



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Principals' Staff Committee  
March 1, 2017**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Mar 7	Enhance Partnering, Leadership & Engagement Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6) Meeting
Mar 9	Management Board Conference Call
Mar 13	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3) Call
Mar 14-15	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Mar 23	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team Meeting
Mar 23-24	Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting
Mar 29-30	STAC Workshop: Ecosystem Services/Co-Benefits
May 17-18	Principals' Staff Committee Retreat
June 8	Executive Council Meeting

**Updates**

**CBP partnership publishes annual Bay Barometer**

On February 2, the Chesapeake Bay Program Communication Office published its annual Bay Barometer. The annual report on environmental health and restoration shows we have reached—and in some cases, surpassed—the halfway mark toward half a dozen of the commitments built into the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The indicators of environmental health, restoration and stewardship summarized in Bay Barometer reveal a resilient Chesapeake Bay. In 2016, for instance, an analysis of the first oyster reefs to be built and seeded with larvae in Maryland's Harris Creek showed that all reefs met the minimum criteria for success in oyster weight and density, and half met even higher weight and density targets. In the same year, an annual count of blue crabs revealed the population of adult females had reached its highest total of the last five years and was just ten percent below the restoration target. In addition, the pollution-reducing practices that states have put in place—including upgrading wastewater treatment plants, lowering vehicle and power plant emissions, and reducing runoff from farmland—are integral in ensuring the Chesapeake Bay meets its "pollution diet." A recent analysis shows these practices are in place to achieve 81 percent of the phosphorus reductions, 48 percent of the sediment reductions and 31 percent of the nitrogen reductions needed to reach our clean water goals. Specifically, significant nutrient reductions in the wastewater sector allowed the partnership as a whole to meet its 2025 pollution reduction targets for this sector ten years ahead of schedule.

CBP Director Nick DiPasquale took part in the media conference call as the chair of the partnership's Management Board. The Bay Barometer is a compilation of previously released (2015-2016) Bay watershed health and restoration indicators used to measure CBP partners' progress and work. The document can be found at [http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/2015-2016\\_Bay\\_Barometer.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/2015-2016_Bay_Barometer.pdf) and the partnership story on the rollup is available at [http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/bay\\_barometer\\_shows\\_measured\\_progress\\_in\\_chesapeake\\_health\\_restoration](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/bay_barometer_shows_measured_progress_in_chesapeake_health_restoration).

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, [dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov](mailto:dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov)

**Chesapeake Bay Program release of Diversity Indicator**

On February 23, the CBP Diversity Workgroup, chaired by CBP Deputy Director Jim Edward, released the findings of its first diversity profile as called for in the Diversity Strategy and biennial workplan of the partnership's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The profile results show the CBP partnership is well below the national demographics for racial diversity, with 84 percent of respondents identified as white, with 13 percent identifying as non-white. The partnership's goal is to identify stakeholder groups that are not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making and implementation of conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage them in the Bay Program's efforts. In addition, on February 16, Edward and Diversity Workgroup members met with Whitney Tome, Executive Director of the national Green 2.0 organization (<http://www.diversegreen.org>) in Washington, D.C. to discuss the results of the profile and to get her input on possible next steps.

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

### **CBP Partners approve Oyster Aquaculture as Best Management Practice**

The CBP's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team recently approved findings put together by the Oyster BMP Expert Panel that will allow Watershed jurisdictions to receive pollution-reduction credit for their oyster aquaculture industries. The panel, coordinated by the Oyster Recovery Partnership, is made up of oyster scientists and practitioners, and includes representatives from academic institutions, non-profit organizations and county, state and federal agencies.

The protocols approved in the report will become available to state and local governments as options to implement or promote aquaculture. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is now developing procedures for the implementation and verification of the new BMP. While the panel's recommendations apply only to private oyster aquaculture, experts will continue to look into options for public reefs and oyster sanctuaries, as well as other ways oysters could reduce pollution, and will publish their findings and recommendations in future reports.

