



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

**Management Board**  
**Program Update**  
August 10, 2023

**CBPO Calendar**

August 11	Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) Meeting
August 14	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
August 14	Status and Trends Workgroup Indicator Development Kick-Off Meeting
August 14	Reaching 2025 Meeting
August 15	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
August 15	Wetlands Workgroup Meeting Tidal
August 16	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
August 16	Nontidal Network Workgroup August 2023 Meeting
August 17	Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
August 17	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
August 18	Stream Health Workgroup August 2023 Meeting
August 23	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
August 24	STAR August 2023 Meeting
August 24	Hold for Beyond 2025
August 25	Diversity Workgroup Q3 Meeting
August 25	Reaching 2025 Meeting
August 28	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3) Meeting
August 29	Local Leadership Workgroup Meeting
September 5	Management Board Meeting
September 5	Strategic Engagement Team Quarterly Meeting
September 6	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
September 6	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Quarterly Meeting
September 7	Watershed Technical Workgroup Meeting
September 7	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting
September 8	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting
September 8	Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) Meeting

**Program Updates**

**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's next quarterly hybrid meeting is September 28-29 LGAC meeting in Leola, PA. Members will be providing feedback on priorities including accounting for ecosystem services, PFAS, DoD external partnerships, managing the challenge of extensive federal funding opportunities, and the role of local governments after 2025.

LGAC's Delaware representative, Don Phillips, is a member of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee.

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).

### **Stakeholders' Advisory Committee**

*The Stakeholders' Advisory Committee 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 Stakeholders' Advisory Committee met in Harrisburg, PA on May 24-25. The meeting objectives were: (1) Learn and discuss Pennsylvania's progress, successes and challenges in meeting the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement; (2) Receive briefings on the Executive Council charge of setting the course to 2025 and Beyond; (3) Gain collective understanding on what and how Bay restoration and climate goals are at risk if the current trend of tree loss continues. The overall goal aimed to prepare a Stakeholders' Advisory Committee recommendation around incentives to protect tree canopy including exploring land conservation as water quality credit in the TMDL.

The members discussed their support for inviting the Choose Clean Water Coalition to be a member of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee since they represent over 280 NGOs. They also support continued priority Bay Program funding for land use mapping tools particularly to inform local government land use decisions.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Sept 13-14 in Fredericksburg, VA.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee's officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and, Vice-Chair, Chuck Herrick (DC).

To be added to the Interested Parties List, please contact: Alexa Maione [amaione@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:amaione@allianceforthebay.org)  
For program questions, contact Jess 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)

### ***STAC Seeking At-large Membership Nominations until August 9th, 2023***

STAC has released a call for open call for self-nominations for at-large members. At-large members provide guidance and input based on their network connections, expertise and research.

Opportunities and expectations for At-large Members include...

- Provide input on various STAC and CBP partnership activities that are related to members expertise and interests. STAC activities include (but may not be limited to) technical workshops and reviews, synthesis projects, and ad-hoc groups examining topic of interest.
- Participate in at least two of four quarterly STAC meetings. Meetings last typically 1.5 days/each.
- Serve a term of four years, with potential to be reappointed for one additional four-year term- Engage with the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership through participation in meetings, activities, and discussions that are of relevance and interest to you and to STAC

For more information and a link to the online self-nomination form, follow this link. Please share this announcement with your networks and specifically to those who you may think be interested!

### ***Upcoming September Quarterly Meeting: September 12-13, 2023***

The upcoming STAC September Quarterly Meeting will be held in-person on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the [Frederick Douglass- Isaac Myers Maritime Park](#). The meeting will center on 'STAC Reflections and Next Steps'. There will be multiple changes in membership, most notably the rotation of Chairs. Kathy Boomer (FFAR) will rotate off as STAC Chair and Larry Sanford (UMCES) will rotate on for a two-year term. STAC Vice Chair will be decided in the coming months.

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)).

