Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

PSC Request for Monitoring Program Review: Developing recommendations for addressing capacity shortfalls

- Peter Tango/Scott Phillips
- USGS@CBPO
- Toxic Contaminants WG

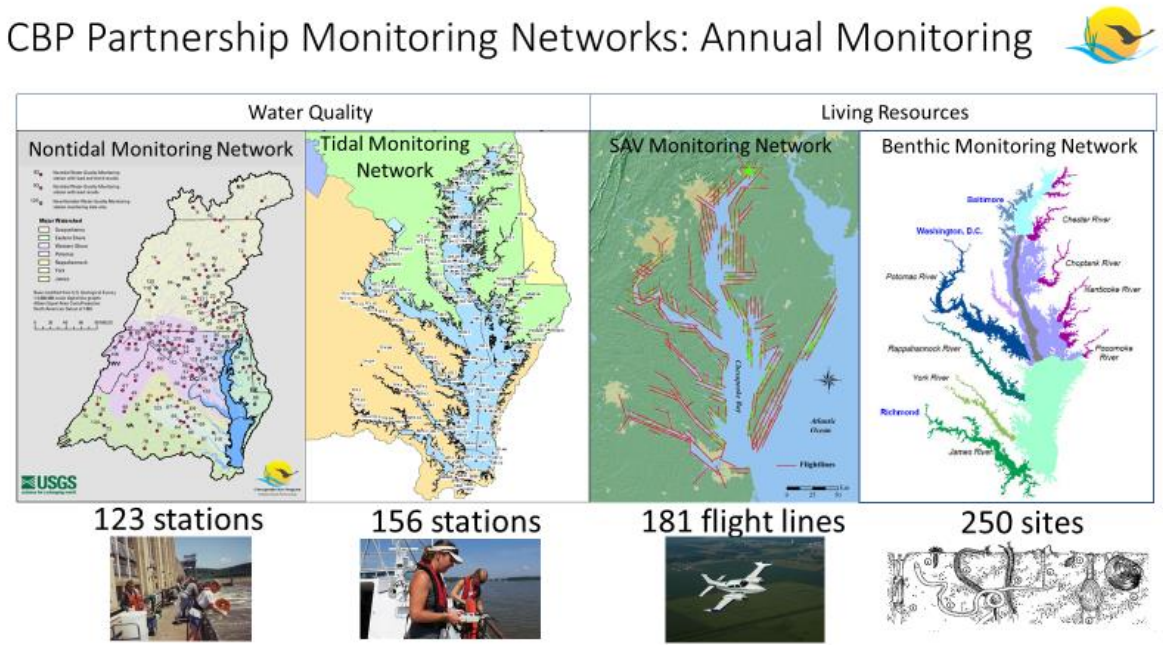
- June 9, 2021

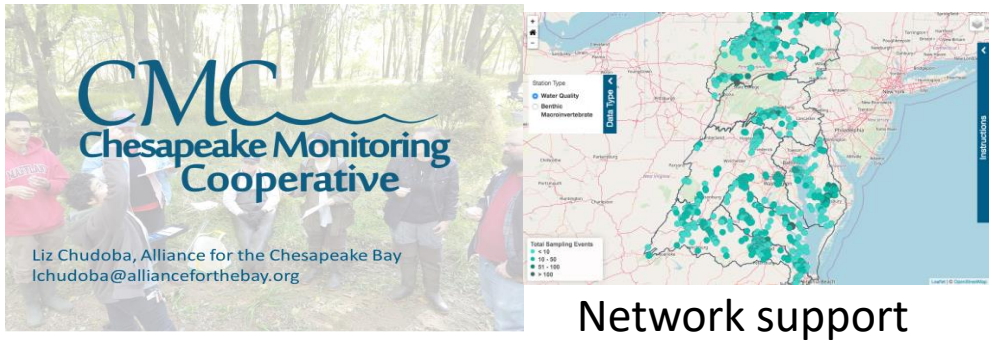
Acknowledgements – PSC Review Team Leadership

- Peter Tango USGS
- Breck Sullivan CRC
- Lee McDonnell EPA
- Scott Phillips USGS
- Denice Wardrop CRC

Let's start here:
March 2021: Monitoring Presentation to the Principal Staff Committee

- Lee McDonnell provided monitoring presentation on March 2
- Help them better understand CBP budget and funding for monitoring
- *CBP Monitoring Networks*:
  - Tidal water quality
  - Nontidal nutrients and sediment
  - SAV
  - Tidal Benthic organisms
  - Citizen Monitoring
- Current Funding:
  - CBP $5M and partners >$7M





