



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee
July 9, 2018**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

July 10-11	Modeling Workgroup quarterly meeting (Annapolis)
July 12	Management Board meeting
July 16	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
July 18	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup in-person meeting (Baltimore)
July 23	Water Quality GIT conference call
July 25	Communications Workgroup retreat (Harrisburg)
July 25	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
July 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) team meeting
July 31	Quarterly Goal Team Chairs and Leadership meeting
August 7	Executive Council meeting (Baltimore)
August 9	Management Board SRS meeting (Annapolis)

Updates

Release of Phase III WIP Expectations

EPA issued the expectations document for the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs on June 20, 2018. The document is designed to help maintain accountability in the work under the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL), to encourage continued adaptive management to the new information generated during and after the Bay TMDL 2017 midpoint assessment, and to lay the groundwork for implementation of the next generation of innovative practices. At the same time, EPA released specific Phase III WIP expectations for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to help ensure Pennsylvania is on track for meeting its water quality goals under the Bay TMDL by 2025. On July 3, 2018, EPA released federal agency expectations for the development of federal water quality milestones and the role federal agencies can play in the development and implementation of the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs. A press release and supporting materials were also issued.

Contact: Rich Batiuk, (410) 267-5731, batruk.richard@epa.gov

Reducing Pollution Indicator to be Posted in Mid-July

The CBP plans to post its "Reducing Pollution Indicator" data on its ChesapeakeProgress website in mid-July. The posting is in response to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's midpoint assessment which uses the partnership's RPI data. CBP also plans to issue a press release on the RPI data two weeks prior to the release of EPA's Final Milestone/MPA Assessment Evaluations anticipated in late June.

Contact: Rich Batiuk, (410) 267-5731, batruk.richard@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Program response to Chesapeake Bay Foundation Midpoint Assessment

On May 30, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) released a “midpoint assessment” of the progress that Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia are making toward the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL). The report concluded that Maryland and Virginia are largely on track to meet pollution-reduction goals, but that Pennsylvania fell “far short of the mark”. Specifically, it recognized that water quality is improving, the dead zone is getting smaller, Bay grass acreage is at a record high and oyster populations are improving, but that the recovery is fragile.”

EPA will release its final 2016-2017 milestone evaluations and 2017 progress data by late July after all data has been processed and assessments are complete.

For more information: <http://www.cbf.org/how-we-save-the-bay/chesapeake-clean-water-blueprint/blueprint-progress-tracking.html>

OMB 2018 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending Crosscut Request

On Friday, July 6, Region III EPA Administrator Cosmo Servidio transmitted an OMB/EPA memo and excel spreadsheets regarding this year’s Budget Data Request for the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. EPA and OMB are requesting that the CBP jurisdictional partners populate the spreadsheets and send them to Andrea Grossman (AGrossman@omb.eop.gov) and Jim Edward (Edward.james@epa.gov) no later than COB July 30, 2018. The jurisdictions are being asked to provide, to the extent that information is available, estimated funding for restoration activities to be carried out in the coming fiscal year; expenditures for the current fiscal year and preceding two fiscal years; and an accounting of funds received from a Federal agency during the current and preceding fiscal years. For this report, restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$300,000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are required. OMB is encouraging the jurisdictions to roll-up funding in their definitions of a program to meet these thresholds. After this year, CBARA requires reporting restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$100,000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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

Army Corps of Engineers Seeks Comments on their Chesapeake Bay Plan

In May, the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore and Norfolk Districts, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, released their long-awaited draft Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Water Resources and Restoration Plan. The plan provides a single, comprehensive and integrated restoration roadmap that prioritizes, geographically, activities that achieve the goals of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. It was developed using an integrated water resources management approach and used geospatial analyses to identify high-quality areas for conservation, degraded areas for restoration and gaps in restoration efforts.

