



**Principals' Staff Committee
Program Update
Sep 21, 2021**

CBPO Calendar

Sep 27	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Sep 29	LGAC Committee Webinar
Sep 30	STAR Team Meeting
Oct 1	Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting
Oct 5	Wastewater Treatment Workgroup Conference Call
Oct 5-6	Modeling Workgroup Meeting Quarterly Review
Oct 6	Communications Workgroup Meeting
Oct 7	Land Use Workgroup Conference Call
Oct 7	Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call
Oct 8	BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team Meeting
Oct 13	VA Joint Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting
Oct 13	Toxic Contaminant Workgroup Conference Call
Oct 14	Management Board Meeting
Oct. 20	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee
Oct. 25-26	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
Nov. 4-5	Chesapeake Bay Commission

Program Updates

Bay Program Invited to Lead Three National Webinars

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) has been invited to lead three webinars in the National 303(d)/TMDL Webinar Series. The webinar series trains water quality staff from across the country on issues related to TMDLs and the 303(d) Program. The series, sponsored by [NEIWPCC](#) through a grant from EPA, reaches hundreds of state, tribal, and federal water quality staff and has covered topics ranging from TMDL modeling to community engagement strategies. The CBP will give the following sequence of webinars: *IDF Curves Responsive to Current and Future Climate Change* sometime in September or October, *A Comprehensive Assessment of Climate Change in a Mid-Atlantic Coastal Watershed* sometime in November or December, and *Approaches in Participatory Modeling* sometime in the first quarter of 2021.

Contact: Lew Linker, linker.lewis@epa.gov

LGAC Webinar on American Rescue Plan Act

Acting EPA Regional Administrator Diana Esher encouraged more than 400 local officials in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and across the nation to consider water infrastructure funding opportunities

afforded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Diana provided the remarks during a webinar on Tuesday, September 14, sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and Local Leadership Workgroup. Representatives of the National Association of Counties and National League of Cities provided an overview of ARPA, and several communities shared project ideas.

Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

State Ag Secretaries Propose \$737 Million in Resilient Farms Funding

On August 25, 2021, the agriculture secretaries for Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and West Virginia sent a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack proposing the establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Resilient Farms Initiative (similar to a previously created Mississippi River Basin Initiative). The state secretaries also requested a meeting with Sec. Vilsack to discuss the proposal in more detail, noting an estimated need of approximately \$737 million over the next 10 years. The funding would primarily target sub-watersheds – particularly the Susquehanna River – known to have the greatest influence on the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact: Greg Barranco, barranco.greg@epa.gov

Water Quality Goal Team Approves Updates to Partnership's Modeling Tool – The WQGIT held its monthly call on Monday, August 23, to discuss updates to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST), including the use of high-resolution land use change data (2013-2017) and extending the credit duration for all forest and tree planting practices to 15 years. The WQGIT approved all recommended method and data changes to inform the next version of CAST (to be released in early 2022). In addition, the WQGIT will transition from an in-person meeting to an all-virtual one on October 25-26 to discuss the development and application of the Phase 7 suite of modeling tools.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@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.

Governor Wolf has appointed Lisa Schaefer, Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania to LGAC. Lisa brings a wealth of experience on watershed priorities and local government.

LGAC hosted a September 14th webinar for local decision makers on the opportunity to use federal funds under the American Rescue Plan for stormwater/wastewater infrastructure projects. LGAC Chair Jasmine Gore moderated the webinar and EPA Region 3 Acting Administrator Diana Esher welcomed the over 300 attendees. Speakers from the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties explained the funding possibilities and answered questions and local governments from Charles County, MD, Laurel, DE and DC shared proposed infrastructure-related projects.