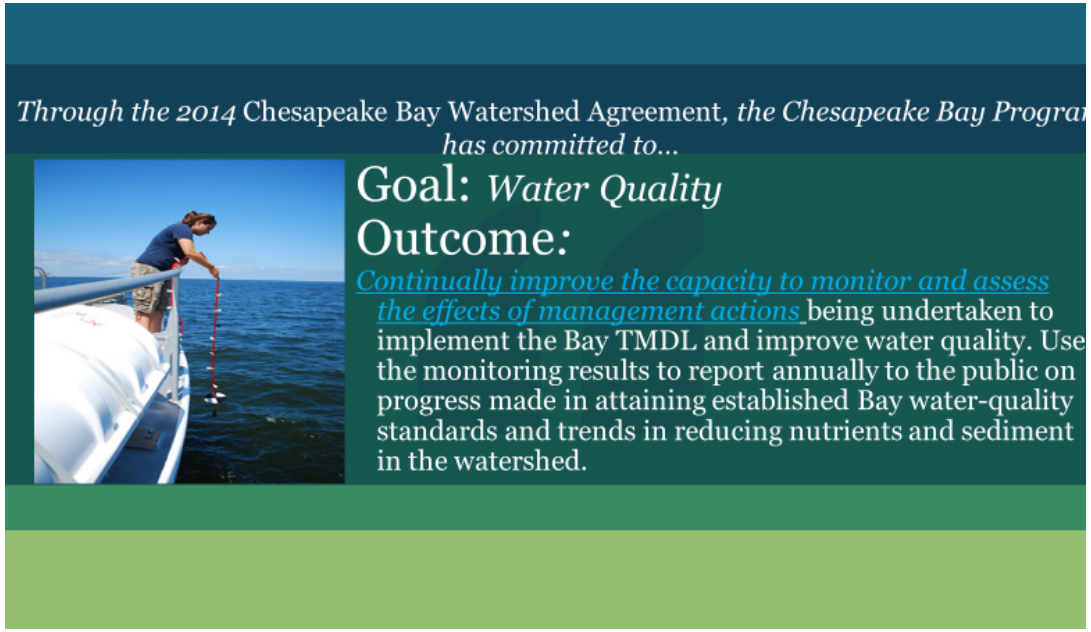
Network support

PSC request:

- In response to the monitoring program status report, the PSC requested information on what is needed to improve the CBP monitoring networks, including:
  - (1) an overview of current status and threats to the networks, and
  - (2) what is needed to address the monitoring networks capacity shortfalls.

Opportunities and Benefits of the PSC request

- Over a decade since the last CBP monitoring evaluation
- Address network support for CBP Outcome: Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome
- Address selected monitoring needs of other CBP outcomes
- Consider new technologies and innovation
- Identify priority improvements and fill gaps



Process

- 9 months start to finish
- 8 questions to answer
- Provide a short synthesis to address the questions, vision going forward.

8 Questions to address in this 9-month review

1. Network Status?

2. Vulnerabilities to sustaining network operation?

3. Program management strategy?

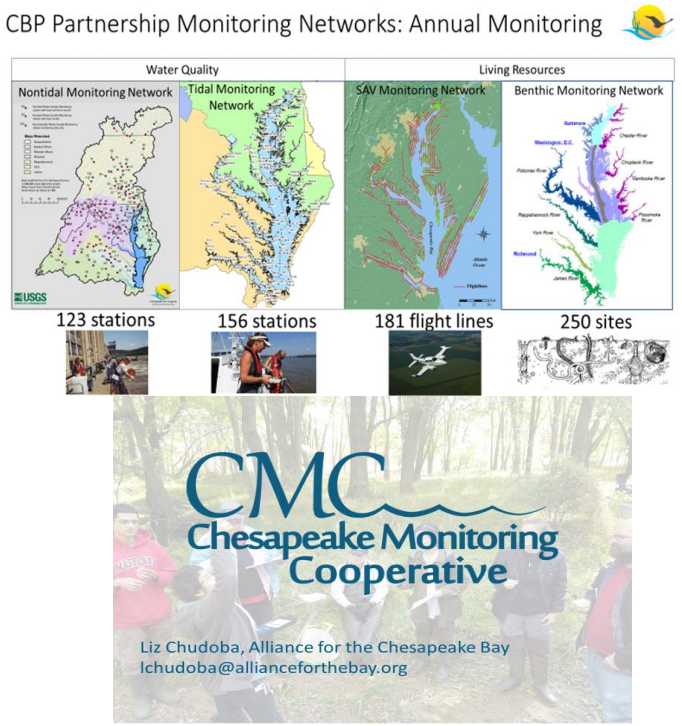
4. Monitoring information gaps?

