



**Management Board  
Program Update  
December 8, 2022**

**CBPO Calendar**

Dec. 8	Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call
Dec. 9	Agricultural Modeling Team Meeting
Dec. 9	VA Oyster Workgroup Meeting
Dec. 12	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
Dec. 12	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Dec. 12	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting
Dec. 13	Federal Facilities Workgroup Meeting
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>GIT 6 Quarterly Meeting</b>
Dec. 14	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call
<b>Dec. 15</b>	<b>Joint STAR/CS Science Needs Meeting.</b>
Dec. 16	<b>Management Board Meeting on CAST-21</b>
Dec. 16	Stream Health Workgroup Meeting
<b>Dec. 19</b>	<b>Principal's Staff Committee Meeting</b>
Dec. 21	Nontidal Network Workgroup Meeting

**Program Updates**

**Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Reporting Act (CBARA)**

On Nov. 23, OMB released the annual Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Reporting Act (CBARA) [report](#). The FY 2023 President's Budget requested more than \$500 million for high priority programs and projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and FY 2022 federal appropriations totaled more than \$536 million. For the first time, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds were included in the crosscut with the Department of Agriculture, Army Corps of Engineers and EPA reporting approximately \$243 million for FY 2022. This total will increase as IIJA funding allocations are determined by other agencies. State funding for FY 2022 totaled over \$1.04 billion and FY 2023 funding is projected to be over \$1.36 billion. [ChesapeakeProgress](#) will be updated to reflect these amounts along with expanded information provided in easy to read charts and a downloadable spreadsheet with funding allocations from FY 2014 to present.

**Small Watershed Gants and Innovative Nutrient Sediment Reduction Grant Awards**

On Friday, December 2, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) held a press event to announce \$33.8 million in grants to support the restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. NFWF and EPA representatives joined Senator Chris Van Hollen, local leaders and community members at Truxtun Park in Annapolis, Maryland, to announce the awards. Over 100 grants will leverage more than \$30 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of

more than \$64 million. The awards include \$10 million provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds. The grants were awarded through the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grant Program and the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Programs - core grant programs of the federal-state [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) partnership that are administered under NFWF's [Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund](#) (CBSF). CBSF is a partnership between NFWF and EPA to provide grant funding, technical assistance, and networking and information sharing in support of local, on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts to restore the bay and its tributary rivers and streams.  
Contact: Amy Handen, 410-627-7175

### **Chesapeake Bay sees smaller than average dead zone in 2022**

In late November, Chesapeake Bay Program partners released information on the state of the 2022 Chesapeake Bay dead zone. Experts from both the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science concurred that hypoxic conditions in the Chesapeake Bay were better than average in 2022. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science in their [2022 Chesapeake Bay Dead Zone Report Card](#), as well as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in their [2022 Final Hypoxia Report](#), found this year's dead zone to be the 10<sup>th</sup> smallest observed since 1985. These findings are on par with the [forecast](#) released in June 2022, which estimated a 13% smaller than average dead zone, predicted as such due to lower amounts of winter and spring precipitation that resulted in smaller river flows that brought fewer nutrient and sediment pollutants into the Chesapeake Bay from its surrounding watershed.

For more information: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-sees-smaller-than-average-dead-zone-in-2022>

### **Chesapeake nonprofit and volunteers plant 3,000 trees in 24-hours**

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay hosted a 24-hour "Treelay" to plant trees in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C. From the evening of October 28 to October 29, the Alliance hosted eight back-to-back, four-hour volunteer tree plantings, elevating a typical weekend tree planting to a cross-state relay. Out of the eight Treelay plantings, six took place in Pennsylvania, where the Alliance is helping the commonwealth meet ambitious tree planting goals to reduce runoff to the Bay. The kickoff planting took place in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where over 400 trees were planted on a property along Pequea Creek from 6 to 10 p.m. Once the 24 hours was up, a total of 170 volunteers planted 3,000 trees in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

