Management Board
Program Update
February 2023

CBPO Calendar

Feb. 13	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
Feb. 14	Oyster BMP Expert Panel Recommendation roll out Webinar Part 2
Feb. 16	STAR Quarterly Coordination Meeting
Feb. 17	Stream Health Workgroup Meeting
Feb. 22	**Management Board Meeting**
Feb. 23	STAR Meeting
Feb. 23-24	**Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting**
Feb. 27	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

Program Updates

CBP Finalizing 2023 Most Effective Basins Guidance
CBPO staff recently met with several jurisdictional partners to discuss guidance related to funding that supports implementation projects in the most effective basins for nutrient reduction (MEB). Feedback from jurisdictions is critical to the annual update process. Staff is currently finalizing its draft Grant Guidance for FY 2023 and plans to release its draft Grant Guidance for partner review and comment in February 2023.
Contact: Autumn Rose, 410-267-5765

EPA Leadership Team Attend Pennsylvania Farm Show 2023
On January 11, EPA Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz, Kelly Shenk (Region 3 Agriculture Advisor), and other senior staff attended the Pennsylvania Farm Show to continue important discussions with Pennsylvania agriculture leadership, including newly nominated PA Ag Secretary, Russell Redding; Doug Wolfgang, Executive Secretary for the State Conservation Commission, and key leaders from PennAg Industries, PA Farm Bureau, the PA No-Till Alliance, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

The Future of Chesapeake SAV Under Climate Change:
On January 10, CBP Modeling Quarterly the collaborative work of principal investigators Drs. Marc Hensel, Chris Patrick, Jon Lefcheck, and Dave Wilcox was presented on how environmental conditions of climate change and nutrient reductions are estimated to effect SAV communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The work is based on an advanced model of SAV that has successfully estimated how past environmental conditions have affected the major communities in the Bay. Using CBP model estimates of water quality under 2055 climate change conditions. The initial findings are that CBP nutrient reductions are estimated to offset losses in SAV due to the effects of climate change. However, unlike hypoxia responses to nutrient reductions which are rapid, the SAV response will be slower in the build-

up of seed banks and rhizomes and will take decades to recover to the levels of Chesapeake water quality standards.
Contact: Lew Linker, 443-875-8070

Five free tools that are helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed
The world's brightest and most talented scientists, researchers, policymakers and data experts have always been found in the Chesapeake Bay region, contributing to the tools and data that drive the restoration of our watershed. For the past 40 years, the partnership has been on the forefront in the lead to develop cutting-edge tools designed to help reduce pollution, visualize land use and estimate cost savings. The following tools are available for the public to use and even better, they are free for all to use:

- Chesapeake Bay Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST)
  The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model incorporates information about land use, fertilizer applications, wastewater plant discharges, septic systems, air pollution, farm animal populations, weather and other factors to estimate the amount of pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay from its surrounding watershed. CAST is the web-based version of the Watershed Model that allows users to specify a particular geographic area and select best management practices to see which would be the most cost-effective, while reducing the greatest amount of pollution. In addition to the Watershed Model, the Bay Program maintains a robust suite of modeling tools.
- Chesapeake Bay Program Land Use/Land Cover Data Project
  Updated in spring 2022, the Very High-Resolution Land Cover and Land Use Data covers an area of 99,000 square miles, encompassing 206 counties that intersect or are adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These data can map the land and water at a resolution of one-meter-by-one-meter, providing more precise information about our watershed. Land cover data refers to how much of the landscape is covered by farmland, forests, wetlands, impervious surfaces, and other land and water types. Land use data describes how people use the land—for example, for farming, industry or residential. This tool helps us to understand how our watershed is transforming, as it tracks how lands are transitioning into developed areas or regions for agricultural production. The land change tool can help guide decisions and actions related to land management goals, including monitoring changes in tree canopy and mapping critical wildlife habitat, ecologically sensitive lands and areas where environmental restoration can provide the most benefit.
- Accelerated Conservation and Restoration Portal
  In 2022, the Chesapeake Bay Program unveiled the Accelerated Conservation and Restoration Portal, which organizes several data sets and other science-based information to help environmental managers and planners find the best areas in the watershed in which to target restoration activities. As the partnership works to meet the goals and outcomes of the current *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, this portal will help you identify places where you can take restoration action to help accelerate progress on multiple outcomes at the same time.
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard
  The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard was born out of the desire to create a one-stop shop to help environmental managers and planners figure out the best way to use all the scientific and technical data and information developed by Chesapeake Bay Program partners. The Dashboard currently contains six main sections to help with restoration and conservation planning.