The full report is available at:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/24555/oyster\\_bmp\\_1st\\_report\\_draft\\_for\\_wtwg\\_and\\_wggit\\_review\\_2016-12-05\\_pgs197\\_1.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/24555/oyster_bmp_1st_report_draft_for_wtwg_and_wggit_review_2016-12-05_pgs197_1.pdf)

### **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's newest member, Don Phillips, Councilmember in Laurel, DE attended the two-day Biennial Strategy Review System in Cambridge, MD. Snyder County (PA) Commissioner Malcolm Derk indicated his intent to resign his position with LGAC as soon as a replacement is appointed by Governor Wolf. The County Commissioners Association of PA submitted a nomination to the Governor for consideration. Commissioner Derk expressed his appreciation for the time he was able to serve. Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in the District of Columbia, New York and Virginia.

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, continues to serve as facilitator of the Local Government Engagement Initiative. Work sessions have been held with Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The Partners held an Initiative conference call on February 16th. Topics discussed included release of the new land cover/land use data, opportunities to improve Case Studies to better facilitate action, and the soon to be launched Bay Journal Local Government edition. There was also open time for sharing and

discussion among the partners. The next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting March 22 in Annapolis. Any questions about the Initiative should be directed to Mary at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org).

The Chesapeake Legal Alliance, on behalf of LGAC, will be looking into the statutory limitations to improving efficiency in procurement and contracting as a way to help advance the Environmental Finance Symposium recommendations. The CLA is going to focus on Pennsylvania first and then Virginia depending on the scope and timeframe of the project. A scoping committee is being formed to finalize the scope of work for the project. Regular updates on this project are being provided to the Environmental Finance Symposium Report Action Team.

The Streamlining Integrated Infrastructure Implementation report has been finalized. This report is based upon a June 9, 2016 “Dig Once” Strategy Development Workshop sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in partnership with LGAC. It was funded in part by NFWF. The report will be distributed to the Management Board and is available to others upon request.

LGAC’s next meeting is March 23-24, 2017 in King George County, Virginia. To be added to the LGAC’s Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC’s Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@allianceforthebay.org). For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org).

### **Citizens’ Advisory Committee**

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

CAC held a Quarterly Meeting in Baltimore on February 22-23. The meeting focused on urban restoration, environmental outreach to nontraditional partners, and how a healthy environment supports a healthy economy. The members also set their priorities for the upcoming year.

CAC welcomed three new members at their Friday meeting:

Michael Haire, a Governor Hogan appointment, is an adjunct professor of the graduate program of Environmental Science at Towson University. Before Michael started teaching he served as a Senior Environmental Scientist at EPA working on TMDLs and as a Water Resources Engineer and Program Administrator at Maryland Department of the Environment.

Mark Bey, a Mayor Bowser appointment, is the founder of a Cleaner Ward 7 where he coordinates volunteers and organizes the community to pick up litter to keep the parks and streets of D.C.’s Ward 7 clean. In his community he is known as the “clean-up dude.”

Dr. Jorge Ribas, an at-large appointment by the Board of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, is the President and CEO of the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a multi-state business organization based in Washington, DC. After serving in the U.S. Army Active Reserves, Dr. Ribas, spent most of his scientific and administrative career as a neuroscientist and as a research pathologist specializing in infectious and parasitic diseases, and as a program officer and hospital administrator at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact CAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@allianceforthebay.org). For the coordinator, contact Jessica Blackburn, [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2016 on March 14-15, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Please direct any quarterly meeting inquiries to STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, [hinrichse@chesapeake.org](mailto:hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

To be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, please contact STAC Staff.

### **Workshops:**

#### Upcoming Workshops:

Planning is underway for the following four workshops to be held during spring 2017. For additional information, contact Renee Kelly at [kellyr@chesapeake.org](mailto:kellyr@chesapeake.org).

- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters – **Part I-February 6-7, 2017; Part II-TBD**
  - Part I of this workshop was held on February 6-7<sup>th</sup> at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Additional information can be found at the meeting webpage [here](#).
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) – **March 29-30, 2017**
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change

#### Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize five reports from the following FY2015 workshops. 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 each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) - can be found on the STAC workshop webpage at:

[http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_ws.php](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php).