LGAC will hold its next quarterly meeting virtually on September 29. Topics for discussion include development of annual recommendations to the EC, draft recommendations review from the June Local Government Forum on regional partnerships, environmental impacts bond case studies, EPA Region 3

environmental justice activities to support local governments and a demonstration of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard. If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during the quarterly meeting, please contact the LGAC Coordinator.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

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

CAC will hold an in-person/hybrid meeting on September 16-17 in Warrenton, VA. Local watershed context offered by Piedmont Environmental Council and Clifton Institute. Members welcome their first meeting with Martha Shimkin. Newly reconstituted CAC Subcommittees will elect their 2022 chairs which may result in new members of the CAC Executive Committee. CAC will review the previous year's meeting topics, be briefed on progress on Watershed Agreement 2025 outcomes and discuss the EPA/CBP budget and ideas for new federal influx of funds. The meeting culminates in consensus on 2021 recommendations to the Executive Council.

Maryland Governor Hogan recently appointed Kate Patton, Executive Director of the Lower Shore Land Trust.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies and 2 DC mayoral vacancies.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), 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)

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@chesapeake.org)

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac

STAC September Quarterly Meeting: September 13-14, 2021

STAC's September Quarterly meeting was held virtually on September 13 and 14. Its members spent the first day of the meeting reviewing ongoing business including STAC membership vacancies, CRC Staffer presentations, and approval of 2022 meeting dates. In the afternoon, presentations were provided on the recent trends from the Conowingo Dam. On day two, STAC focused on the ongoing Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR). At the end of the meeting, STAC Chair Andy Miller (UMD) rotated off as Chair and Kathy Boomer (Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research) rotated in for a two-year term. Larry Sanford (UMCES) took over as STAC Vice Chair.

Meeting materials are available on the [STAC September Meeting Page](#).

Upcoming STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

December 7-8, 2021

STAC's 2022 meeting dates will be announced after approval at the September Quarterly Meeting.

STAC-Sponsored Workshops

Remaining FY20 Workshops

1. **Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap** (September 15-16, 2021)
2. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (September 28-29, 2021)

FY2021 STAC Workshop Approved Proposals

1. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (State of the Science Workshop)
2. Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting (Programmatic Workshop)
3. Improving modeling and mitigation strategies for poultry ammonia emissions across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop)
4. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (Programmatic Workshop)
5. Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (Programmatic)

STAC Reports

Recently Released (links to reports)

1. **[Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 \(FY2018\)](#)**
2. **[Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health \(FY2019\)](#)**
3. **[Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership \(FY2019\)](#)**

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 Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership. **Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.**

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)

3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)

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

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Sustainable 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.

- **Summer Membership Meeting** - The Fish GIT recently hosted its biannual membership meeting. With over 80 participants and 15 guest presenters, our membership discussed outcome updates, connections between observational capabilities and living resource management, and decision support tools that are under development. The Fish GIT leadership and Executive Committee also facilitated a first conversation surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice at the Bay Program and in our GIT. Some great ideas were shared, and it was evident that more conversations will need to be hosted in the near future.
- **Fish Habitat Action Team (FHAT)** - Chris Moore, a senior fisheries biologist from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, will be taking over as chair of the Action Team. Chris works to ensure sound management of numerous Chesapeake Bay fisheries including blue crabs, striped bass, and menhaden. He is also involved in numerous habitat restoration projects including oyster reef restoration, submerged aquatic vegetation, forested buffers, and living shorelines. He is looking forward to pulling all these efforts together in leading the team.
- **Chesapeake Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC)** - The CBSAC recently completed its annual Blue Crab Advisory Report (which was fully endorsed by the Fish GIT Executive Committee). The annual report shows low juvenile and male abundance, but female abundance and exploitation rates are well within the accepted range, leading the CBSAC to recommend no management actions at this time. The full report can be read [HERE](#).

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.

Below are the September program updates for Habitat GIT!

- The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Stream Health, and Wetlands Workgroups will all be submitting proposals for GIT Funding.
- Fish Passage is still looking for a co-chair for the workgroup. A formal job description for this position is currently being drafted and will be completed in the near future.
- The Stream Health, Fish Passage, and Brook Trout workgroups are part of the Healthy Watersheds cohort and are well underway in the SRS review process.