For more information: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake-nonprofit-and-volunteers-plant-3-000-trees-in-24-hours>

## **Advisory Committee Updates**

### **Local Government Advisory Committee**

*The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.*

LGAC held its hybrid quarterly meeting Thursday and Friday, December 1-2 in Norfolk, VA. Members discussed and toured efforts to mitigate flooding and conservation landscaping, discussed equitable funding strategies, considered connecting community-based water quality monitoring to local data use through the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative and reviewed the draft recommendations from the September 29th Local Government Forum on Integrating

Resilience into Local Planning. With LGAC approval a final report and appendices will be shared with Bay Program leadership and interested parties as well as posted on the LGAC webpage..

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee**

*The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.*

The Citizens Advisory Committee hosted a panel on equitable access to grants at their fall quarterly meeting in Washington, DC on Sept 15-16, 2022. Panelists and CAC Members highlighted barriers and solutions to grant application and execution of Chesapeake Bay grant programs. The [Memo and Table of Findings](#) are available on the September 2022 quarterly CBP meeting page.

An overall finding from the report is that many of the existing Chesapeake Bay grants may not be effective in meeting the Chesapeake Bay Program's goals for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ). Therefore, separate resource and grant mechanisms designed to build capacity of small, local organizations, could serve as a pipeline for more frontline community access to substantial environmental funding that align with local needs.

The next CAC meeting will be on [December 7-8, 2022](#). The primary objective of the December quarterly meeting is to set the 2023 priority topics. Additionally, the CAC will hold officer elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Subcommittee Chairs.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies, 1 VA gubernatorial vacancy, and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), Vice-Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Alexa Maione [amaione@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:amaione@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org))

Visit the STAC website at [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

### ***September Quarterly Meeting: September 13-14, 2022***

The STAC September Quarterly Meeting took place in-person at the Vandiver Inn in Havre de Grace. More information on the meeting can be found on the [STAC September Quarterly Meeting webpage](#). The meeting surrounded the theme of wetlands restoration with Day 2 focusing on discussing avenues to advance the Chesapeake Bay Program's Wetlands target. On the first day, Chesapeake Bay Program Director, Dr. Kandis Boyd, introduced herself to the Committee including her science background. Following Boyd's presentation, Denice Wardrop (CRC, STAC Executive Secretary) and Kurt Stephenson (VT) provided an update on the STAC effort, Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR), to the group. This talk included a timeline for moving forward and details on a communication strategy for the report. Following the CESR agenda item, Mike Runge (USGS) began a dialogue on an update to the STAC workshop report approval process including possible changes to the STAC Publication Protocol and STAC Review Protocol. Kirk Havens (VIMS) briefed the Committee on the FY21 workshop, "Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits of Green Riprap" using this new model and reviewed comments and feedback received during the report editing process. STAC approved the publication of the report at the Quarterly. In the afternoon, Alex Gunnerson (Environmental Management Staffer with STAR, CRC) outlined how the Environmental Management Career Development Program (EMCDP) serves as one of multiple avenues for addressing and building capacity to address science needs identified in the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF) and Breck Sullivan (USGS) and Next Generation Stewards Outcome reported out on high-priority science needs. To end out Tuesday, there was a Committee-wide conversation on CAST-21 Fertilizer Data and outputs from the August 29th 'special discussion' at the Principals' Staff Committee.

As mentioned, the overall objective of Day 2 was to support the CBP Wetlands Target by focusing on strategies to strengthen the technical workforce and deploy implementation funds. Two panels were planned: the first focusing on the history of science-based wetlands management in the Bay watershed and the other on summary outcomes from the August 2-3<sup>rd</sup> CBP [Wetland Outcome Attainability Workshop](#). Kathy Boomer (STAC Chair, FFAR) led STAC and invited panel speakers in an application of the adaptive management framework by outlining single, double, and triple-loop learning opportunities for the CBP goal. The meeting closed with a full-group discussion of proposed actions and key considerations for advancing capacity and function within the outcomes-based framework.