### ***June Quarterly Meeting: June 13-14, 2023***

The June 2023 STAC meeting was held *in-person* on Tuesday, **June 13th** and Wednesday, **June 14th** at the [Potomac Science Center](#) in Woodbridge, VA. On the morning of Day 2, STAC took a guided hike of [Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#), provided by Gabriela Youngken of Potomac River NWRC. The meeting centered around the theme of using multiple models for adaptive resource management. Two panels were conducted with 2-3 invited speakers sitting on each.

Presentations and recordings are available on the [meeting webpage](#).

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

The final STAC quarterly meeting dates are scheduled for September 12-13<sup>th</sup> and December 5-6<sup>th</sup>.

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

### ***STAC-Sponsored Workshops***

All STAC FY22 workshops have convened, details on the STAC-funded efforts below:

The following STAC-funded workshops commenced during the second half of the project year:

1. Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model (Programmatic Workshop) commenced in-person on March 7-8, 2023, at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) in Fairfax, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to recommend ways in which local monitoring data can be used to inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model, identify gaps between modeled and monitored data, and be used to validate model predictions at the local scale.
2. Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes (Programmatic Workshop) commenced over two-and-a-half non-consecutive days: Day 1 commenced in-person on March 16, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club on Kent Island, MD; the Planning Session (Day 1.5) commenced in-person on April 18, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD; and Day 2 commenced in-person on June 6, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, MD. The purpose of this workshop series was to have investigators engage with stakeholders on effective application of new ecosystem services results into tools and decision making at multiple levels and to develop recommendations for an actionable workplan of how ecosystem services can be used to address multiple CBP outcomes.
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) commenced in-person on March 21-23, 2023, at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together a diverse cross-section of experts and stakeholders in the field of restoration to review and distill lessons learned from past stream corridor restoration projects to improve restoration outcomes.
4. Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality (State of the Science Workshop) commenced in-person on April 6-7, 2023, at George Mason University in Manassas, VA. The purpose of this workshop was to explore the potential impact of land use transition renewable energy within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and our ability to meet TMDL goals.
5. 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) commenced in-person on May 25-26, 2023, at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together leading experts to elevate the use of biochar in practice Bay-wide by evaluating and translating current research for integration into current Chesapeake Bay protocols. A STAC-funded technical review is underway:

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

### ***FY2023 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals***

STAC released an RFP for FY2023 workshops in January 2023 and received one proposal. During the March quarterly meeting STAC members reviewed the initial scores and comments, and voted to approve the proposal. Planning for FY2023 workshops began on June 1, 2023.

1. *Climate Change Modeling 3.0*

### **STAC Reports**

STAC recently released the following reports:

1. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21): [Link to publication](#)
2. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (FY21): [Link to publication](#)

### **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. **Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model** (FY22): [Workshop webpage](#)
2. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (FY20): [Workshop webpage](#)
3. **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](#)
4. 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.*

- The Fish GIT will hold its summer meeting Sept 18-19 at the Phillip Merrill Center in Annapolis.
- The new Blue Crab Stock Assessment will be kicking off within the next few months.

## **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 August 2023 Program Updates**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- **WETLANDS WORKGROUP TIDAL MEETING:** The Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Meeting will be on **Tuesday 8/15 from 10:00-12:00 ET**. Additional information on this meeting can be found at [this link](#).
- **STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP MEETING:** The Stream Health Workgroup Meeting will be held on **Friday 8/18 from 10:00-12:00 ET**. Additional information on this meeting can be found at [this link](#).

**STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP:** The FY2021 GIT Funded project, *“Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators - Phase 3A”*, is nearing its completion. This project is part of the final phase of a three phase Stream Health 2019 Work Plan, developed in collaboration with the USGS, to better understand the drivers and stressors affecting stream health throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. TetraTech (the contractor selected for this project) presented the draft report to the Stream Health Workgroup on 8/3, and the final report will be completed later this month. This report will be published on the [workgroup webpage](#).

**UP TO 2025:** The Habitat GIT Co-chairs and Coordinator are continuing to support the draft effort for the Up to 2025 Report which is currently out for public review. Once comments have been received, the HGIT will assist the Communications Team in reviewing and incorporating edits into the report.