The draft plan includes information specific to each of the states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia), as well as the District of Columbia, and it is intended to inform decision makers at all levels of government of the challenges, needs and opportunities within the watershed. It identifies at least one project in each jurisdiction that can be considered for implementation or technical assistance by the Corps. In addition to the hundreds of specific project opportunities, from forest buffers to wetland restoration, that may be eligible for federal funding and technical assistance, the plan identifies opportunities to focus planning and zoning policies on preserving high ranked healthy habitats and important socioeconomic areas that are at risk.

The Corps is seeking input on the draft plan and additional project opportunities through July 16, 2018. The draft plan is available for review electronically and includes a Master Results Database and a Candidate Restoration Projects Database.

For more information: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Chesapeake-Bay-Comprehensive-Plan/

UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card highlights signs of progress

Researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) measured continued improvements in the health of the Chesapeake Bay, according to the 2017 Chesapeake Bay Report Card. While the overall grade of “C” has remained the same since 2012, this marks the first year that experts have seen what they call a “statistically significant” positive trend. This suggests that the positive improvements in the grade of the Bay are the result of real progress rather than chance. The grade is based on several indicators of overall Bay health. Underwater grasses, dissolved oxygen and total nutrients all show positive trends over time, an encouraging sign for water quality. Researchers also saw improvements in several geographic areas, including the Elizabeth River, James River and Upper Western Shore. The Elizabeth and James both received record high grades this year, at a “C” and “B-” respectively.

Several signs of health stand out in this year’s report card. The report shows a Fisheries Index of 95 percent, the highest score ever recorded, indicating that populations of bay anchovy, striped bass and blue crabs are continuing to thrive. There has also been improvement in underwater grasses, which provide critical habitat for many Bay species, from a 12 percent score in 1986 to a 44 percent score in 2017—another record high.

For more information: <https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/>

Blue Crab Harvest at Sustainable Levels

Despite a recent drop in the Chesapeake Bay’s blue crab population, fisheries experts consider the stock sustainable and recommend no changes to harvest regulations in Maryland, Virginia or the Potomac River. An estimated 58 million pounds of blue crabs were harvested from the Chesapeake Bay last year, according to the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC). This represents a 10 percent drop from the 2016 crabbing season. Commercial and recreational crabbers harvested 21 percent of the female blue crab population during this time.

Experts assess the sustainability of the blue crab stock by comparing the percentage of the female blue crab population harvested each year to a 25.5 percent target and a 34 percent overfishing threshold. Because the latest female harvest levels are below both of these “reference points,” the blue crab population is not considered depleted, nor is it being overfished. The Chesapeake Bay Program Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT) approved these findings in CBSAC’s 2018 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report.

For more information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/2018_blue_crab_advisory_released

Congressional Research Service Visit to CBPO

On June 7, the CBP federal office directors hosted a group of five senior analysts from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) for a day of briefings and field visits. CRS staff researches issues and provides reports upon request committees and members of Congress on proposed legislation. The group included analysts who focus on coastal ecosystems, fish and wildlife, invasive species, water quality, and endangered species. The federal directors provided an overview of the partnership, federal agency roles

and issues of importance to their respective agencies. CRS staff were also taken to two restoration project sites: an urban stormwater retrofit and a farm BMP tour.

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

Scientists predict above-average dead zone in 2018

Scientists predict the Chesapeake Bay will see an above-average dead zone this summer, due to this spring's increased amount of rain. The 2018 forecast predicts a mid-summer hypoxic, or low-oxygen, zone of 1.9 cubic miles—above the 30-year average of 1.74 cubic miles. The anoxic, or no-oxygen, zone is expected to reach 0.43 cubic miles in early summer and grow to 0.41 cubic miles by late summer.

This forecast, funded by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, is based on models developed at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the University of Michigan and relies on nutrient load estimates from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

This year's above-average rainfall washed nutrients from the upper watershed into the Bay. According to the USGS, the Susquehanna and Potomac rivers contributed 85.7 million pounds and 30 million pounds of nitrogen to the Bay respectively. Over the next several months, researchers with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will monitor oxygen levels in the Bay, resulting in a final measurement of the Bay's dead zone later this year.