### ***December Quarterly Meeting: December 6-7, 2022***

The STAC December Quarterly Meeting was held virtually on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting centered around environmental flows.

If you are interested in attending either in-person or virtually, you can find more information on the [meeting webpage](#) or reach out to STAC Coordinator, Meg Cole ([colem@chesapeake.org](mailto:colem@chesapeake.org)).

### ***STAC 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates***

STAC approved of the following STAC 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates: March 14-15<sup>th</sup>, June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, September 12-13<sup>th</sup>, and December 5-6<sup>th</sup>. Two meetings will be held virtually and two in-person with a hybrid option.

### ***FY2022 STAC Workshops and Reviews***

The following STAC FY22 workshops are currently in the process of being planned and will convene by May 31, 2023:

1. *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities* (State of the Science Workshop)
2. *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality* (State of the Science Workshop)
3. *The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes* (State of the Science Workshop)
4. *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes* (Programmatic Workshop)
5. *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model* (Programmatic Workshop)

The following STAC technical review is in the process of being planned:

1. *Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Proposal: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in Acid Mine Drainage Impacted Watersheds*

Information regarding future workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the STAC [workshop homepage](#).

### **STAC Reports**

STAC recently released the following reports:

1. **Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens** (FY 2020)
2. **Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap** (FY20)

### **Upcoming Reports:**

STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC publication page](#). STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership.

Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.

1. **Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses** (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
2. **Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services** (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
3. **Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed** (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)
4. Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations (FY20): [Workshop webpage](#)

5. *Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (FY21): [Workshop webpage](#)*
6. *Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21): [Final Workshop Session webpage](#)*

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the [STAC past workshop webpage](#).

### **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

#### **Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

*The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.*

#### **Blue Crab Benchmark Stock Assessment Planning:**

- **Science Workshop:**
  - In response to multi-year declines in blue crab population abundance, the Fisheries Goal Team hosted a science workshop bringing together researchers, managers, and stock assessment experts from across the bay region and beyond. These participants spent two days highlighting drivers potentially impacting the population and data/research needs related to an updated benchmark stock assessment.
- **Next steps:**
  - A full blue crab science workshop report summary will be published for the public in the coming weeks.
  - The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) and state fisheries managers are developing priorities for a new benchmark stock assessment (terms of reference)
  - NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office is coordinating fisheries managers to prioritize research needs with a focus on improving our understanding of how living resources are responding to changing climate and environmental conditions. NCBO will be releasing a federal funding opportunity to address needs in early 2023.
- **Questions about stock assessment next steps?:**
  - Email Mandy Bromilow ([mandy.bromilow@noaa.gov](mailto:mandy.bromilow@noaa.gov)), CBSAC coordinator

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov)

#### **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

*The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.*

- **HGIT ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Habitat Goal implementation team continues to be short staffed and is struggling to keep up with current deadlines. The HGIT is looking at innovative ways like use of SEAs and details to get the work completed. However, there is full anticipation the deadlines will slip due to current workload and staffing shortage.