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation
- 4) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- 5) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

For more information, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

### **Reviews:**

[http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_rev.php%23](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php%23). STAC has four review activities in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. All review reports (as available) can be found at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_pubs.php](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php).

- 1) 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. The panel completed their requested review in late October and have finalized a report of their recommendations. The report is currently undergoing editorial review and will be reviewed by STAC membership before release.
- 2) 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. The CBP has provided a new and improved document and the panel is working to formally complete their review over the next month.
- 3) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model  
The panel have completed their review of the requested documentation and finalized a report of their recommendations. The panel is currently awaiting the remaining documentation on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill from the Modeling Workgroup to complete their review.
- 4) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)  
STAC received the official review request from STAR's Modeling Workgroup on the Water Quality Sediment Transport Model in late November. STAC Staff are currently working with the CBPO to finalize the review approach, questions, and documentation.

#### Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for approximately three additional STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews between now and May 2017. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment.

- 1) Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations
- 2) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment
- 3) Phase 6 Land Use Hind Cast Methodology

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit

[http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_rev.php](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

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

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

*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.*

## Indicators

Indicators that have been updated since the last PSC meeting include (in order of most recent update):

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
SAV	In 2015, there were an estimated 92,315 acres of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay. This surpasses the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2017 restoration target two years ahead of schedule and marks a 50% achievement of the 185,000-acre goal. Note: this indicator was updated with preliminary data in April 2016. Data were finalized in December 2016; this update reflects those changes.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/sav">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/sav</a>
Oyster Restoration*	Six Chesapeake Bay tributaries have been selected for oyster restoration: Harris Creek and the Little Choptank and Tred Avon rivers in Maryland, and the Lafayette, Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers in Virginia. Each tributary is at a different level of progress in a process that involves developing a tributary restoration plan, constructing and seeding reefs, and monitoring and evaluating restored reefs. The last phase of this process—reef monitoring and evaluation—will determine success in meeting this outcome. Monitoring and evaluation will not be complete until after 2025, as a tributary must be monitored at three- and six-year intervals after reef construction and seeding are complete before it can be deemed restored.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sustainable-fisheries/oysters">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sustainable-fisheries/oysters</a>
Protected Lands	Data collected between 2015 and 2016 show that, since 2010, approximately one million acres have been permanently protected from development (50% achievement of outcome in Agreement). Protected land in the watershed totals 8.8 million acres. (Note: this information was updated a few months ago, but a new update became available in December.)	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-conservation/protected-lands">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-conservation/protected-lands</a>
Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands	Between 2010 and 2015, 7,623 acres of wetlands were created or reestablished on agricultural lands (9% of 83,000-acre goal).	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/wetlands">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/wetlands</a>
Diversity*	Almost 85% of profile respondents self-identified as white or Caucasian and about 13% self-identified as non-white or non-Caucasian.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/stewardship/diversity">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/stewardship/diversity</a>

Sustainable Schools*	In 2015, 12 percent of public and charter schools in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—a total of 502 schools—were certified sustainable.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/environmental-literacy/sustainable-schools">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/environmental-literacy/sustainable-schools</a>
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Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next PSC meeting include:

- Fish Passage (March 2017)
- Public Access (March 2017)
- Forest Cover (March 2017)
- Black Duck (March/April 2017)
- Toxic Contaminants (Spring 2017)
- Blue Crab abundance (April/May 2017)
- SAV abundance (April/May 2017)
- Oyster restoration (Spring/Summer 2017)

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

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

### **Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

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

The Fish Habitat Action Team developed a workshop proposal for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee's request for proposals. The proposed workshop would evaluate factors influencing fish habitat function to develop qualitative criteria for prioritizing mitigation techniques and improving restoration and conservation efforts throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Fish Habitat Action Team held a meeting to review their workplan progress and prepare for the first Strategy Review System meeting where they will be presenting in May.

The Forage Action Team meeting met in February to learn about Maryland Department of Natural Resource's research and development of striped bass indicators and to hear an update on the GIT-funded study by University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory's to investigate the drivers of forage action and provided input to improve the strategy.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force reconvened to learn the latest research on population, diet and fish movement in the Chesapeake Bay and to plan for an invasive catfish workshop later in the year to communicate these findings with managers and interested parties.

