



## Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM May 30th, 2013

Event webpage:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18838/>

### Objectives:

- 1) STAR will hear next steps and action required for the completion of the Lessons Learned Brochure.
  - 2) STAR will receive an update about the FY13 funding reduction and determine a plan of action to support the Tidal and Nontidal monitoring networks through this budget reduction process.
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### Action Items:

- Invite MTAC to present the nontidal waters indicator protocol to the Nontidal Water Quality Workgroup (**STAR Leadership**)
  - A STAR meeting with the objective of reviewing the GIT's outcomes and reviewing the monitoring and assessment needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program. (**STAR Leadership**)
  - Invite Gregory B. Noe, lead author of the science summary to present at a STAR meeting (**STAR Leadership**)
  - Present the funding reduction (5-10%) to the Tidal and Nontidal Workgroups for input on next steps in evaluating the monitoring program possible cuts. (**Workgroup Chairs and Coordinators**)
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## MINUTES

**Welcome Introduction and Updates** – Bill Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)

- The Chesapeake Bay Report Card is being revised for this year's release (June 2013)
  - Additional indicators [Total Nitrogen](#) and [Total Phosphorous](#)
  - Removing [PIBI indicator](#) for lack of MD data analysis
- MTAC Group released a [nontidal waters indicator protocol](#), found on the IAN website
  - **ACTION:** Present the nontidal waters indicator protocol to the Nontidal Water Quality Workgroup
- August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 [Volunteer Monitoring Conference](#), Shepherdstown, WV
- Habitat Goal Implementation Team:
  - Using GIS to evaluate Brook Trout occupancy and climate resiliency data with other factors to view trends.

- Stream Health Outcome (Formerly the Stream Health Indicator) has changed to 10% of streams will be characterized as “fair” or better in 2025 from the original 60% goal
    - Convene an Action Team to refine the indicator to show change in stream health over time
- Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team:
  - The Bay Program Agreement drafts are in review by the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs), review STAR’s mission/involvement in the GITs Goals and Outcomes.
  - For each of the outcomes the GIT’s will write up outcome justification papers with scientific factors that may apply to STAR’s monitoring program.
  - **ACTION:** A STAR meeting with the objective of reviewing the GIT’s outcomes and reviewing the monitoring and assessment needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Sediments behind Conowingo dam: Army corps of Engineers are currently calculating cost estimates for dredging – [Minutes from Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment Meetings](#) (LSRWA)

#### **Communications Discussion – All**

STAR provided topical recommendations for the Communications Workgroup including:

- STAR workgroup member’s will be asked to review the Lessons Learned product (BMPs study) *by Liza Hernandez and Cristina Lyerly*
- [Science summary](#) – addressing flood plain trapping of sediment and nutrients in urban areas released *by USGS*
  - **ACTION:** Invite Gregory B. Noe, lead author of the science summary to present at a STAR meeting
- [Science summary](#) – addressing sea-level rise in the Chesapeake Bay Region released *by USGS*
- [Sea-level rise projections](#) released *by University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science*

#### **Monitoring Budget Update – Peter Tango**

Peter Tango presented the FY13 Funding shortfall for the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program (Tidal, Nontidal, and SAV). In the short term (3 months), the Tidal and Nontidal monitoring networks must provide a recommendation for a recalibration across all programs for a new budget target. In the long term (9 months), a Monitoring Realignment Action Team (MRAT) II process will provide recommended actions across the monitoring program for more permanent cuts.

#### **Summary of Discussion**

- In the first MRAT process, there was an analysis of the Tidal monitoring program, to recommend where cuts can be made.
- Temporal and spatial analysis would assist in the determination of possible cuts
- Incorporate grant match funding loss in the decision process
  - Tidal network 50% jurisdictional match

- Nontidal network 5% jurisdictional match
- **ACTION:** Present the funding reduction (5-10%) to the Tidal and Nontidal Workgroups for input on next steps in evaluating the monitoring program possible cuts.
- Currently STAR is suggesting a 50:50 split of cuts between Tidal and Nontidal for fairness in the short term.

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LEADERSHIP:

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**NEXT STAR MEETING**

June 27, 2013

10AM – 1PM