- **NEW MEMBER OF HGIT:** Cheyenne Owens (USFWS) will be on a six-month detail with the Habitat GIT. While at the Bay Program, she will be helping to write and begin implementation of the Wetlands Workshop Action Plan.
- **FISH PASSAGE WORKGROUP:** After 12 years in the position, Mary Andrews stepped down as Workgroup Chair at the end of October. The HGIT sent out an announcement seeking replacement co-chairs to fill this leadership position, and the HGIT Chairs are now reviewing applicants. We anticipate the final announcement of chair replacements to be made in December.
- **WETLANDS WORKGROUP:** The next workgroup meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12/13 from 2:00-4:00 ET. This will be a virtual meeting and the calendar invite and agenda will be sent out soon, as well as posted to the CBP website.
- **STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP:** The next workgroup meeting will be held on Friday, 12/16 from 10:00-12:00 ET. This will be a virtual meeting and the calendar invite has already been sent out. The agenda is forthcoming and will be distributed soon, as well as posted to the CBP website.
- **MID-ATLANTIC PANEL ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (MAPAIS):** The MAPAIS Fall 2022 Meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. This will be a hybrid meeting with both virtual and in-person attendance options. If you are interested in learning more about MAPAIS, please contact Panel Coordinator, Katlyn Fuentes.
- **SRS CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY COHORT:** The Wetlands and Black Duck Outcomes have started their 2-year review cycle, presented to the Management Board (MB) their new Narrative Analyses, updated Logic & Action Plans, and Presentations, at the 11/10 MB Quarterly Progress Meeting. The drafts of the new two-year Logic & Action Plans will undergo a public and signatory feedback period beginning at the end of January 2023, and the final documents will be published in March. Presently, the outcomes are also working on updating their Science Needs. The current science needs can be found at the STAR website, and the newly updated science needs list will be submitted in December 2022.
- **WETLAND WORKSHOP:** The meeting minutes from the “*2022 Restoring Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop*” (held August 2-3, 2022) have been finalized. This document, as well as the other meeting materials have been posted to the CBP Calendar.
  - One of the outcomes from this workshop was the development of an Action Plan, which will be presented to the Management Board on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The final draft action plan and PowerPoint presentation have been sent out, as well as published to the MB meeting calendar page for the meeting. During this presentation, the Management Board will be asked to vote/respond to the two following requests:
    1. *Has the Bay Program met the request of the MB to identify barriers to outcome attainment, identify innovative solutions and develop actions to meet the wetlands outcome?*
    2. *Does the MB support the path forward outlined in the Draft Restoring the Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Post-Workshop Action Plan?*
- **FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** the following projects were approved by the CBT for funding in the current GIT Funding cycle. The draft Scopes of Work are currently being drafted and will be submitted to the CBT for review on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
  1. “*Mapping non-tidal wetlands in areas with outdated wetland maps*”; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome, with support from the LUWG
  2. “*Monitoring vegetation condition through the Delmarva peninsula*”; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG
  3. “*Determining the local effect of flow/stormwater runoff on SAV density and acreage and options for targeting BMPs that protect priority SAV areas*”; submitted on behalf of the SAV Workgroup

4. *“Literature Review: Building climate resilience of stream restoration practices”*; submitted on behalf of the Stream Health Outcome.

Habitat GIT Contact: Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**

*The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus, and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.*

***The WQGIT held a meeting on November 14, 2022. A subset of topics discussed includes:***

- *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Indicator Update*
  - *Gary Shenk and Qian Zhang provided an overview of a proposed CBP Integrated Watershed TMDL indicator and related products for the data dashboard. The WQGIT posed questions and feedback on the presented material so that updates or modifications can be made if needed prior to approval. At a future meeting, the WQGIT will be asked to approve the indicator so it can be published on the partnership webpages like the data dashboard or Chesapeake Progress.*
- *Strategy Review System (SRS): Our next two-year Logic and Action Plan*
  - *Suzanne Trevena and Ed Dunne reviewed what they heard during conversations with WQGIT members regarding actions in the new Logic and Action Plan (LAP) for the 2025 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Outcome. To help align on actions that the WQGIT members think are important to include, the group completed a Mentimeter survey to gauge interest in example actions to be included in the updated LAP.*
- *Next steps: Finalizing BMP Expert Panel Protocol revisions*
  - *The WQGIT was asked for any final feedback or revisions on the updated BMP Expert Panel Protocol.*

***The WQGIT will hold a meeting on December 12, 2022. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed are below:***

- *STAC Workshop: Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Watershed Model*
- *Panel Discussion: Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association*