**BEYOND 2025:** Bill Jenkins (HGIT Co-chair) is the HGIT Representative on the Beyond 2025 group. Gina Hunt (HGIT Co-Chair) is the Alternate Representative. They continue to be active and engaging in all workgroups to refine and/or change all Habitat Outcomes for the new agreement. Chris Guy (HGIT Coordinator) is the Alternate for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and is supporting the HGIT efforts through USFWS Management Board representation.

**TIDAL WETLANDS PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC):** The Habitat GIT will continue to support the efforts on Wetland Strategic Planning with CBT. Several meetings are planned over the next several months and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

**BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) FUNDING:** The HGIT continues to support Bay Program BIL funding efforts on capacity building for wetlands and forest buffers.

**FY2021 & FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** The Chesapeake Bay Trust is currently completing the contract-securing process for the FY2022 and select FY2021 GIT Funding Proposals. Contractors have been selected based on proposals received from the advertised scopes of work for the following projects. More information on the updated timelines of these Habitat GIT projects will be made available soon.

- **FY2021:** *“Understanding and Addressing the Impacts of Wetland Mowing to Facilitate Meeting the Chesapeake Bay Wetland Enhancement Goals”*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands

Outcome. (This project was funded in 2021 but did not receive bids on the SOW so it was readvertised with the 2022 projects.)

- **FY2022:** *“Mapping Non-tidal Wetlands in Areas with Outdated Wetland Maps”*; submitted on behalf of the Wetlands Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
- **FY2022:** *“Monitoring Vegetation Condition throughout the Delmarva Peninsula”*; submitted on behalf of the Black Duck Outcome, with support from the LUWG.
- **FY2022:** *“Protecting Chesapeake Bay SAV Given Changing Hydrologic Conditions: Priority SAV Area Identification and Solutions Development”*; submitted on behalf of the SAV Outcome.
- **FY2022:** *“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](mailto: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 [July 24, 2023](#), and discussed the following topics:

#### **PSC Decision #2 and Agriculture fertilizer update**

Tom Butler, EPA, briefed the WQGIT on the Fertilizer Expert Group’s (FEG) recommendations in response to PSC Decision #2. PSC Decision #2 (from [August 2022](#)): “The partnership will convene a committee to develop short-term, interim resolutions to fertilizer data concerns before moving forward with CAST 2021 as well as long-term resolutions for Phase 7 model. The committee will report out on progress towards this action at the next PSC meeting.” **DECISION:** The WQGIT approved the FEG’s recommendations to the WQGIT developed in response to PSC Decision #2.

#### **PSC Decision #3**

Cassie Davis, NYSDEC, and Ruth Cassilly, UMD-CBPO, reviewed the Watershed Technical Workgroup’s (WTWG) recommendations developed in response to the PSC Decision #3 charge. PSC Decision #3 (from [August 2022](#)): “The partnership will update the process for incorporating data into CAST to include additional safeguards to prevent data analysis errors and to assess reasonability of modeling results after CBP protocols are applied.” **DECISION:** The WQGIT approved the WTWG’s recommendations developed in response to the PSC Decision #3 charge.

#### **Phase 6 CAST schedule**

Lee McDonnell, EPA, summarized the latest proposed options and changes to the Phase 6 CAST update schedule in preparation for a vote on one of the proposed options. **DECISION:** The WQGIT approved Option 1 for the Phase 6 CAST update schedule.

#### **Animal Mortality Management BMP Presentation**

We requested a decision at this meeting because of timing constraints related to moving forward with a release of a draft CAST23. The WQGIT approved Option 1 for the Phase 6 CAST update

schedule. Auston Smith, EPA, provided background on the new Animal Mortality BMP followed by a vote on approval. **DECISION:** The WQGIT approved the Animal Mortality Management BMP for incorporation into Phase 6 (CAST23) with the caveat that examples be provided of 'Structural Systems'.