For more information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/scientists_predict_above_average_dead_zone_in_2018

Anacostia River receives passing grade of "D" for the first time

The Anacostia Watershed Society measured considerable improvements to the health of the Anacostia River in this year's report card. The Anacostia received a 63 percent, or "D" grade, making it the first time the river has received a passing grade. This is an impressive increase from last year's "F" grade of 49 percent and marks another year of the river's positive trend. The Anacostia continues to struggle with toxic contamination and trash, but the report card also highlights signs of progress. Standouts include the 100 percent score for underwater grasses, up from a score of zero just four years ago. While significant year-to-year fluctuations are normal for underwater grasses, this is still a great sign of improved ecosystem health. There were also improvements in indicators like fecal bacteria and chlorophyll-a, likely due to reductions in sewage. Researchers anticipate that these scores will improve even more in the future, due to the completion this year of D.C.'s Clean Rivers Project Anacostia Tunnel. The project was designed to reduce sewage overflows into the Anacostia by more than 80 percent.

For more information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/anacostia_river_receives_passing_grade_of_d_for_the_first_time

Bernie Fowler measures a sneaker index of 36 inches at annual wade-in

At the 31st annual Patuxent River Wade-In on Sunday, former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler saw his sneakers through 36 inches of water. This year's "sneaker index"—the deepest point at which Fowler can still see his shoes as he wades into the water—measured lower than last year's 41.5 inches. Since 1988, Fowler has held the wade-in on the second Sunday in June, which now marks the end of Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. He hosts the event to bring attention to the polluted waters of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. In the 1950s, Fowler could wade into the Patuxent up to his chest and still see the river's bottom teeming with fish, shellfish and underwater grasses. Nutrient and sediment pollution, however, have led to declines in water clarity and fueled algae blooms that block sunlight from reaching the river bottom. The 1960s sneaker index of 57 inches now serves as the benchmark for a restored Patuxent River.

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week Celebrations

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, held from June 2 – 10, helped focus interest and celebrate how many different regions come together to create one Chesapeake Bay watershed: from upstate New York to southern Virginia, and West Virginia's panhandle to eastern Delaware. In 2016, the Chesapeake Bay Commission championed the idea of designating a week in June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Events took place throughout the watershed to raise awareness about this valuable economic and environmental resource, including: Lancaster Water Week, the 4th annual Clean Waters Golf Tournament (June 4), Clean the Bay Day (Virginia), RiverPalooza Kick-off (Harper's Ferry), Tour de Belt, Cheers to the Chesapeake Festival of the River, and Senator Bernie Fowler's Patuxent River Wade-in.

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.

- Open seats: Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York.
- Quarterly meeting: LGAC held its quarterly meeting June 7-8, 2018 in Harrisonburg, VA. Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, Matt Strickler, welcomed Members and guests to Virginia. Members heard a presentation on the USACE draft Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Water Resources Plan. LGAC will issue a news release encouraging other local governments in the watershed to review the draft Plan. There was strong interest in the Chesapeake Bay Commission report on technical assistance and Members decided to focus this year's Local Government Forum (to be held in September) on identifying and exploring means for filling gaps on resources above and beyond local governments current capacity. Those resources include staff, technical assistance, and funding.
- Roundtables: In an effort to assist jurisdictions with better engaging local officials, LGAC members in PA and VA hosted roundtables for their peers in June 2018. For more information on roundtables, please contact LGAC staff at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff Assistant Harriet Newquist at hnewquist@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.

- New members: The CAC held a quarterly meeting on May 23-24 in Lancaster, PA. The Committee welcomed three new members from DC:
 - Ronda Chapman who is the Executive Director of Groundwork DC and an advisor to organizations on diversifying the environmental movement. She is also a member of the Mayors Climate Resiliency Commission and the local chapter of Outdoor Afro.