Water Quality GIT Contact: Hilary Swartwood (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov), Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov)

### **Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention*



*to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

Renee Thompson, HWGIT Coordinator presented on the Maryland Healthy Watershed Assessment (MDHWA) at our October GIT Meeting. MDHWA analyses utilized the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) data to examine relationships between landscape variables and stream response to assess the predictive power of metrics for use in modeling stream condition. These models can subsequently be used to predict (1) current stream condition for unsampled areas and (2) future stream condition under new predicted future landscape conditions. Several CBP high resolution land use land cover data (2017) metrics including percent tree canopy, natural area and impervious surface in the riparian area were found to be consistently important. In addition, streambank and streambed erosion metrics, road stream crossing, population and housing unit density were also significant. You can find the report here. If you would like more information on the data and code, please email Renee ([rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)).

Also during that meeting, we held a user experience activity where folks were able interact with our Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment Tool. This activity was conducted to better understand how users interact with the tool in order to refine the CHWA. Both the MDHWA and the user experience research will guide further development of the Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment 2.0 (In progress).

The HWGIT has made the 2022 GIT funding project *Community Response to Land Use Changes* a priority project. The project seeks to identify communities throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed where valued habitats and species are at risk of degradation through the use of the Chesapeake Bay Program's existing tools, such as the very high-resolution land use/land cover and change data, forecasts of future urbanization, as well as publicly available decision support tools. The aim is to increase knowledge about the environmental values and perceptions of local communities and demonstrate how decision-support tools and analyses can be actionable and operational at the community level. The project includes interactions with individuals within a small subset of vulnerable communities identified to understand how they understand and react to this type of information

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net); [swaterman@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:swaterman@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists residents, communities, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase engagement and active stewardship.*

The Next-Generation Stewards Cohort Final Logic and Action Plans for the 3<sup>rd</sup> SRS Cycle have been submitted to the Management Board for approval at the December 8 Management Board Meeting. GIT 5 is moving forward on hiring a staffer through the Chesapeake Research Consortium. The position closed on October 16 and applications are being reviewed.

### *Stewardship Workgroup*

- The Workgroup held a quarterly meeting on October 6 with presentations of two example stewardship / engagement programs that focused on building trust networks.

- The Stewardship Workgroup’s Chesapeake Behavior Change web-tool houses and promotes the use of the stewardship index data. Check it out for yourself here: <https://www.chesapeakebehaviorchange.org/>. This project was generously supported by GIT funding and will serve as a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program. A recording of a CBP webinar about the site can be viewed on the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Youtube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/chesbayprogram>.
- The next round of the survey for the stewardship indicator is moving forward but shifted slightly to accommodate deeper consideration of equity and inclusion in how the questions are posed.
- The workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development” which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program. Contractors will provide an overview of their findings at the November Management Board meeting.

#### *Education Workgroup*

- The Education Workgroup is planning the biennial forum for environmental literacy practitioners and leadership summit to take place January 18-19, 2023 at the National Conservation Training Center.
- Progress continues on the Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI), launched in September 2019 to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks included (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The second local networks are in their early stages and include Baltimore City, MD and Hampton Roads, VA. OLNI project is led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and advised by the Education Workgroup (NOAA and CBT) consistent with Stewardship GIT goals.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- The Education Workgroup is finalizing their 2023-2024 Action Plans for public comment.

#### *Public Access Workgroup*

- The Public Access Workgroup has finalized data on Public Access sites opened in 2021. <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/public-access>
- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites. A small subset of the workgroup continues to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward. Current Status: Contractor has presented findings and is working on the final report.