#### **BMPVAHAT Recommendation for Wetland Credit Duration**

The BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team approved the Wetland Workgroup's recommendation to remove the credit durations for wetland restoration, creation, and rehabilitation due to regulatory requirements in place. Jackie Pickford, CRC, summarized the BMPVAHAT's recommended changes and asked the WQGIT for approval. **DECISION:** The WQGIT approved the BMPVAHAT's recommended changes to the credit duration of select wetland practices.

#### **Stream Biological Health in the Chesapeake Bay**

Claire presented on the ICPRB's Chessie BIBI indicator for stream health in the watershed. Members expressed interest in a potential presentation to the Management Board (MB) on both the Chessie BIBI and a BIBI that has been developed for the Bay.

The WQGIT will hold their next meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023 – agenda and topics are TBD.

#### **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.*

The HWGIT has been actively involved with the SRS process for the Land Use Options and Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes. Both outcomes presented on their last two years of adaptive management at the March 9 Management Board Meeting. Both land use outcomes and the Local Leadership workgroup are currently updating their Management Strategies and Logic and Action Plans; those documents will be posted for a public review period beginning in May.

The HWGIT is sponsoring two GIT funding projects that are well on their way. The CHWA 2.0 project is in the process of refining the CHWA and updating it with the latest data. The CCP Habitat Scoping Project is in the process of meeting with stakeholders through a workshop aimed at getting feedback on how a new habitat dataset would be used and other considerations for the update.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: Sophie Waterman ([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.*



### *Stewardship Workgroup*

- Work has begun on the Stewardship Network Study & Asset Mapping “Scope 9” GIT Funded Project with contractors from Local Concepts LLC. The project aims to assess and develop a visualization (a “map”) of the network of networks supporting stewardship work in the watershed, in order to use networks more effectively to strengthen collaboration and increase progress toward our shared goals and outcomes – both under the Stewardship GIT as well as those outcomes that can benefit from increased stewardship efforts (such as tree canopy, riparian buffers, etc). A project kickoff meeting was held in July and the first Advisory Team meeting is to be held on August 18th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup held a quarterly meeting on July 20th, introducing the workgroup to Local Concepts LLC who provided a presentation about the power, principles and practices of networks. Interaction with workgroup members following the presentation was used for collecting preliminary input to contribute to shaping the approach for the Scope 9 project, and recruiting additional participants for the project’s Advisory Team.

### *Education Workgroup*

- A kickoff meeting was held on the GIT funded project entitled, “How Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes,” referred to as “Scope 7.” Preliminary organizing on this project will continue throughout August with project leads from Notre Dame of Maryland University and Towson University.
- Preliminary work has begun with contractor WE Strategies on the Workforce Landscape Assessment “Scope 8” GIT funded project. The first convening of the advisory committee is aiming to be held in late August.
- Planning for the biennial Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit is progressing well and is set to be held on November 1st, with Maryland as the host state this year. Locations and speakers are being finalized. The two theme topics for the event are “High Impact Environmental Actions for Sustainable Schools” and “Building Green Career Pathways.” This event is an opportunity for high level leadership from both environmental agencies and state education agencies to convene to discuss opportunities to work together to advance environmental literacy goals and outcomes.

### *Public Access Workgroup*

- The Public Access Workgroup held a quarterly meeting on July 19th, focusing on reviewing the Strategy Review System (SRS) process and steps to prepare for the next progress review scheduled for February 2024, and to check in with workgroup members on the status of new public access sites for the year 2022. The data on new public access sites showed significant progress towards achieving the goal of 300 access sites, continuing on track to be met by 2025.
- The GIT-funded Benefits and Barriers Research project by contractor Steve Raabe of OpinionWorks is in the final draft stage and was presented to the workgroup at the July meeting for feedback and input from meeting participants. This project aimed to understand how residents in the watershed use public access sites, to determine if there is a relationship between use and stewardship, and to identify barriers that prevent underserved communities from using public access sites. The group shared the final findings, which included prioritizing

investments in infrastructure, experimenting with education and engagement programs, extending a sense of welcome and belonging, and gaining an understanding of who is visiting and who is not.

#### *Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)*

- The Protected Lands Workgroup has received an update on the Protected Lands Indicator for data through 2022. Currently, the data is being presented internally and will be shared once communication and outreach efforts are coordinated.
- The Protected Lands Workgroup held its monthly meeting on July 26th, 2023, where members discussed the possible timeline adjustment for the upcoming fourth cycle of the Strategy Review System (SRS) and the process for creating a new Logic & Action Plan. USGS provided an overview of the Protected Lands Indicator, which has just been updated, and the group considered next steps for communicating the new data.
- At a previous meeting, the Protected Lands Workgroup proposed the creation of a GIS action team. The purpose of this action team will be to focus on improvements, refinements, and opportunities, specifically when it comes to the process for collecting annual data for the Protected Lands Indicator. We are looking to fill this action team with established State Data Stewards who could serve as GIS contacts. In addition to creating the GIS action team, there would also be an effort to establish state-specific linkages between PLWG members and State Data Stewards, to assist with potential streamlined workflow or improved communication.

#### *Diversity Workgroup*

- The Diversity Workgroup will be holding its next meeting on August 25th from 10am to 12pm. Planning for the meeting is underway and tentative agenda topics include (1) presentations related to career-building opportunities (the Diversity Workgroup's C-StREAM intern Lena Mayhoub and their work with Arlington House; and from Anacostia High School Junior Firebirds, completing their summer Justice 40 internship with the Department of Interior); and (2) a presentation by contractors who developed a new resource hub to assist those applying for grants. The resource hub is a final deliverable from a GIT funded project through the Diversity Workgroup that provided a four-part virtual workshop series focused on building capacity for equitable grant funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The virtual workshop series was designed to help improve awareness about equitable funding challenges, best practices, experiences of under-resourced communities, and strategies for funders to measure their progress in improving equity in grantmaking.
- The Diversity Workgroup has been looking into the process and timing for restructuring and growing the capacity of the Steering Committee and Workgroup membership, along with redefining the roles within these groups. This restructuring effort aims to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the workgroup as a whole. There is also an effort to reach out to state DEIJ coordinators from several jurisdictions in order to broaden the group's membership

GIT 5 Contact: Britt Slattery, [britt\\_slattery@nps.gov](mailto:britt_slattery@nps.gov) (Coordinator); Wuillam Urvina, [urvinaw@chesapeake.org](mailto:urvinaw@chesapeake.org) (Staffer); Jimmy Looper, [looperj@chesapeake.org](mailto:looperj@chesapeake.org) (Staffer)

#### **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.*

### **Strategy Review System (SRS) Planning Team**

On June 12, 2023, a proposal was submitted to Management Board members via email, seeking to adjust the SRS 4<sup>th</sup> cycle starting point that was originally set for August 2023. Twenty-three responses were received. **Responses largely supported the straightforward acceptance of the proposal**, and no rejections of the proposal were received. Four respondents expressed a desire to discuss this proposal at the July Management Board meeting and supported delaying the initial date of the first 4th cycle QPM to November 2023 to accommodate this discussion.

The SRS Planning Team **will discuss details of the proposal** with Management Board members at the July Management Board Meeting. While we continue to evaluate the timelines for the first Quarterly Progress Meeting, we anticipate **adjusting the SRS 4<sup>th</sup> cycle starting point to November** to accommodate these discussions.

*SRS Contact: Sarah Brzezinski (Coordinator), [Brzezinski.Sarah@EPA.gov](mailto:Brzezinski.Sarah@EPA.gov)*

**2022 GIT Funding Program** – For the 2022 GIT Funding Program, 11 projects were identified by CBT to be funded. The GIT Funding RFP was released on February 10, 2023 to 2,300 recipients including the organizations specified by tech leads and MBE/WBE/DBE firms and HBCUs in the watershed. The RFP application deadline was March 23, 2023 and the applications are currently under review by CBT. Contractor work for the projects began May 15, 2023.

**Governance Document Action Team (GDAT)** – The GDAT meets regularly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GDAT presented 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. An updated Governance Document version 5.0 can be found on Chesapeakebay.net.