- Meg Bradshaw who is the Director of Operations for 12 Ace Hardware co-ops in DC, MD and VA.
- Chuck Herrick who is a retired consultant and program evaluator on issues like climate change adaptation, natural resource damage assessment, sustainable fisheries management, valuation of ecosystem services, control of invasive species.
- Quarterly meeting: CAC heard updates on the PA Phase 3 WIP development and from the EPA Bay Program Office, discussed the importance of forest buffers and progress, and technical assistance and the Farm Bill. The members joined with the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference for a briefing on achieving equity and diversity in the Chesapeake Bay community. The CAC discussed topics to present to the Executive Council in their annual report of recommendations.
- TMDL: As a result of the discussion about the TMDL Midpoint Assessment and the EPA Expectations for the jurisdictions for Phase 3 WIPs, the CAC crafted the following resolution, “The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) believes that all of the Chesapeake Bay Program jurisdictions should remain firmly committed to meeting the 2025 goals and the science-based TMDL allocations. In particular, recent discussions of using the Phase II targets and level of effort concerns our members. Therefore, the CAC looks forward to reviewing the final EPA Expectations Document to ensure that all jurisdictions remain committed to the highest levels of effort.”
- Leadership: CAC officers are Paula Jasinski (VA), CAC Chair and Matt Ehrhart (PA), Vice Chair.

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

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

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

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC’s Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Special Announcement: STAC is happy to welcome the newest member of its staff, Annabelle Harvey with the Chesapeake Research Consortium. Annabelle graduated from Salisbury University in May 2017 with a double major in Biology and Environmental Studies. She will be a great asset to the committee and we are excited she has joined the STAC team. Please join us in welcoming her to the Bay Program Partnership! Annabelle’s email address is harveya@chesapeake.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2018 on September 11-12, 2018 at a location to be determined. More information will be made available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

Workshops:

STAC will be hosting five workshops in FY2018, listed here in order of anticipated date. Planning is underway for several of these activities. Information regarding recent workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 – **September 24-25, 2018**

- 2) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Barriers: How do we accelerate the path to 95,000+ acres with the greatest economic, social, and environmental impact?
- 3) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management
- 4) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals
- 5) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triplet' Connection
- 2) Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
- 4) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 5) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 6) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 7) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 8) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 9) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 10) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

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

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup

The following indicators were updated since the June Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Blue Crab Abundance	Between 2017 and 2018, the abundance of adult (age 1+) female blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay fell 42% from 254 million to 147 million. This number is above the 70 million threshold but below the 215 million target.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/blue-crab-abundance
Blue Crab Management	21% of the female blue crab population was harvested in 2017. For the 10th consecutive year, this number is below the 25.5% target and the 34% overfishing threshold. The	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/blue-crab-management

	Chesapeake Bay's blue crab stock is not depleted and it is not being overfished.	
--	--	--

Additionally, the Climate Indicators project of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup recommended that current CBP indicators of [Protected Lands](#) and Restored Habitat ([Oysters](#) and [Wetlands](#)) be used to track and analyze trends, impacts, and progress towards advancing “climate resiliency”, per the Climate Resiliency Goal and Outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Additional text has been added to these pages to describe their connection to climate resiliency.

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

- Reducing Pollution Indicator (July 11)
- Wetlands (summer)
- Forest Buffers – 2017 data (summer)
- Protected Lands (summer)
- Climate Resiliency indicators* (multiple TBD, August)

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 Drescher, 410-267-5713, drescher.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.

- Biannual meeting: Sustainable Fisheries GIT staff are working hard to plan the upcoming biannual meeting, scheduled for June 21 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD. Topics for discussion include the blue crab winter dredge survey, the CBP climate indicator project, studies on forage-habitat relationships, and this year’s round of GIT funding. Prior to the Fisheries meeting, the SFGIT will meet jointly with the Habitat GIT on June 20 to review the results of the recent STAC Fish Habitat workshop and identify USACE priority areas within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed important for multiple outcomes of interest to both GITs. This is the first time these goal implementation teams will host a joint meeting, and the objective is to develop ideas for a joint proposal for GIT funding.
- Blue crab advisory report: The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) met on May 14 to review results from the winter dredge survey and begin discussions on this year’s blue crab advisory report. The second draft of the report was distributed to team members on June 1, and the CBSAC chair will present the final draft for endorsement by the GIT Executive Committee on June 21.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