- The SAV Workgroup is part of the Aquatic Life cohort and is preparing for the first SRS check-in meeting on September 28th.
- A small group of Wetland Workgroup members will meet on September 28th to discuss options for extending the BMP credit duration of wetland restoration past the current 15-year timeline.
- At the end of August, the Habitat GIT workgroup chairs and steering committee met to discuss the future direction and actions of the GIT, GIT funding proposals, outcome attainability, and the agenda for the Fall HGIT meeting.

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann (ossman.megan@epa.gov) and Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

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

The WQGIT held a meeting on August 23, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.

- WQGIT consensus on the use of the high-resolution land use change data product (2013-2017) as the “best available data” to inform CAST 2021.
- WQGIT approved the 15-year credit duration for all forest and tree planting practices.
- WQGIT approved all method and data changes as reflected and recommended in the CAST-21 workplan.
- WQGIT decided to hold an all- virtual meeting on October 25- 26th to discuss Phase 7 development and application.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on September 27, 2021. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed includes:

- GIT Funding Project Proposals
- Tributary Summaries
- STAC Climate Change 2.0 Workshop Report
- NAWQA Circular
- October Phase 7 Meeting Agenda
- Overview of October Monitoring meeting

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.

The Healthy Watersheds GIT will be meeting again on October 12th at 11am. Through the SRS process in August the GIT has been working to refine and streamline the logic and action plan, incorporated DEI and climate considerations and statements into the management strategy, developed a GIT funding proposal for refining the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment, and been working collaboratively

with other GITs and workgroups to advance co-benefits, land use, resiliency, and healthy watersheds through multiple current GIT funding outreach and synthesis projects. A goal team chair is still needed and there is an active search with interviews to follow soon for the open staffer position.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: rthompso@chesapeakebay.net

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

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

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership / Protected Lands Workgroup

- The Protected Lands Workgroup is developing its new Logic and Action Plan after the Quarterly Progress Meeting. The revised Logic and Action Plan is due October 29th, 2021.
- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Steering Committee, which currently serves as the Protected Lands Workgroup, will be meeting Wednesday September 9th. A portion of that agenda will be used to conduct workgroup business.
- The CCP is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of ‘Green Spaces’ in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities.”
- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform success.chesapeakeconservation.org. Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner (wisnero@chesapeake.org) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they’d like to be developed.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship Workgroup anticipates the release of the Chesapeake Behavior Change web-tool which will house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set in late September. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Stewardship Workgroup will be meeting on Wednesday, October 6th 10:00-12:00. During our time together we’ll review the accomplishments since the last meeting, discuss the Chesapeake Behavior Change site, review the 2-yr action plan and discuss the change in workgroup leadership.
- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently seeking a chair to lead the workgroup alongside current chair Suzanne Etgen, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. Details for the voluntary position can be found on the [Stewardship Workgroup webpage](#). Please distribute this opportunity to appropriate candidates. The deadline is extended until the position is filled.
- The workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development” which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to

support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.

- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.
- The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Education Workgroup are supporting the inaugural Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative hosted by the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office.
- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September 2019 to increase sustained and systematic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks included (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals. The OLNI team is currently selecting two new geographic areas to implement the OLNI model. They will be announced sometime in September.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites. A small subset of the workgroup has agreed to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward.
- The Public Access workgroup leadership is in contact with the Protected Lands Workgroup about the connections between the two GIT Funded Projects that they’re both pursuing.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; wisnero@chesapeake.org

Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup welcomes Allison Ng for a 120-day detail from EPA’s Philadelphia office to help coordinate the Diversity Workgroup. Allison has a BA in Sociology/Anthropology from Colgate University and an MS in Environmental Studies/Conservation Biology from Green Mountain College. Since joining EPA in 2016, she has worked on a variety of management support activities including succession planning, retreat facilitation, strategic planning, the Regional realignment, and the relocations.

The Diversity Workgroup also continues to support the DEIJ Action Teams efforts with the implementation plan. The public comment period has officially opened and they are looking for community feedback on the plan from now until September 27. The press release is now posted on the CBP website

at: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_chesapeake_bay_program_releases_its_diversity_equity_inclusion_and_just

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy (Staffer)

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team

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

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System

All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on [ChesapeakeDecisions](#).

