



Scientific, Technical Assessment & Reporting Team Meeting

TOPIC: STAR Workgroup Work Plans & Watershed Trends

March 24, 2016

10:00AM – 1:00PM

Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)

Conference Line: 1-866-299-3188 Access Code: 410-267-5731
Adobe Connect: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/star>
Event webpage: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23782>

AGENDA

Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements (*Bill Dennison, Scott Phillips and Mark Bennett - STAR Co-Chairs, Peter Tango - STAR Coordinator*)

Announcements

- April 4,5, 2016: Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at the Westin, Annapolis, MD. Sunday Afternoon April 3 -workshop LCC tools on the landscape. <http://www.neafwa.org/>
- April 6- North Atlantic LCC- Steering Committee meeting. Goal Team Chairs are being invited to this. Scott Phillips will also attend to hopefully engage these potential science partners.
- April 7 and 9, 2016: Tidewater Chapter of AFS at SERC- Fisheries reps from the CBP will present. Directed at researchers
- April 12 and 13- STAC/STAR Workshop- Integrating Monitoring Networks Workshop at the University of Maryland Horn Point Campus, Cambridge, MD.
- May- Sturgeon meeting, USGS. Shepherdstown, WV NCTC. Movements, habitats, climate change, etc. Chesapeake Bay Focused.
- Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative is the name for the new CBP Citizen Science project

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops, and Webinars

- [National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (NCER) – April 18-22, Coral Springs, FL.
- [National Water Quality Monitoring Council](#) (NWQML) – May 2-6, 2016, Tampa, FL- Registration now open.
- [American Society of Limnology and Oceanography](#), Sante Fe, NM – June 2016. (Notable, there is at least one Continuous Water Quality Monitoring session).
- [The International Society for Ecological Modeling \(ISEM\) Global Conference](#) – May 8-12, 2016, Towson University, MD
- [Chesapeake Modeling Symposium 2016](#) – June 1-2, 2016, Williamsburg, VA
- [Citizen Science Association](#) (CitSci2017) – February, Raleigh, NC
- [National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop](#)- Aug 23-25, 2016, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- [Call for Speakers: Beyond Nutrients: Case Studies and Tools for Addressing TMDLs](#)- Conference on June 8, 2016. Linthicum Heights, MD
- [Annual Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference - Annapolis, MD](#)- May 24-25
- [First Investigation of Stream Health- A New Citizen Science Activity](#)- May 25, 2016 – Webinar- to explore how a new citizen science protocol, First Investigation of Stream Health (FISH) can be used to engage landowners and volunteers.

Communications (All)

STAR will notify the communications team of upcoming publications and projects.

- The IAN-Ecocheck Chesapeake Bay Report Card is currently looking to be released in April, date TBD. SAV results are being more extensively studied, and there will be a separate Bay-wide press release on the results of the 2015 annual SAV acreage survey.
- Blue Crab Winter dredge survey is wrapping up. We anticipate results in mid-April.
- USGS has a [new publication](#) on contaminants in Osprey in the Chesapeake Bay. Osprey populations have rebounded well from the DDT ban, however, tissue PCB levels are being sustained. New chemicals (flame retardants) are found in the Osprey that are affecting their reproductive systems, but have not affected their reproduction numbers. Three year study.
- Doug Moyer's nontidal water quality talk has been given extensively, and the talk will be up on the IAN [website](#) within a week.
- A STAR newsletter is being developed by Melissa Merritt that will help to keep parties (mainly GITs) updated. This is primarily for our internal use. It is however viewable by the public. The newsletter is intended to provide concise information on STAR activities and products.
 - The newsletter is viewed as helpful. Looking to define a time frame of release for what's needed by STAR leadership, workgroups, and the GITs. Bill Dennison thinks monthly is good to go for these updates
 - Greg Barranco: Consider if it would be better to combine this work with other CBP news so that there's one source for updates.
 - Maybe include recent reports and articles as well in this newsletter
 - **ACTION:** Meet with web and IT team to consider a personalization of the STAR page on Sharepoint.
 - Bill Dennison suggested it might be good to send newsletter out, and then reference Sharepoint as an archive area for past issues.