5. Monitoring program options for filling gaps with existing resources?

6. What innovations are available?

7. Who are the partners on operationalizing the innovations?

8. Financial perspective on sustaining, growing and innovation needs for our networks?




The
Path
Ahead

Supporting group consultations

Data Integrity WG – All Network update considerations

Climate Resiliency WG – All networks

Fish Habitat Action Team – Tidal network, Hypoxia Collaborative, 4D BORG links

Forage Fish Team – Benthic Network

Black Duck Team – Benthic Network

Healthy Habitats – outputs of 4-D analysis

Modeling WG – 4D water quality estimator

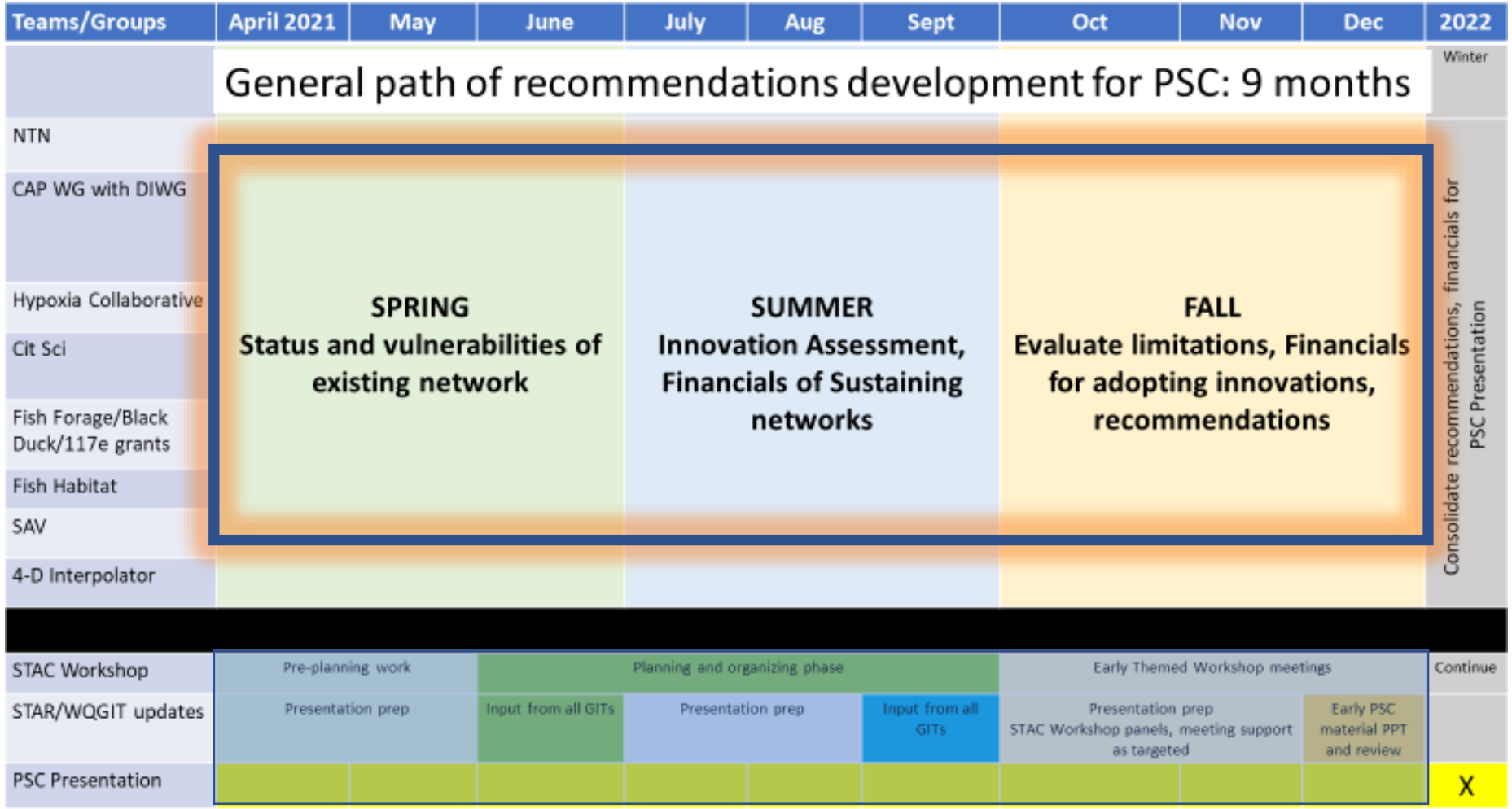
Water Quality GIT

Toxic Contaminants WG – leverage WQ network operations

STAR

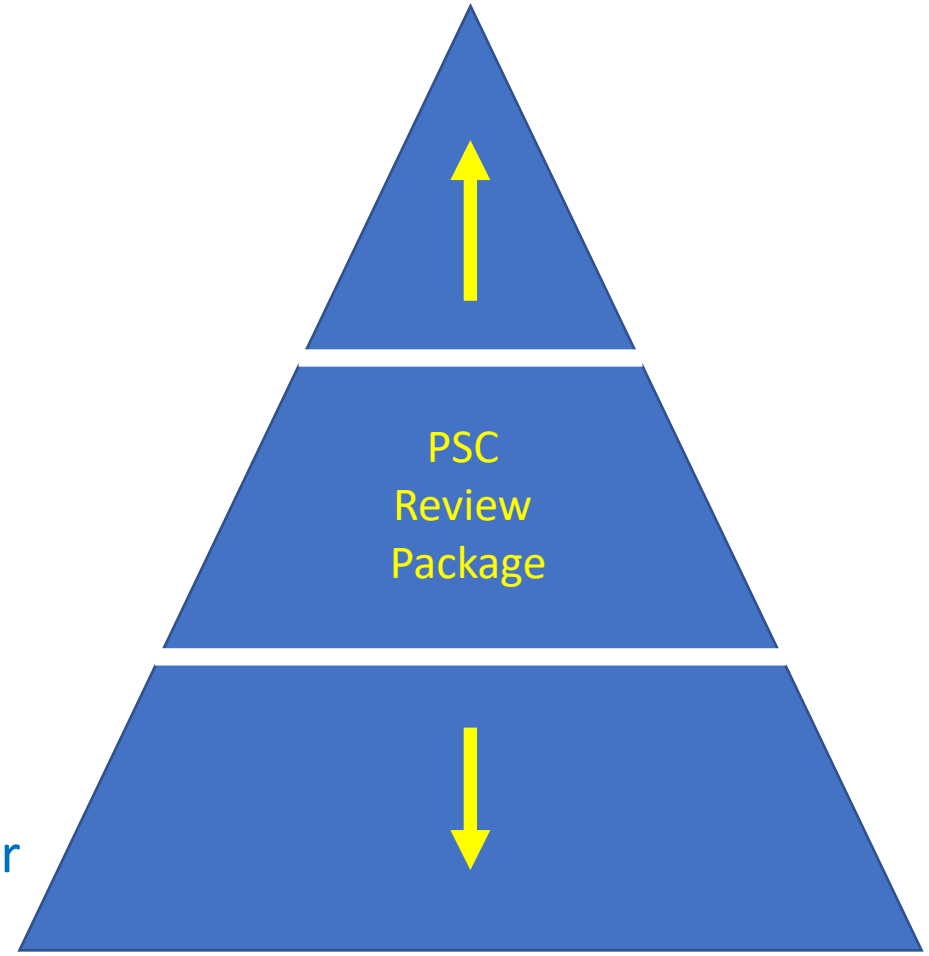
STAC

Process timeline and themes to answer questions

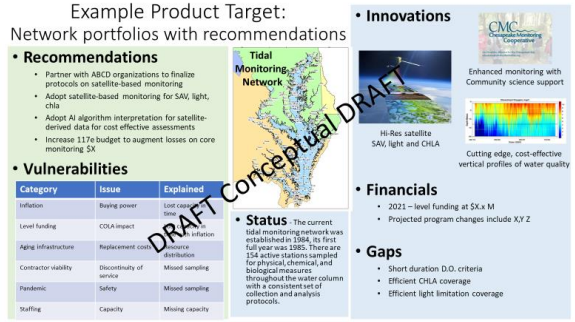


Delivering a final product: Tiered communication

- 1 page: Executive summary on the recommendations to sustain and grow networks: strategies, resources needed
- 1 (max 2) page network portfolio summaries
- Short report on the 8 questions
  - Include cross-GIT leveraging opportunities as a final chapter



Exec
Summary
1 pg



Report
Q1-Q8
Reference

The finish line: Sharp, focused recommendations on sustaining and growing the networks

- Operationalizing research knowledge into monitoring program activities
- Acknowledge and grow partner commitments
- Enhanced use of existing resources
  - E.g., Hg and PCB Indicator support
  - E.g., Leverage network activities
- Define investment needs with planned gap filling return on investment (ROI)
  - E.g., Needs for new monitoring

Next Steps

- Conduct work according to work plan endorse by PSC at their June 2, 2021 meeting
- Coordinate with teams to address the questions for each network AND OTHER OUTCOMES (Spring-Summer-Fall 2021)
- STAC workshop development and participation (fall-winter 2021-22)
- Deliver recommendations to PSC by January 2022.