The Healthy Watershed's cohort was the first cohort to go through the current SRS cycle (3rd cycle). The SRS Planning Team has resumed its regular meeting schedule.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Goal Team 6

The GIT 6 Fall Quarterly Meeting took place on September 15, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: a review of the status of action items related to the GIT's workplan, an overview of revisions to the Governance Document proposed by the Governance Document Action Team (GDAT), a discussion on the DEIJ Strategy Implementation Plan, a reflection and discussion of proposed changes to the SRS process following the Biennial Meeting, and workgroup updates.

Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov; or Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

2021 GIT Funding Program – Following an extensive review of the GIT Funding Program by a volunteer team of stakeholders, GIT 6 has finalized the 2021 GIT Funding Program Manual. Changes for the coming round of funding include allowance for one project request per Outcome in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and an expanded set of project evaluation criteria. The manual was released by mid-July 2021 and project ideas will be due in the Trust portal September 27, 2021. A training session on submitting ideas to the Chesapeake Bay Trust online portal was conducted on August 16, 2021. Funding decisions will be made in Fall 2021 and project awards will be during the first quarter of 2022.

Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. A draft of the revised document will be presented to the Management Board for concurrence at the September 2021 meeting. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ Directive, clarified responsibilities with regard to the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making. GIT6 met to discuss the proposed revisions on August 24, 2021.

Organizational Analysis – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in Fall 2021.

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

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting took place on July 28, 2021 as a conference call. During the meeting, Maggie Cunningham from Region 03 presented on a new EPA Grant

program and provided an update from the STAC/Local government mini workshop that took place in May. The workgroup adopted the BFWG charge. Agenda topics included: a discussion on the workplan draft, an update on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) 2020 EC Recommendation, a discussion on the USDA-NRCS-EPA Collaborative Grant Conditions Memo, and an update on the Conowingo Finance Strategy Update. The BFWG will hold its next meeting on October 27, 2021.

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

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its quarterly meeting on August 24, 2021 themed around Climate Resilience. The meeting identified tools that local governments can use to increase resilience to climate-related flooding and received LLWG workgroup feedback on ongoing efforts, including preliminary results of stakeholder interviews with local government planners. The LLWG will hold its next meeting on November 9, 2021 themed around Land Use. Efforts to roll out A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay continue in partnership with state agencies and local government associations.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), johnson.caroline@epa.gov; Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Shannon Moore (Chair), SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov; or Heidi Bonnaffon (Vice Chair), hbonnaffon@mwco.org

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.

STAR

The theme for the [August](#) STAR meeting was Improving Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Networks in response to the Principle Staff Committee (PSC) request made in March 2021. Peter Tango provided an update on the information gathered for the Tidal, Nontidal, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Benthic, and Citizen Monitoring networks. It focused on improvements to address the Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome along with potential opportunities to improve monitoring for other CBP outcomes. Based on Peter's overview, STAR engaged the GITs on other CBP outcomes with two approaches to be part of the enhanced monitoring recommendations. One approach is for the GIT to review the monitoring needs in the CBP Science Needs Database and update it with any missing monitoring gaps or language of current monitoring to include utility and urgency of need. The next step is a GIT to develop a 2-page summary of a need for a network in relation for CBP goals and outcomes. All of the Monitoring Newsletters providing more details is available on the [CBP STAR webpage](#).

Modeling Workgroup

A comprehensive look at Chesapeake Bay Program modeling is featured in a paper published in journal Ecological Modeling. The article is titled Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling System: Overview & Recommendations for Future Development and is a tour de force piece describing the collaborative science and modeling in the CBP. You can access it through this link -

<https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1dQAp15DJ-1qxi>

The next Quarterly Review of CBP Modeling and Analysis is scheduled for October 5-6.

Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT)

Working through the ITAT, several Chesapeake Bay science partners collaborated to compile tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. These documents provide for each tributary:

- how tidal water quality has changed over time, and
- how factors expected to drive those patterns have changed over time.
- a vehicle to generate insights connecting changes in aquatic conditions to their drivers.