Recent STAC Activity Summary (Rachel Dixon CRC STAC)

[SEE PRESENTATION.](#)

A summary of all ongoing and upcoming workshop activities from STAC

- Peter Tango provided updates from Rachel Dixon regarding the recent STAC workshops, outlining their current efforts and reported progress from these workshops to date in 2016 and early 2017.
- Short oral presentations with take-home messages of STAC workshops at STAR meetings is a request from Bill Dennison
 - Issue brought up by Bruce Vogt: need to get STAC recommendations to management board members in concise and simplified form without getting into the weeds.
 - Kristen Saunders suggests bringing people up to date about forage fish coming out from efforts of GITs and STAC recommendations. Do something like "ignite talks"- 5 minutes, 20 slides, 20 seconds per slide. Allows time for discussion.
 - Joel Blomquist encourages STAR to be part of the review response for STAC recommendations. Independent analysis and recommendations from STAR could be helpful.

- Talk with Management Board to make sure we offer assistance to STAC appropriately.
- Showcase Ignite talk style summary presentation at the Integrated Networks Workshop in April.

Status and Trends - Update on Workgroup Formation (*Laura Free, EPA*)

SEE PRESENTATION.

*ACTION: * 15 minute presentation and 15 minute discussion for this update to provide feedback on priorities for 2016.*

- Laura outlined the focus and purpose of the Status and Trends Team, and provided an update on the approach to lay out a work plan. Need ideas about what kind of information to collect, so close coordination will occur with Integrated Monitoring Networks WG.
- Needs and future directions were identified:
 - The main focus will be on indicators: whether others need to be developed, adapted, or retired.
 - Scott Phillips recommended that the focus should be on what was originally outlined in the Indicators Framework. Scott also suggested that the first several Status and Trends meetings should be focused on individual GITs and their possible indicators.
 - Bill Dennison discussed the need for consistent thinking and rethinking of indicators as the CBP moves forward.
- The upcoming ST meeting will be held on April 7, 2016 in the Fishshack from 1:00 pm-2:30pm.

ITAT Workplan (*Joel Blomquist, USGS*)

SEE MIDPOINT ASSESSMENT PRIORITY WORK PLAN: MEASURE AND EXPLAIN WATER-QUALITY CHANGES

- Joel discussed the core assessments being made that will help to determine progress made resulting from management actions. He further outlined the work plan and group efforts that reaches out to science partners to help better assess progress.
- In addition, feedback is provided to management to assess efforts and trends in water quality are also assessed.
- Activities underpinning these efforts are the extensive monitoring work completed by partners of the bay program.
- Working to strategically reach science partners.
- Further updates will be provided this spring for the river-input monitoring stations.
- STAR request to view Rebecca Murphy's regarding work on tidal water quality trends using GAMs (generalized additive modeling) and any other report-outs of this info
- Future trend assessments may expand to include additional factors to help explain water quality and living resource patterns in space and time.

STAR Seminar Presentation- Targeting behavior changes in Chesapeake Bay: where to aim? (*Caroline Donovan, UMCES-IAN*)

SEE PRESENTATION.

*Who's willing to change their behaviors in the interest of Chesapeake Bay health?
Limited by financial constraints, it may be ideal for watershed organizations to focus*

their stewardship and educational initiatives on actions most likely adopted by their constituents. The Bay Survey, hosted online between 2013-2015, asked participants questions about stewardship practices in and around their homes. The survey found that more people are likely to plant a rain garden if provided with help financially; most people do not have a rain barrel, but those who do have them installed and hooked up; and, there is an equal likelihood people will install rain barrels as rain gardens at their home. These are just a few of the results that will be presented during this seminar. This presentation looks at the results of The Bay Survey in Maryland and compares the counties with the best return rates (Anne Arundel and Dorchester).

- Regarding stewardship outcomes, these survey results may help to better flesh out status and trends for which we can begin to build indicators. Results of such surveys can be used to help direct funding and manpower to overcome challenges encountered previously.
- There is a potential environmental education application to use the survey for kids to complete.
- Findings show responses may vary based on what member of the household (man or woman) answers the survey, may include implicit biases in the present application of the survey.
- This survey plans to continue in 2016.

Next Star Meeting: April 28, 2016

Participants

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