**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 2023.

*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) Quarterly Meeting took place on May 31, 2023 as a conference call. Meeting topics included an update on the NCEE Environmental Justice proposal, a review on the BFWG Workplan, and a discussion on upcoming innovative environmental finance opportunities. The BFWG will hold its next meeting on August 16,

2023 as a conference call. Meeting topics include a presentation by Amy Guise on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cost-shared programs, and State Reports on Key Legislation and Legislative Outcomes.

*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 Summer Quarterly Meeting on May 9, 2023. The meeting focused around highlighting technical assistance available to help local governments access funding for water infrastructure and identifying gaps in technical assistance to local governments. Presentations on technical assistance programs were given by local governments, environmental finance centers, planning districts, and nonprofits. Additional meeting topics included an update on Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. The LLWG will hold its next meeting on August 29, 2023 as a hybrid meeting at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Meeting topics include showcasing the new website which hosts the educational modules developed in A Local Government's Guide, an introduction to four new educational modules, a discussion on "Train the Trainer," and a discussion on new federal funding opportunities.

*Contact: Cara Johnson (Staffer), [johnson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.caroline@epa.gov); Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Michelle Edwards (Chair), [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org); Martha Narvaez (Vice Chair) [mcorrozi@udel.edu](mailto:mcorrozi@udel.edu)*

*GIT 6 Contact: Cara 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 [July STAR meeting](#) focused on updating the partnership on three projects which were recently completed. The first project was the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's (UMCES) [Chesapeake Report Card](#), which discussed the evolution of report cards as an environmental reporting tool and the addition of environmental justice indicators to this year's report card. The second project discussed was a reflection on the recent Global Sustainability Scholars cohort, a group of undergraduate and graduate students from around the country studying sustainability, which led a series of listening sessions to gather community input on the Chesapeake Report Card. The meeting concluded with a summary of the Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Funding project to scope the Chesapeake Conservation Partnerships Priority Habitat Dataset in the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas. The next STAR meeting is on August 24th, 2023.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup held its [quarterly review on June 20th and 21st](#), 2023. The June 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on [the Phase 7 suite of models in development](#). The 15 presentations ranged from updates on the BMP optimization approaches, to a case study on the benefits of a decarbonized economy for nitrogen reductions to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The new multiple tributary model (MTM) team for the Rappahannock River

was introduced and they presented their initial workplan. The [Request for Assistance to select the Patapsco River and Choptank River MTM teams](#) closes July 3rd. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held in a hybrid format on October 3rd and 4th, 2023.

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

The July ITAT meeting featured presentations on two research projects, one focused on the Chesapeake Bay watershed (CBW) and one focused on linking the CBW to the estuary. In the CBW, researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presented on analysis of the Spatially Referenced Regression On Watershed attributes (SPARROW) water quality model and the Centers for Disease Control social vulnerability index (SVI), which suggested a possible relationship between predicted in-stream nutrient loads and SVI risk factors. The presentation demonstrated that the USGS can use existing tools and data to address environmental justice issues. Linking the CBW to the estuary, a presentation on research from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) focused on the impacts and uncertainties of climate-induced changes in CBW inputs on estuarine hypoxia. The next ITAT meeting will take place on August 23rd, 2023.

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and its partners previously compiled tributary basin summaries for 12 major tributaries or tributary groups in the CBW. 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 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration. 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 July 19th](#). The meeting included updates on monitoring and laboratory analysis, community science monitoring, the Coordinated Split Sample Program, and blind audits. Much of the meeting focused on a presentation from Doug Moyer (USGS) on the decision rules for total phosphorus and total nitrogen in the nontidal network. A follow-up meeting to discuss these decision rules with individual labs and other interested groups is scheduled for August 23rd. The next quarterly full session meeting has not yet been scheduled.

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

The BORG team met in April and May. During April and May, developmental testing that leverages techniques piloted for the mainstem and Patuxent daily means work that now targets short duration (sub-daily) dissolved oxygen dynamics with surface water data from Gooses Reef mainstem bay time series have yielded encouraging results. Tuning the surface water work, and deep water short duration dissolved oxygen dynamics are targets that will be further explored. A conference abstract was submitted to the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference (November 2023) that aims to present the latest updates on 4D interpolator development by the group. Other BORG updates are that a Regional-ORD Applied Research (ROAR) grant was awarded which will fund a fellow for one year to work on shallow water monitoring, hypoxia monitoring and the 4-D interpolator. This fellow, who will be part of the ORISE program, will start in January 2024 and work closely with the BORG and Hypoxia Collaborative Team.

