat on July 13th. In the morning, workgroup members and CBP leadership participated in a training session offered by Spitfire Strategies on messaging to target audiences and reaching out to diverse groups. In the afternoon, the workgroup completed an activity that focused on communicating successes and challenges, and discussed how the workgroup as a whole could be involved in member communications efforts. Approximately 20 Communications Workgroup members participated from GITs 1 (NOAA), 2 (CRC), 3 (EPA), 5 (NPS) and 6 (EPA); CAC and LGAC, STAC, USGS, DoD, MD DNR, UMCES, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Choose Clean Water Coalition and CBP's Web Team and Communications Office.

CBP's Communications Office has completed a draft of its five-year strategic plan. It will be sent to CBP leadership and the Communications Workgroup for review next week. After their comments are incorporated, it will be sent to the Management Board for their review and approval.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff, jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

July 18	Fisheries GIT Meeting
July 19	White House Environmental Finance Conference for Chesapeake Bay (CEQ)
July 25	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting - Cancelled
July 26	CBARA draft due to OMB
July 28	STAR Meeting
Aug. 2	Management Board Conference Call – Cancelled
Aug. 2	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting