

Update on How CBP is Being Accountable and Communicating Assessment Information to the Public in 2012

Requesting Input & Recommendations from STAR

Sept 27, 2012 Presentation to STAR
Nita Sylvester, on behalf of
Joint Indicators Workgroup
and Coordinators/Staffers Group



Purpose of Presentation

- Status of STAR/GITs/CWG implementation of “How CBP Will Be Accountable and Communicate Assessment Information to the Public in 2012”
- Progress addressing MB requests to STAR/GITs
- Discuss issues related to the above
- Request STAR input on plans for
 - how CBP will be accountable and communicate assessment information to the public in 2013
 - how CBP will communicate information about the Bay that is not related to current GIT goals but of high public interest

Are We Meeting MB Expectations for 2012?

What We Said We'd Do	By 2012 EC meeting	By End of 2012
Update Indicators with 2011 data (and revise as needed)	15/24 (63%)	18/33 (55%)
Develop New Indicators	1/1 (100%)	1/2 (50%)
Communicate the new and updated* info via EC mtg materials, press releases, web stories, and/or year-end summary (*in some cases, 2010 data was an "update" we communicated by EC mtg)	19/28 (68%)	19/35 (54%)

Out of Date Indicators: Restoration Efforts

Restoration Efforts	Plan
Wetlands Enhancement & Rehabilitation	Habitat GIT to revise/update by fall 2012
Oyster Restoration	Fisheries GIT: develop by 2013 EC mtg? (told MB we'd develop partial indicator in 2013); Web Team: remove old indicator from website ASAP
Developing Watershed Management Plans	Watershed/Stewardship GIT coordinators: evaluating results of Watershed GIT poll; discussing w/ Watershed GIT state reps.
Protected Lands	Stewardship GIT to update/revise by fall 2012
Public Access Sites	Stewardship GIT to update/revise by fall 2012
K-12 Education (MWEE)	Stewardship GIT to update/refine by spring 2013
Citizen/Community Action - BPC	Removing (see later slide)

Out of Date Indicators: Health

Bay & Watershed Health	Plan
Tidal Wetland Abundance	Report back to Wetlands Workgroup in fall 2012 (another year's worth of data available soon, but not in time for 2012 end-of-year summary)
Striped Bass Abundance	Fisheries GIT revise/update fall 2012?
Juvenile Menhaden Abundance	Fisheries GIT revise/update fall 2012?
American Shad Abundance	Shad Indicator AT: develop recs. for new indicator; test w/ 2013 data beginning spring 2013; Web Team: remove old indicator from website after new one developed in 2013
Oyster Abundance	Fisheries GIT: develop by 2013 EC mtg? (told MB we'd develop partial indicator in 2013); Web Team: remove old indicator from website after new one developed in spring 2013
Chemical Contaminants	WQGIT: update Spring 2013
N, P, Sed Long-term FAC Trends	NTWG: update Fall 2012
N, P, Sed Yield and Short-term FAC Trends	NTWG to revise/update by fall 2012

Out of Date Indicators: Factors

Factors Impacting Bay/Watershed Health	Plan
N, P, Sed Loads	NTWG: update Fall 2012
Forest Cover	Forest WG reviewed options 9/5/12; agreed to use FIA data for now; updating in fall 2012; early 2013 FWG will review other sources of data and bring proposal to STAR in summer 2013

Development of New Indicators

Indicator	Plan
PK-Grade 12 Environmental Literacy (told MB we'd develop in 2013)	No longer to be developed
Water Quality Standards Attainment (no deadline was established)	CAP WG evaluating options for presentation to EPA (done), WQGIT (9/24 or 10/9/12) and STAR (10/25 or 11/29/12)
Brook Trout (told MB we'd develop in 2012)	Brook Trout Indicator AT: recs. for new outcome and indicator to be discussed by Team 9/25/12
Water Temperature (no deadline established)	Tidal WG to discuss tidal water temp indicator at Sept 20 mtg; Non-Tidal WG to discuss non-tidal water temp indicator at October mtg.

Responding to MB Feedback

Request	Plan
Has Watershed GIT dismissed the “Developing Watershed Management Plans” indicator?	See previous slide
Utility of Phytoplankton indicator; will its removal create a gap or are remaining indicators sufficient for category?	Tidal WG: respond to MB request ASAP; will discuss at Sept 20th mtg.
Determine feasibility of updating Tidal Wetlands Abundance indicator	See previous slide
American Shad Abundance indicator should continue to be reported	See previous slide
Review new data/time period for Forest Cover indicator	See previous slide
Determine if current mix of indicators in Watershed Health categories are sufficient	Watershed GIT/Non-Tidal WG: respond by end of 2012
Develop water temperature indicator	See previous slide
Determine if current mix of indicators in Factors Impacting Health categories are sufficient	Watershed GIT/Non-Tidal WG: respond by end of 2012; Fisheries GIT may become involved to consider incorporating invasive catfish indicator.

Removal of Obsolete Indicators

Indicator	Plan
Public Access Index	Web Team: remove index from CBP website and elevate supporting indicator (“sites”) after its revision/update
Citizen and Community Action: Bay Partner Communities	Web Team: remove old indicator from website ASAP
Developing Watershed Management Plans	Web Team: awaiting decision of Watershed GIT and MB

Communication-Related Issue

Issue	Plan
<p>In 2012, CBP agreed to no more embargoes of updated indicator info.</p> <p>Updated data were to be made available on CBP website as soon as available.</p>	<p>Seek recommendations from STAR and CWG in Sept 2012</p> <p>Elevate STAR/CWG recommendation to MB in Oct 2012</p>
<p>However, updated info/data for Reducing Pollution indicators were embargoed for website upload until EC mtg</p>	

More Communication Issues

Question/Issue	Plan
How do we communicate Bay-related data/info of interest to the public, when the topic of interest is not a focus for any CBP GITs?	CWG recs. 9/20/12; elevate to STAR 9/27/12; to MB 10/10/12; final plan approved by MB Nov/Dec 2012.
Do we have the freedom on ChesapeakeBay.net website to utilize data from other sources if CBP does not/cannot support the data-collection?	<p>In the meantime...</p> <p>Carin to allow time for “story-telling” opportunities at beginning or end of Coordinator/Staffer mtgs (providing opportunities to connect stories to other GITs or topics, e.g. “swimmability”/TMDL connection).</p> <p>Consider elevating some “stories” to MB agendas and ChesapeakeBay.net website.</p>
Are there/should there be limitations on the sources used and how that info is communicated?	
Should Social Science group be engaged to provide input/assistance with these issues?	

How CBP Will Communicate Bay Info Not Related to Current GIT Goals But of High Public Interest

- Examples of issues:
 - Beach closures due to bacteria counts
 - Flooding
 - Fracking
 - Environmental justice
 - Other human health issues/stories
- *CBP does not collect data of this kind but it is of high public interest. How to weave in communications related to these issues is as yet unresolved. Further consideration/discussion by Comm Wkgrp and CBP Comm Office pending.*

How CBP Will Be Accountable and Communicate Assessment Info to Public in 2013

Proposed....

- CBP Comm to develop pro-active plan for communicating stories in 2013 (rather than “waiting” on indicators to be updated)
 - Schedule will developed based upon timeliness & relevance to public & media interest
 - News items to be story-based (not data-driven) and include indicator data if available
 - News stories will discuss both health and restoration indicators as applicable (ie: we will not nec. separate health & restoration info)
 - Reducing Pollution Indicators to be released at EC meeting; all other indicators to be used by CBP Comm. in news stories throughout the year

Need Overarching Plans for 2013

- Requesting STAR input on plans for
 - how CBP will be accountable and communicate assessment information to the public in 2013
 - how CBP will communicate information about the Bay that is not related to current GIT goals but of high public interest.
- Requesting options and recommendations from STAR be provided to MB in October 2012.
- Based on MB feedback, develop final plans for 2013 and present to the MB for their approval in Nov or Dec 2012.