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee held their quarterly conference call to consider additional analysis regarding this year's advisory report. Members are preparing for the Winter Dredge Survey results analysis and review in late April.

Contact: Kara Skipper; [kara.skipper@noaa.gov](mailto:kara.skipper@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 Habitat Goal Implementation Team plans to hold their Spring 2017 meeting over two days in early May in Pennsylvania. The meeting will focus on updating members and partners on our application of regional tools for habitat demonstration projects and presenting on progress towards workplan actions. The Habitat GIT is working closely with the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC) to utilize the Regional Conversation Opportunity Areas (RCOA) suite of decision-making tools to help inform conversation and restoration projects taking place with partner organizations.
- The 73rd Annual **Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference, Relevancy and Agility: The Rising Tide of Conservation**, will be held April 9-11, 2017 in Norfolk, Virginia at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. Visit <http://www.neafwa.org/conference.html> for more information.
- The Wetland Workgroup is collaborating with the CBP Web and Communications Teams to refine the project scope of a GIT Funded project “Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs – information access and program cross-training,” with plans for CBT to re-release the RFP in the coming months.
- The SAV Workgroup’s GIT Funded project “Watershed group and citizen monitoring of fish habitat” is in the process of scheduling trainings for watershed groups to monitor SAV and forage fish. An existing citizen science app, Water Reporter, is being updated to include SAV and forage monitoring capabilities.
- The SAV Workgroup is hosting a workshop on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD to focus on the SAV Survey and potential changes in design to help ensure continued monitoring under uncertain funding. Data users have been surveyed and an outcome of the workshop will be consensus on a path forward to continue SAV data collection in the Chesapeake. Contact [runion.kyle@epa.gov](mailto:runion.kyle@epa.gov) for more information.
- The SAV Workgroup is hosting a workshop on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD to focus on the SAV Survey and potential changes in design to help ensure continued monitoring under uncertain funding. Data users have been surveyed and an outcome of the workshop will be consensus on a path forward to continue SAV data collection in the Chesapeake. Contact [runion.kyle@epa.gov](mailto:runion.kyle@epa.gov) for more information.
- The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has completed an update of the Chesapeake stream macroinvertebrate database with data provided by federal, state, county, and local monitoring programs. A draft report of the Bay-wide Index of Biotic Integrity refinement is currently under internal review; a larger release is expected in March 2017. The Stream Health Workgroup hopes to use this refinement to develop an indicator in measuring improved stream health as described in the Stream Health Management Strategy

#### **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](mailto:kwares@chesapeakebay.net)

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

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

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

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

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

#### **CBP Biennial Strategy Review System**

The GIT hosted the Biennial Strategy Review System (SRS) Kickoff Meeting on February 8-9, 2017 in Cambridge, MD. Representatives from the Management Board (MB), Goal Implementation Teams, Workgroups, Outcome leads, and external participants were in attendance. Key themes emerging from this meeting will be presented to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) at the March 1 meeting. The Goal Team continue working with the MB and GIT leadership to develop key components of the Quarterly Progress meetings, set to begin in May 2017.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

#### **GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Workgroup has developed a set of financing questions to be included in the next round of Biennial workplan development, and is working with the Goal Teams, Workgroups, and Outcome leads to ensure that financing considerations are fully integrated into workplans and the SRS process. The Workgroup is also considering how the GIT Funding process can potentially be modified and improved for FY2017 and beyond, as the resource landscape may be subject to change.