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

The [June 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting](#) included updates on small agricultural watershed monitoring sites, 5 of which are funded through EPA for one year, while discussions are underway with multiple partner agencies in MD, VA, PA and DE to find additional funding sources. Efforts to document and describe nontidal network funding sources are well underway, with MD wrapped up and the team moving to do the same in PA and VA. An update was also provided on the work to reconstruct the historical and current data sets in a single database. This was completed in late July, and will be followed by review with each jurisdiction as well as the lab partners in the Data Integrity Workgroup. The next NTN Workgroup meeting is scheduled for August 16th, 2023, as the group now operates on a bimonthly meeting schedule.

### **Hypoxia Collaborative Team**

The [Hypoxia Collaborative team met in June](#). Three hypoxia continuous monitoring stations have been deployed in the Mid-Bay, lower Choptank and lower Potomac, with some sensors still needing to be added. Up to 10 total stations will be out by 2025. The collaborative team will continue to have an advisory role. Data from the sensor arrays are posted on [IOOS's Environmental Sensor Map](#). There are some improvements being worked on to the data viewing including standardization of color ramps, automated and manual flagging, and potentially an API for querying and downloading data. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) is working on analysis methods for the data for use in the 4-Dimensional Interpolator and criteria assessment. Marjorie Friedrichs (VIMS), Pierre St-Laurent (VIMS) and Aaron Bever (Anchor QEA) shared applications of the hypoxia continuous monitoring data in improvements of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecasting System (CBEFS). The next meeting of the Hypoxia Collaborative has yet to be scheduled.

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

The [July 2023 CAP Workgroup meeting](#) focused on three major discussion topics facilitated by Peter Tango (USGS). The first item involved discussion on the merits of adjusting dissolved oxygen criteria for the Bay given warming water temperatures, and which analysis and products the CAP workgroup might put together to support a recommendation. The second discussion topic was a consideration to revise the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (WQSAM) outcome language of the 2014 Watershed Agreement for the CBPs "Beyond 2025" Action Team and its upcoming considerations for updating Goal and outcome statements by the end of 2025. The final discussion topic was developing decision rules on dissolved oxygen criteria attainment that utilize the output of the new 4-D interpolator under development. The CAP workgroup will next meet on September 14th, 2023.

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

The [STWG met on May 24th](#) to discuss next steps for prioritizing outcome progress tracking that reflect takeaways from the 2023 SRS Biennial Meeting. The meeting involved suggested revisions to the living workplan for 2023 to reflect these next steps and the workgroup approved of the suggested revisions. This included the decision for the workgroup to begin meeting on a quarterly schedule, with ad-hoc meetings scheduled when there is an indicator in need of approval. Since then, indicator coordinators Doug Bell and Katheryn Barnhart have been meeting in small groups with indicator action teams to support them in the indicator development process. The workgroup will next convene on August 14th to discuss indicator development, including actions teams, the process, and timelines.

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

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's June meeting focused on sharing recent partner efforts around climate change impacts on nontidal watershed regions of the Chesapeake Bay and recommendations to

address these impacts. Taylor Woods (USGS) presented her research on the impacts of climate change and land-use/land cover change on stream fishes and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She and her team are also developing a web application to display the results of this research and solicited feedback from the CRWG on what would be useful to include in the application. Olivia Devereux (Devereux Consulting) presented her work utilizing river flow data to help inform climate resiliency strategies. Rebecca Hanmer (Forestry Workgroup Chair) presented the Watershed recommendations that were developed during the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop. Discussions from all three presentations focused on how each of these efforts can inform each other and how the recommendations presented may align across all three efforts.