#### *Chesapeake Conservation Partnership / Protected Lands Workgroup*

- The CCP has been involved in organizing the team of partners that will ultimately implement the Chesapeake WILD program. While this is separate from CBP work, it is complementary, and there are members of the team who represent CBP as well as jurisdiction partners. The first round of WILD grant awards was announced October 20, with information and a link to the list of awards here: [USFWS and NFWF Announce \\$3.5 Million in Grants to Restore and Protect Habitats in Chesapeake Bay Watershed | NFWF](#)
- Plans are underway for CCP's Annual Meeting, November 9 and 10 at the National Conservation Training Center, which will focus partners around working collectively to accelerate land conservation strategically toward protecting 30% of the watershed by 2030.

#### *Diversity Workgroup*

- The Diversity Workgroup is still seeking two new co-chairs. Nominations, self-nominations, statements of interest or requests for more information should be directed to the Diversity Workgroup Coordinator, Briana Yancy at [yancy.briana@epa.gov](mailto:yancy.briana@epa.gov).
- The Diversity Workgroup steering committee worked with the communications team to launch a new CBP webpage on [environmental justice](#).

GIT 5 Contact: Britt Slattery; [britt\\_slattery@nps.gov](mailto:britt_slattery@nps.gov) (Coordinator)

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy; [yancy.briana@epa.gov](mailto:yancy.briana@epa.gov) (Coordinator)

#### **Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.*

**2022 GIT Funding Program** – Funding for the 2022 GIT Funding Program has been confirmed. Table 1 Project Ideas were submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) portal by September 1, 2022 and the Project Ideas Scoring meeting took place on September 28, 2022. Following an extensive review process by a team of reviewers, 11 projects to be funded have been identified by CBT. Dr. Kandis Boyd has been briefed on the 2022 GIT Funding Process, and has reviewed and concurred the projects. Table 2 of the GIT Funding process is due to CBT by December 7, 2022.

**Governance Document Action Team (GDAT)** – The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GDAT will present the Governance Document at the December 14, 2022 GIT 6 meeting with the approved edits from the October Executive Council Meeting regarding roles of staff and grammatical edits to EC Leadership language. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making.

**Organizational Analysis** – A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in 2022.

Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov); and Kristin Saunders ([ksaunders@umces.edu](mailto:ksaunders@umces.edu))

**Budget and Finance Workgroup** - The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Fall Quarterly Meeting took place on October 26, 2022 as a conference call. The featured funding program was the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program presented by Elizabeth Kendrick (DoD). This included a discussion on funding opportunities, REPI project examples, and a Q&A with the workgroup. Additional meeting topics included an update on the NCEE Environmental Justice proposal including a points of contact list and a discussion on BIL Funding opportunities. The BFWG will hold its next meeting on February 22, 2023.

Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), [shimkin.martha@epa.gov](mailto:shimkin.martha@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)

**Local Leadership Workgroup** - The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its Fall Quarterly Meeting on November 15, 2022 as a conference call. The meeting was focused around strategic planning and the SRS process. Meeting topics included a discussion on the LLWG baseline survey results and development of the indicator, a look back at the past 2 years, and a planning for the 2023-2025 Logic and Action Plan. The LLWG will hold its next meeting on March 23/24, 2023 as a joint meeting with the Local Government Advisory Committee.

Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Heidi Bonnaffon (Chair), [hbonnaffon@mwcoq.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwcoq.org); Michelle Edwards (Vice Chair), [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org)

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov)

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

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

The November STAR meeting had a water quality theme. The meeting began with a report out on the 2021 Tidal Water Quality Trends, which for the first time includes trend data from Washington, D.C. for the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers thanks to assistance from analysts at the D.C. Department of Energy and the Environment and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. This was followed by a presentation summarizing summer 2022 hypoxia from the real-time Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System and comparing hypoxic conditions in the Bay to previous years. The third presentation covered an evaluation of habitat quality for juvenile summer flounder across four different habitat types in a sub-estuary of Chesapeake Bay and a coastal area of Virginia's Eastern Shore. The meeting