- Joint meeting: The Habitat and Sustainable Fisheries GITs are holding their first ever joint meeting June 19-21 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD. The meeting will follow a staggered format; the Habitat GIT will meet June 19-20 and the Fisheries GIT will meet June 20-21. This meeting will provide a great opportunity to come together and identify constructive steps to align our work and improve fisheries and habitat management. Presentations (on science and data tools, planning and policy tools, and financing options), followed by breakout discussions, will allow us to identify areas of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed important for multiple outcomes of interest to both GITs that could serve as basis for a joint proposal for GIT funding. Meeting materials (agendas, directions, etc.) and more information can be found on the [calendar event](#).
- Urban stormwater and stream health: The Urban Stormwater and Stream Health Workgroups held a joint meeting June 4 to provide a forum for practitioners, regulators, and local governments to share technical resources, insights on best practices for siting and design, and to lay out key technical and programmatic issues that need to be resolved to ensure that projects produce verifiable pollutant reduction and biological uplift. Meeting materials and more information can be found on the [calendar event](#).
- Snakehead symposium: The next meeting of the Mid Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (MAPAIS) will be held in conjunction with the inaugural International Snakehead Symposium July 17-19 in Alexandria, VA. The MAPAIS portion of the meeting will be held jointly with the Mississippi River Basin Panel on the morning of July 17. The Snakehead Symposium will bring together leading experts for panels and discussions on the ecology, monitoring/response, and the management of the invasive species. More information about the [International Snakehead Symposium](#) and the [MAPAIS](#) meeting can be found at their website links.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, 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 conference calls on May 14 and 29. A subset of topics discussed included:

- The WQGIT approved inclusion of the recommended changes to NEIEN to address issues of BMP geographical distribution in Phase 5.3.2 and Phase 6 CAST.
- The WQGIT recommended PSC approval of DE's special case request. The WQGIT will request PSC consideration of all available options to distribute the additional nitrogen loads from DE's special case request. Options for redistribution may include adding an equivalent nitrogen reduction to the Conowingo panning target or equitably adjusting the planning targets of the Partnership jurisdictions to accommodate DE's special case request.
- Final deployment of Phase 6 CAST was deferred in order to allow the WWTWG to recommend a correction to VA septic data available in Phase 6 CAST. The WWTWG recommended deferring use of VA Department of Health data for septic systems in Phase 6 CAST and will use

Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model estimates for VA septic data in the current version of Phase 6 CAST. Final deployment of CAST in the first week of June 2018, and jurisdictions will review of progress scenarios through the second week of June. After final deployment of Phase 6 CAST, and according to previous WQGIT decisions, no further changes to Phase 6 CAST will take place until the next milestone period in October 2019.

- The WQGIT was briefed on the analysis and results from eight thematic land use scenarios available in CAST.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on June 11. A subset of planned topics includes:

- The WQGIT will review the recommendations from the Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panel Establishment Group for approval to include agricultural stormwater practices in a future update to the Phase 6 modeling tools.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup's technical memo, "The Phase 3 WIP Challenge: The extent of unregulated urban land and small MS4s in the Chesapeake Bay watershed makes urban load reduction problematic."
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the report findings and recommendations from the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems BMP Expert Panel. The WQGIT will be asked to approve the report and recommendations for inclusion in a future update to the Phase 6 modeling tools.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on research into drivers of nitrogen and phosphorus trends in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including effects of nutrient applications, management practices, and geology on nutrient trends in various land-use settings.

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.

Contact: Katherine Wares; 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.

- June 18 - Public Access workgroup conference call: walked members through new 2018-19 workplan, discussed change in leadership for the workgroup (John Davy, Chair, is retiring), looked at new sites opened so far in 2018, and looked at the 300 total site goal status.
- June 28 - Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Steering Committee Meeting: workgroup discussed options for improving state level mitigation policies, review the 2018-19 workplan, receive an update on the conservation mapping work being done, and hear updates from the states.
- June 28 - Environmental Literacy workgroup will submit final workplans and management strategies to Communications Team for posting.

