STAR Team Business Meeting

May 21, 2015
10:00AM – 12:00PM

Meeting Webpage:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21559/

Purpose: Determine STAR's role for assisting the goal teams develop strategies for monitoring and assessment in support of the Watershed Agreement.

MINUTES

Welcome, Introduction *(Scott Phillips – STAR Co-Chair)*
Scott Phillips, STAR Co-Chair
Bill Dennison, STAR Co-Chair
Mark Bennett, STAR Co-Chair
Peter Tango, STAR Coordinator
Lea Rubin, STAR Staffer
Mindy Ehrich, Indicator Assessment Team Coordinator
Jennie Gundersen, Status and Trends Team Coordinator
Jeni Keisman, Integrated Trends Team Coordinator
Cindy Johnson, Data Integrity Workgroup Co-Chair

Determine how to collect information on additional science needs beyond monitoring for the Goal Teams.

- ACTION: GIT liaisons will be active participants in GIT meetings to catalogue science needs and relay that information at STAR meetings.
    - **Fisheries:** Peter Tango
    - **Habitats:** Scott Phillips
    - **Water Quality:** Joel Blomquist and Gary Shenk
    - **Toxic Contaminates:** Scott Phillips
    - **Healthy Watersheds:** John Wolf
    - **Stewardship:** Bill Dennison
    - **Climate Change:** Mark Bennett

- ACTION: GITs can help STAR identify science gaps by identifying the research, assessment, monitoring, GIS, and modeling gaps during the development of their 2-year workplans.
    - Gaps are not identified in the current version of the workplan template.

- ACTION: Monthly STAR meetings, for the rest of 2015, will be focused on one to two GITs per meeting. These meetings will focus on the science needs for their GITs Outcomes of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. The information from the Indicator Assessment Team will drive the discussions.

Shaping the GIT focused STAR meetings

- The Goal Teams will be asked:
    - Who are the science partners that will do work towards the Outcomes and will be reflected in the 2-year workplans?
    - What science gaps do you have, so that STAR and STAC can reach out to the scientific community beyond those currently engaged in the partnership to meet the needs of the GITs?

Follow-up after GIT focused STAR Meetings

- How do we advertise the research needs of the GITs?
    - We can plant the seed of research ideas to the academic community in order to reach outside the Bay Program to engage new individuals or groups.

STAC Workshops

- For the Integrated Monitoring STAC Workshop, filming presentations to review before the workshop, of the monitoring needs of the GITs could add to the workshop discussion, and reduce the need for background presentations. (i.e. Trends Workshop)
- The final report could include a video summarizing the conclusions from the workshop.
- This workshop can help to identify monitoring/Bay Program science priorities moving forward with the Watershed Agreement.
- ACTION: STAR will determine which monitoring gaps to focus on for the STAC Workshop. This includes the production of pre-workshop videos.

Initial Findings from the Indicator Assessment Team and possible strategies to address monitoring needs for each Agreement outcome

- **Fish Passage**
    - ACTION: STAR can seek science providers to help prioritize which stream miles to open, not limited to where there is money for implementation.
    - A potential citizen science project could include: citizens confirming if fish are swimming upstream, where stream miles have been opened. Assessing the effectiveness of implementation.

- **SAV**
    - No STAR action at this time.

- **Oyster**
    - ACTION: The Fisheries GIT requested assistance with COD Database for oyster restoration. The DIWG could help with data comparability, and the Data Center could help with data management.

- **Forest Buffer**
    - ACTION: Discuss the true potential of high-resolution land-use data.
    - ACTION: Ask if the GIS Team requires STAR support for the evaluation of forest fragmentation being calculated as tree canopy.

- **Brook Trout**
  - ACTION: Request a STAR seminar presentation on the progress on Book Trout sampling design.

- **Environmental Literacy**
  - STAR support requested for indicator development after environmental literacy survey is complete.

- **Forage Fish**
  - ACTION: Request that Forage Fish Outcome Stakeholders participate in the re-establishment of the MD phytoplankton monitoring program design.

- **Fish Habitat**
  - ACTION: Involve fish habitat experts in discussions about the future visions of the Shallow Water Monitoring program, to include a possible STAR workshop.

- **Black Duck**
  - ACTION: Receive an update on the TetraTech supported research.

- **Toxic Contaminants Research:**
  - ACTION: Ask the Toxic Contaminants Workgroup to define an indicator for this outcome.
    - Is STAR support wanted for the development of an indicator?

- **Toxic Contaminant Policy and Prevention:**
  - ACTION: Mindy Ehrich is assisting Greg Allen by doing research into potential PCB assessments.

- **Healthy Watersheds:**
  - ACTION: Form an Action Team (USGS, states, GIS Team) to assist in the development of a cross-GIT GIS tracking tool to help identify current or potential healthy watersheds.

- **Citizen Stewardship:**
  - ACTION: Identify additional support for STAR, in order to properly support this outcome, which is outside of our usual capabilities. This includes (but not limited to): Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, CBF, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and James Beckley (VA).
  - ACTION: Receive an update on the TetraTech supported literature review.

- **Climate Resiliency:**
  - Managing the Agreement goals for resilience is <u>different</u> from managing for health. Are the goal teams considering climate, and if so, how?
  - ACTION: Potentially with STAR support, the Climate Change Workgroup can try a pilot study, using one or two outcomes to see the process all the way through (i.e. developing baselines, monitoring, assessments, and indicators).

- **Wetlands:**
    - ACTION: STAR support requested in assisting the Wetlands Workgroup integrate high resolution land-use data into their assessments.

- **Stream Health:**
    - ACTION: Claire Buchanan (ICPRB) is supporting this outcome. Invite Claire to a STAR meeting to discuss science needs for this outcome.

Summary of Next Steps

- Schedule topical STAR meetings to gather more detailed information on science gaps.
- STAR, STAC, and GITs will prioritize the science support needs through a coordinated effort.
- Determine which monitoring gaps to include in the STAC Integrated Monitoring Workshop
- Develop a plan to enhance partnerships, integrate new expertise into the STAR Team and the Partnership.