concluded with the Strategy Review System Dry Run presentation for the Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome. The next STAR meeting is on December 15th, 2022.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its quarterly review on October 4th and 5th, 2022. The October 2022 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the Phase 7 suite of models in development. The 13 presentations ranged from developments in optimization efforts and the Chesapeake Hypoxia Analysis and Modeling Project's work related to climate change assessments, to discussions on the monitoring and modeling evidence for an update to designated uses in segments CB6 and CB7. The Modeling Ad Hoc team worked with the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, other Goal Implementation Team representatives, and the Management Board to reach a decision on the tributaries to be selected for Multiple Tributary Model development. The Request For Assistance for Multiple Tributary Model development has been sent to EPA Region 3 for approval. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held on January 10th and 11th, 2023.

### **Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)**

The November ITAT meeting focused on the NOAA Seasonal Summaries and a discussion of the 2021 Tidal Trends results. The NOAA Seasonal Summaries, a summary of seasonal environmental conditions relative to long-term averages and the potential impacts on key fishery resources, were presented and ITAT discussed how they can collaborate by connecting water quality data to living resources. The meeting also included a discussion of the 2021 Tidal Trends results, where members discussed which research questions the results and trends raise. The next ITAT meeting will take place on December 7th, 2022.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In efforts to distribute the Tributary Summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, and Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact ITAT co-coordinators Breck Sullivan ([bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net)) and Kaylyn Gootman ([gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov](mailto:gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov)).

### **Data Integrity Workgroup**

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their quarterly meeting on September 21st, which included a special session on laboratory issues. The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, citizen monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, blind audits, and field audits. Elgin Perry provided an overview of his cluster analysis work in the context of Baytrends and the Generalized Additive Model (GAM). The special session on laboratory issues focused on nutrient instrument analyzers and provided a forum for open discussion. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator**

The BORG Team met in late November to continue discussion on GAM model development. The meeting focused on results from testing k-values in the model to increase flexibility to reach the lowest dissolved oxygen values and testing hold outs of single stations in the model to see if could better interpolate through space. The group also discussed the timeline for development and implementation along with documentation needed to support adoption. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup**

The October 2022 NTN Workgroup meeting included updates on the status of the NTN network support, an overview of the Enhancing Monitoring Networks report, FY2023 funding coverage on its recommendations involving nontidal monitoring, and site selection criteria discussion to address new small watershed funding support. The next NTN Workgroup meeting will be December 21st.

### **Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup**

The November 2022 CAP Workgroup meeting focused on prioritization and soliciting input from members on two decisions. The CAP WG reviewed and prioritized a list of topics that are being, or need to be, addressed regarding protocols for water quality criteria assessment during the months ahead. The workgroup then considered the impacts of bathymetry changes and potentially needed station change in the tidal fresh Rappahannock. This discussion included impacts on assessment due to issues of nonstationarity in the ecosystem. The CAP WG was introduced to the proposed designated use modification for CB6PH, CB7PH, and Mobjack Bay with the analysis and results produced in coordination with VADEQ and the Modeling Workgroup. CAP WG members have been asked to review, provide comments on, and approve/disapprove of the proposal to modify the designated use boundaries for the previously mentioned segments. The next meeting of the CAP WG has not yet been scheduled.

### **Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)**

The STWG last met on October 20th to discuss influencing factor indicators and hear the latest developments on a new local leadership indicator. Laura Cattell Noll presented a conceptual model on how the new proposed local leadership indicator(s) address the language and science behind the outcome. Laura also shared the results of the Local Leadership Survey. Katheryn Barnhart presented on influencing factor indicators on ChesapeakeProgress and led a discussion on how they might be utilized for contextualizing outcomes' progress. The STWG will next meet on December 5th to review changes to the proposed new tree canopy indicator and begin discussions around a 2023 workplan.