- July 13 – The full Education workgroup will review the new 2018-19 workplans for the three environmental literacy outcomes and receive a status update on the GIT funded MWEE 2.0.
- July 30 - Citizen Stewardship workgroup will walk through the new 2018-2019 workplan and assign the new actions in place to meet the citizen stewardship outcome.
- July 31 - Stewardship Online Tool Kickoff Meeting: Leads from the Stewardship workgroup and CBP web team will be meeting with contractor Green Fin Studios to discuss the scope of the Stewardship Online Tool and expectations for development.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; 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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

As a result of the SRS outcome reviews, the SRS Planning Team has developed a process for GITs/Workgroups to bring forward the consideration revising Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes, including a recommended path for acceptance by the Management Board, Principal's Staff Committee and, where appropriate, the Executive Council. The recommended process was approved by GIT 6 on June 19, and will be brought to the Management Board on July 12 for final approval.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found under the "Project and Resources" section of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY2018 GIT Funding

The EPA is continuing the GIT Funding Program in FY2018 at a level of \$860,000. Goal Implementation Team Chairs, Coordinators and Staffers met in March 2018 and May 2018 to finalize the process and timeline for this year. The next step in the process is for GIT and workgroup members to submit project ideas to their respective GIT leadership. Top proposals from each GIT will be due to Greg Allen and Emily Freeman by July 20, 2018.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

Governance Document Action Team

The Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) has drafted a revised version of the Chesapeake Bay Program Governance Document (last revised July 2015). This revision incorporates feedback from GIT Chairs, Coordinators and Staffers; Advisory Committees members; GIT 6 members; and members of the Management Board. The proposed draft was reviewed and approved by GIT 6 for recommendation to the Management Board. The GDAT will present these revisions to the Management Board for approval on July 12, and to the Principals' Staff Committee on relevant issues as appropriate.

Contact: Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, 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.

Status and Trends Workgroup

The August 15 meeting of the Status and Trends workgroup will begin planning for the 2018 Bay Barometer, to be published in early 2019. The meeting will cover current indicator data, expected updates before the Barometer publication, and news story ideas for Outcomes without an indicator. The agenda will be posted [here](#) in July.

Data Integrity Workgroup

Data Integrity Workgroup quarterly meeting was held on June 21 at Chesapeake Bay Laboratories, Solomons, MD, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#). During this meeting, Elgin Perry presented his teams work on a new software package that has been developed to visualize water quality data trends that is currently being used by all jurisdictions. There was an additional discussion on the new MDL directive and its implementation by all the Chesapeake Bay Analytical Labs. Bruce Michael addressed the group on the 2018 Hypoxia Report, Phase III WIP status, and progress on the Conowingo Dredging Project. Mike Mallonee and Melissa Merritt presented the Split Sample and USGS Reference Sample study results. New ways to present historic data was also discussed. Next Workgroup meeting will be in October in Annapolis.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup leadership is working on the SRS materials to prepare the meeting to the MB on August 9th. Next Workgroup meeting will be on July 16th.

STAR

STAR leadership and members attended the Chesapeake Research and Modeling Symposium, that was held June 12-14th. During the symposium, ideas were discussed and opportunities identified on how to better coordinate on-going research and modeling through STAR to benefit the CBP Goal Teams. STAR leadership attended the joint Habitat and Fisheries Goal Teams meeting on June 20, to hear about needs and future directions from these GITs. Several ideas were generated to have STAR further address the science needs of the teams. Next STAR meeting will be on July 26th.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is working to support the preparation for the PSC meeting on July 9th while making progress on the completion of the Phase 6 Model documentation. The CBP Modeling Team attended the ChesROMs conference between June 12 and 14th. The last Modeling Workgroup conference call was held on June 5th, and the presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#). The next Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Review will be held on July 10-11.