Contact: Dan Nees, [dnees@umd.edu](mailto:dnees@umd.edu)

#### **GIT Local Leadership Workgroup**

The Workgroup plans to host a meeting in early April 2017 to review the report on local elected officials' information content needs and preferred delivery mechanisms developed by EcoLogix. The Workgroup will take time to review and comment on the report before a final draft is submitted. This report will be used in the third phase of the local official watershed education project "*Implementation Support for Local Official Watershed Education and Capacity Building.*"

Contact: Reggie Parrish, [parrish.reggie@epa.gov](mailto:parrish.reggie@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.*

**Addressing the Goal Team Science Needs.** The Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team, in coordination with the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs), did an in-depth analyses of science needs for of work plans for the Agreement Outcomes. The science

needs of the CBP Goal Implementation Teams have expanded over the past 2 years to address Watershed Agreement outcomes. The STAR team, worked with the Goal Implementation Teams, to conduct an in-depth analysis on which needs can be met and what are some remaining gaps. Here are some results:

- The goals teams are benefiting from several Federal Partners focusing support on selected outcomes. For example, NOAA is providing the majority of support for the fishery outcomes, USFWS for several habitat outcomes, and USGS for Habitat, Water Quality, Toxic Contaminant, and Climate outcomes.
- We have found new partners to help with the science needs, including the Eastern Brook Trout and Black Duck Joint Ventures.
- Goal Team funding provided by the CBP has also helped address specific needs.
- The CBP Office resources have supported the needs of the Mid-Point Assessment with the GIS Team also supporting the cross-goal team mapping project.

The STAR will summarize the remaining needs and work through the Management Board on ways to address the remaining gaps, STAR will also become a forum for GIT preparation for the SRS Biennial Review, with dedicated meetings occurring two months prior to the SRS quarterly grouping meetings.

**STAR is supporting the Cross GIT Mapping project**, utilizing monthly meetings to solicit feedback on mapping priorities from the Goal Teams. The results will be used by the Goal Teams and partners to identify areas where multiple outcomes can be address and help focus resources.

#### **STAR CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP**

Staff from the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team contributed to the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office compilation of fisheries-based climate research and tools. The contents of the [Climate and Fisheries Bibliography](#) includes both peer-reviewed and grey literature as related to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goal to “increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.

Phase I of the climate change monitoring needs analysis for the Stream Health, Fish Habitat, and Forage Fish workgroups and the Black Duck Action Team is complete. The purpose of the project is to identify needs, priorities and solutions to address climate monitoring gaps for individual workgroups. See process document [here](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded the contract for the GIT funded project “Development of Climate Change Indicators and Metrics for the Chesapeake Bay Program” to the Eastern Research Group in January, 2017. The project will be the first step in the process to develop a suite of indicators, which can be implemented over time, to measure and assess trends or “factors influencing” (i.e., physical climate drivers); ecological and societal response (i.e. impacts); and, programmatic progress toward building an effective response (i.e., adaptation).

The next meeting of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup is scheduled for March 20, 2017 and will be focused on the topic of Green Infrastructure and Coastal Resilience.

For STAR Workgroup Updates, [click here for the STAR Newsletter](#).

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

## **Communications Workgroup**

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

On January 11, the Communications Workgroup held its biannual in-person meeting where they participated in an advanced social media training, discussed communications around the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIPs and voted in new leadership for two-year terms. Catherine Krikstan (UMCES, CBP) will now serve as chair and Krista Parra (DoD) will serve as vice chair.

At its February meeting, the workgroup discussed applying what they learned in the social media training to the group's activities. Mary Gattis (ACB, LGAC Coordinator) solicited input on how jurisdictions measure engagement with local governments. Rachel Felver (ACB, CBP Communications Director) talked about the press CBP received from the [Bay Barometer release](#) as well as the "messaging package" of links, photos and example social media posts for members to use to promote the Barometer.

In March, the workgroup will discuss upcoming events, expected releases and messaging priorities for the Bay Program and workgroup members over the next six months to better coordinate messaging and promote partners' work. Rachel Felver will also present the Bay Program's Midpoint Assessment communications strategy.

On February 1, the Bay Program Communications Office released the [2015-2016 Bay Barometer](#). They held a joint press call with Nick DiPasquale (CBP), Don Boesch (UMCES) and Will Baker (CBF). On February 23, the office released the baseline data for the Bay Program's [Diversity Indicator](#). They also finalized and posted their [Strategic Communications Plan](#).

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

## **Recent Meetings and Events**

Feb. 13	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Feb. 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Feb. 27	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Mar. 7	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership & Management Goal Implementation Team Meeting
Mar. 9	Management Board Meeting