ITAT partners included the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, United States Geological Survey, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, with additional support from Devereux Consulting, Perry Statistical Consulting, and Tetrattech.

All the materials for the tributary strategies have been posted on the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) Website: <https://cast.chesapeakebay.net/Home/TMDLTracking#tributaryRptsSection>

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The [August](#) Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) meeting shared project findings from the two climate change interns. Anissa Foster's presentation focused on considerations for a Bay Water Temperature indicator connected to ecological impacts to fisheries. Adriana Marcela Murphy's presentation focused on data needs and policy considerations related to the application of blue carbon crediting protocols in the Chesapeake Bay region. The remaining part of the meeting identified priority climate adaptation actions under the Adaptation Outcome that align with the newly approved Logic & Action Plan. Some priority actions identified were facilitating connections between grant entities and partner applicants to strengthen future applications for resilience funding, supporting marsh migration research and management application, connecting the blue carbon protocol review with groups interested in implementing blue carbon projects, and assisting with synthesizing information on rising water temperature change related to ecological impacts.

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org and Alex Gunnerson; gunnersona@chesapeake.org

Indicators

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Status/Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Public Access	<p>In 2020, 12 new public access sites were added (six in Virginia, five in Maryland, and one in Pennsylvania). This brings the total to 206 public access sites that have opened on and around the Chesapeake Bay between 2010 and 2020, marking 69% achievement of the partnership's goal to add 300 new access sites to the watershed by 2025.</p> <p>Although the number of new public access sites decreased from 2019's total of 18 new</p>	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/public-access-site-development

	sites, annual variation is expected based on partner ability to fund and develop sites in any given year. In 2020, partners reported that COVID-19 may have impacted public access site development. In addition, some states and local governments are focusing on maintenance of and upgrades to existing sites due to COVID-19, age of the public access site's infrastructure, climate change, and budgets.	
Sustainable Schools	In 2019, 15% of public and charter schools in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—634 schools in all—were certified sustainable. This marks a 4% increase from the number of sustainable schools in the watershed in 2017.	https://www.chesapeakeprogram.org/engaged-communities/sustainable-schools

In addition, we anticipate finalizing the following indicator updates in advance of the October MB meeting:

- *Reducing Pollution Indicator - update with 2020 data*
- *Water Quality Standards Attainment – update with 2019 data*
- *Water Quality Loads and Flow – update with 2019 data*

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: Katheryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov

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 Workgroup

The September meeting of the Communications Workgroup was cancelled due to other Bay Program meeting conflicts. The October meeting will be our biannual retreat, focusing on video editing.

Communications Office:

The Communications Office said farewell to its Communications and Outreach Specialist, Caitlyn Johnstone on August 13, and its summer intern, Ethan Weston on August 25. For the time being, please contact Rachel Felver at rfelver@chesapeakebay.net if you have any outreach needs.

The Communications Office is excited to announce that the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay was chosen to continue providing services to the Bay Program under a new six-year communications and multimedia grant.

On August 18, the Communications Office held a public webinar providing an overview of how green infrastructure projects at your home can protect local waterways. A recording of the webinar can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NIhrg3JfE&list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTxyiO2P_wP2vO4R2v&index=6

In September, the Diversity Workgroup will lead the monthly webinar to discuss the DEIJ Strategy Implementation Plan.

The following blogs were published in August:

- These university arboretums are giving it more than the old college try

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

- Our rivers' lovers—freshwater mussels—have the potential to improve water quality

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

- A beloved African-American neighborhood navigates its economic and environmental future

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/photo-essay-on-turner-station>

- Bred for the Bay: Getting to know the Chesapeake Bay retriever

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

- The Chesapeake Bay Program releases its diversity, equity, inclusion and justice implementation plan

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

- Tap into a Chesapeake drinking water lesson

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

- Black history lives on in a mountain region just outside Washington D.C.

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/black_history_lives_on_in_a_mountain_region_just_outside_washington_d.c

- Queen Anne's County uses Coronavirus relief funding to boost environmental education

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

- Three lessons for building partnerships with underrepresented organizations

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