CAP Workgroup

The Criteria Assessment Protocol WG met on June 19th to review the status and recommended updates to the James River Chlorophyll a (CHLA) criteria. The work summarized by VADEQ takes into account the recently completed four-year water quality study providing the best available science in support of setting quantitative chlorophyll a criteria protective of the open water designated use for tidal waters of the James River. Options for improving the CHLA monitoring protocols were discussed and remain under evaluation and review. VADEQ is determining the final timeline involved in completing the review and adoption of the proposed criteria and protocols.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; 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.

Communications Office and Web Team:

- The Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office has several planned press releases for June (dates TBD):
 - Oyster restoration report.
 - Reducing Pollution Indicator.
 - State of Environmental Literacy across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
 - Blue crab abundance.
- Our summer Multimedia Intern – Kaitlyn Dolan – began on June 4, 2018.
- Will Parson, our Multimedia Specialist, led a field trip at the Choose Clean Water Coalition conference on ‘Making Pictures that Make People Care’.
- Caitlyn Johnstone, our Outreach Specialist, led the second webinar in conjunction with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay’s Businesses for the Bay on Abundant Life on May 16.
- Rachel Felver, CBP’s Director of Communications, presented at the Pennsylvania WIP Steering Committee meeting in Harrisburg on May 17.
- In May, we updated our Forest Buffers indicator on Chesapeake Progress with data from 2016. We expect to update this indicator with data from 2017 later this summer. Over the next month, we also expect to update the indicators that track our progress toward the Blue Crab Abundance, Blue Crab Management and 2017 Watershed Implementation Plan outcomes.

Communications Workgroup:

Updates from last workgroup conference call on June 6:

- Chesapeake Awareness Week (June 2-10): Members of our workgroup formed an action team that came up with the theme of the week, which was the many unique rivers and landscapes of the watershed coming together to form one Chesapeake. We created a google drive with social media posts our partners could use for each day, which highlighted different regions of the watershed. We also compiled a list of events and posted them on Chesapeake Network. We received a total of 50 event submissions from around the watershed. The social media campaign has been very successful, with partners from across the watershed sharing the social media from the drive, using our provided graphics, and using the hashtags #OneChesapeake and #WatershedAware.

- Biannual retreat: The biannual retreat will be held July 25 in Harrisburg, Pa. Kacey Wetzel from the Chesapeake Trust will be leading a training on the role communications plays in behavior change and social marketing campaigns. We will then apply that training to two Bay Program projects: promoting the new fish consumption advisory and informing landowners of the benefits of SAV.
- July and August themes: We coordinated shared messaging for July and August. Since several river report cards have recently come out or will be released soon, we decided to focus on river health in July. We shared links to the reports, the blogs that our communications office has written about new report cards and Bay Program pages on the importance of local rivers and streams, and members shared information about upcoming river report cards in their jurisdictions. August is National Water Quality Month, as well as the Executive Council meeting. The directives planned for the EC meeting have a water quality focus, so we intend to highlight those during the month.
- Workgroup improvements: We also had a discussion of potential workgroup improvements, based on our previous discussion with the Management Board. We discussed changing our meeting schedule to have longer in-person quarterly meetings and shorter monthly calls to increase member engagement. We also discussed ideas for more clearly defining our mission. Our refined mission would continue to include coordinating shared messaging, providing professional development opportunities and providing a forum for skill-sharing amongst members, but would be expanded to include providing assistance to GITs with communications needs identified in their two-year workplans.
- Local engagement in Phase III WIPs: Finally, our vice-chair Deb Klenotic from Pennsylvania DEP led a discussion about the role that communications can play in local engagement efforts in the Phase III WIPs. She discussed the efforts that Pennsylvania is undertaking in regard to local engagement and how the communications staff at DEP are involved. Other members representing jurisdictions shared their current progress and the steps that they would like to take moving forward, and discussed how they could foster collaboration and sharing of best practices between the states.

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

June 19	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting (Annapolis)
June 19-21	Joint Habitat and Fisheries GIT meeting (SERC)
June 20	STAC quarterly meeting webinar
June 20-21	Agriculture Workgroup in person meeting (Lancaster)
June 26	SAV Workgroup in person meeting (Annapolis)