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's November Meeting focused on the next steps in the Strategy Review System process. The workgroup was briefed on the November Quarterly Progress Meeting's Management Board decisions regarding the workgroup's requests and the Executive Council's Climate Change Directive workplan. The main portion of the meeting was focused on reviewing the draft 2023-2024 Logic and Action plan, focusing on the actions that are carried over from the last plan, actions that were identified during the August and September workgroup meetings, and placeholder actions for potential cross-workgroup collaboration. The workgroup also took time to review the current science needs in the STAR Science Needs Database, review newly identified science needs through cross-workgroup efforts (e.g., STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop, Virginia Tech BMP Climate Uncertainty Report, CBP Monitoring Needs Report, etc.), and discuss missing science needs that should be explored. Science needs suggestions included incorporating the watershed science needs from the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop, incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice into

workgroup efforts (e.g., gaining a better understanding of green infrastructure and how it may impact under-resourced communities), and conducting siting and modeling research (e.g., focusing on coupling ocean/estuary hydrodynamic models with terrestrial hydrodynamic models to better assess combined effects of extreme events).

The workgroup will be presenting a draft of their science needs on **December 15th, 2022** at the STAR Meeting. The workgroup will not be holding a December meeting, so they can focus resources on preparing the workplan, further developing their science needs, and planning the January workgroup meeting. The January meeting will be held on **January 18th, 2022 from 1:30-3:30 PM** and focus on further workplan development."

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; [bsullivan@chesapeake.org](mailto:bsullivan@chesapeake.org) (Coordinator), Amy Goldfisher (Staffer); [agoldfisher@chesapeake.org](mailto:agoldfisher@chesapeake.org), Alex Gunnerson (Staffer); [gunnersona@chesapeake.org](mailto:gunnersona@chesapeake.org)

### **December 2022 Management Board Indicators Update**

#### December MB Indicators Update

Since the November MB meeting, we have not updated any indicators to ChesapeakeProgress. However, we anticipate finalizing the following indicator updates in advance of the January MB meeting:

- Diversity (2022 data)

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov)

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

The second quarterly meeting of the Strategic Engagement Team took place on November 29. The team met with the climate cohort including the climate adaptation, climate monitoring and assessment, wetlands and black duck teams. The team is working on follow-up action items.

### **Communications Office**

NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Stewardship Fund grants were announced on December 2.

- View the press release: Chesapeake Bay Watershed to Benefit from \$33.8 Million in Conservation Grants <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-watershed-to-benefit-from-33-8-million-in-conservation-grants>
- View the blog: Record amount of funding awarded to spur watershed restoration <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/record-amount-of-funding-awarded-to-spur-watershed-restoration>

The hypoxia update was published on November 16.

- View the press release: Chesapeake Bay sees smaller than average dead zone in 2022 <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-sees-smaller-than-average-dead-zone-in-2022>
- View the blog: Experts find 2022 dead zone to be 10th smallest since 1985 <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/experts-find-2022-dead-zone-to-be-10th-smallest-since-1985>

### **40th Anniversary Planning Committee**

The Communications Office will be leading the 40th anniversary planning effort and are convening a team of planners for each jurisdiction and federal agency, who will hold their first meeting soon.

## Executive Council

Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting will begin January 11, 2023.

The following blogs were published in November:

- Four ways owls are superior predators <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/four-ways-owls-are-superior-predators>
- Tagging along with monarch butterflies <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/tagging-along-with-monarch-butterflies>
- Taking steps toward equitable funding throughout the Chesapeake watershed <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/taking-steps-toward-equitable-funding-throughout-the-chesapeake-watershed>
- Experts find 2022 dead zone to be 10th smallest since 1985 <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/experts-find-2022-dead-zone-to-be-10th-smallest-since-1985>
- My Clean Water Story: Peter Tango <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/my-clean-water-story-peter-tango>
- Chesapeake getaways we're most thankful for <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake-getaways-were-most-thankful-for>
- Chesapeake nonprofit and volunteers plant 3,000 trees in 24-hours <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake-nonprofit-and-volunteers-plant-3-000-trees-in-24-hours>