CRWG Contacts: Julie Reichert-Nguyen, [julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov](mailto:julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov) (Coordinator); Jamileh Souidan, [jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov](mailto:jamileh.soueidan@noaa.gov) (Staffer)

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### **June 2023 Management Board Indicators Update**

Since the July MB meeting, we updated the following indicators to ChesapeakeProgress:

- SAV (2022 preliminary data)
- Toxic Contaminants (2020 data)
- Land Use Methods and Metrics: Impervious surface cover (2013/14 and 2017/18 data)
- Local Leadership (2022 data)
- Tree Canopy (2021 data)
- Stream Health (2012-2017 data)
- Blue Crab Abundance (2023 data)
- Oysters (2022 data)
- Climate Monitoring and Assessment: Average Air Temperature and Total Precipitation (2021 data)

We anticipate finalizing the following additional indicator updates in advance of the September MB meeting:

- Reducing Pollution Indicator (2022 data)
- TMDL indicator (2021 data)
- N,P,S loads and river flow indicator (2021 data)
- Water Quality Standards and Attainment Indicator (2021 data)

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

### **Strategic Engagement Team**

On March 28, the Strategic Engagement Team held their quarterly meeting, and met with members of the Local Action Cohort (Land Use Metrics and Methods, Land Use Options Evaluation, Local Leadership and Tree Canopy) to review the communications, engagement, social science, education, diversity, and stewardship needs identified during their quarterly SRS review. The Strategic Engagement Team will

meet on September 5 to gather feedback from jurisdiction representatives to ensure SET meetings are as useful for everyone involved as possible. The discussion will be focused on engagement and communications priorities, identifying/engaging with key audiences, and will include examples from jurisdictions. This is a check-in meeting for SET and will not include a cohort.

### **Communications Office**

On July 6, the Communications Office published a press release with the updated Submerged Aquatic Vegetation data.

- Access the press release here: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake-bay-program-notes-12-increase-in-underwater-grass-abundance-continues-work-toward-its-ambitious-restoration-goals>

The public comment period for the [\*Charting a Course to 2025: A Report and Recommendations for the Chesapeake Executive Council on How to Best Address and Integrate New Science and Restoration Strategies Leading Up to 2025\*](#) report is open for public comment until 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, August 21.

- Learn more: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/help-the-chesapeake-bay-program-chart-our-course-to-2025>

The 40th anniversary website is now live. The page features information about the Chesapeake Bay Program, a timeline, the 40th anniversary blog pages and posts from the Chesapeake Bay Program's Instagram page.

- The website can be viewed here: <https://40years.chesapeakebay.net/>

### ***Published blogs:***

The following blogs were published in July:

- Eastern worm snake: worm or snake? <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/eastern-worm-snake-worm-or-snake>
- Scientists encourage resource managers to focus on female, juvenile blue crabs <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/scientists-encourage-resource-managers-to-focus-on-female-juvenile-blue-crabs>
- Submerged aquatic vegetation, a critical blue crab habitat, bounces back in the Chesapeake Bay <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/submerged-aquatic-vegetation-a-critical-blue-crab-habitat-bounces-back-in-the-chesapeake-bay>
- Documenting the return of the terns to Poplar Island <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/poplar-island-is-almost-fully-restored-but-will-the-terns-return>



- Local government leaders fish for invasive species management strategies in the Bay  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/local-government-leaders-fish-for-invasive-species-management-strategies-in-the-bay>
- The health of streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is improving, according to recent data  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the-health-of-streams-in-the-chesapeake-bay-watershed-is-improving-according-to-recent-data>
- Chesapeake Bay oyster reef restoration acreage surpasses two square miles  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake-bay-oyster-reef-restoration-acreage-surpasses-two-square-miles>
- Help the Chesapeake Bay Program chart our course to 2025  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/help-the-chesapeake-bay-program-chart-our-course-to-2025>
- Fishing for blue catfish is good for the Bay, but be careful when eating them  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/fishing-for-blue-catfish-is-good-for-the-bay-but-be-careful-when-eating-them>

### ***Executive Council***

Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting began on January 11, 2023. The meeting will take place at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. in October.

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