- Rivers and Streams: View information on the current amount of nutrient and sediment pollution in your local waterways, check out trends to see if these conditions are improving, declining or staying the same, and explore how nutrients and sediment are entering the Bay from the entire watershed.
- Tidal Waters: Check out fact sheets showing the acreage and density of underwater grasses for different regions of the Bay over time, view data that monitors dissolved oxygen, temperature and nutrient concentrations in the Bay, and see where wastewater treatment plants discharge.
- Targeting Restoration: Learn where nutrients and sediment that enter your local waters are coming from, and understand how the geography of your area impacts how pollution and water flow into the Chesapeake Bay.
- Management Practices: Identify the best areas in which to install riparian forest buffers throughout the watershed, and check out the status of best management practices by county and learn how effective they are in reducing pollution.
- Land Policy and Conservation: Take a look at how the land throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed is being used and explore options for smart growth and land conservation.
- Prioritizing Other Benefits: Access a case study database to see how others throughout the watershed are successfully installing best management practices that improve their community and provide environmental benefits.

- Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment
  This GIS tool uses quantitative indicators related to habitat, water quality, and biological and geographical conditions of the land to assess current, and track future, conditions of watersheds across the Chesapeake Bay region. Federal, state and local managers can use the Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment to identify areas that may be in danger of degrading, and take the appropriate measures to ensure their local waters and watersheds remain healthy. The tool allows you to download data, filter that data by region or interest, add your own data to the viewer, bookmark locations for easy navigation and create a watershed health report with a summary of all metrics.

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

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LGAC finalized recommendations from the September 29th Local Government Forum on Integrating Resilience into Local Planning. A one page fact sheet of the recommendations can be found here.

LGAC will hold its next quarterly meeting March 23-24. On March 23 the meeting will be a joint meeting with the CBP Local Leadership Workgroup and discussion will focus on the role of local governments getting to 2025 and looking beyond 2025 to consider local priorities and challenges.

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. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at 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.

At the Dec 2022 meeting, Julie Lawson was elected chair to the CAC. The subcommittee chairs are Water Quality: Matt Ehrhart, Stroud Water Research Center; Stewardship & Engagement: BeKura Shabazz, First Alliance Consulting; and for Conservation & Land Use: Ann Jurczyk, Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The Citizens Advisory Committee will meet in Cambridge, MD on Feb 23-24. The members will host a panel of Bay Funders to continue the discussion on equitable access to grants. They will also hear a presentation from MD on their progress toward 2025 goals, updates on the Bay Program from Martha Shimkin, and learn about unique opportunities and challenges for Maryland's Eastern Shore from Shore Rivers.

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

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Vice-Chair: vacant until February 2022 CAC vote.

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

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac

December Quarterly Meeting: December 6-7, 2022

The STAC December Quarterly Meeting convened virtually on December 6th and 7th, 2022. More information on the meeting can be found on the STAC December Quarterly Meeting webpage. The meeting theme was environmental flows, with presentations and three panels focusing on the topic, including its importance to enhancing climate resiliency (flood/drought risk), water quality, and aquatic habitat management throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

On Day 1, the committee discussed STAC business and targeted presentations on topics relevant to the partnership. Invited speakers included Gary Shenk (USGS) on the CAST-21 update, LGAC on their fall 2022 Local Government Forum, CAC on findings from the Equitable Access to Grants September 2022 panel, the Clean Water Cohort on science needs, and the Plastic Pollution Action Team (PPAT). Aside from CBP-specific talks, STAC Staff presented on ways to demonstrate and encourage the adaptive management process within the Bay Program partnership post 2023. STAC members discussed the Clean Water Act's (CWA) formalized adaptive management process for policy and learning in order to evaluate opportunities for greater management effort effectiveness.

Goals for the second day included the following: facilitate a CBP-wide understanding of the environmental flows concept and its relevance to stream, river, and estuary management; and identify/evaluate existing tools and opportunities for innovative model development that evaluate flood/drought risks and environmental flow requirements to inform management decisions (e.g., manage risk from episodic weather events). Each panel was set with 3-4 experts on each; panel recordings are available on the meeting webpage linked above. Following the panel discussions, STAC engaged in a group facilitated conversation on the relevance and urgency needed to focus on environmental flows, recommendations to CBP GITs and workgroups regarding this theme, and outstanding gaps and research opportunities to understand critical information on environmental flows.

Upcoming March Quarterly Meeting: March 14-15, 2023

The upcoming STAC March Quarterly Meeting will be held virtually on March 14th and 15th. The meeting will center around waterborne human pathogens and the Chesapeake Bay. The purpose of this themed discussion is to complete the following: Develop a system-based understanding of the occurrence of human pathogens (e.g., in relation to watershed conditions or environmental flow regimes affecting temperature, salinity, redox status, and nutrient status); evaluate whether waterborne pathogen concerns are adequately addressed within existing CBP goals, objectives, and management strategies; and outline critical information/research needs with respect to existing research priorities.

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).

STAC 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2022 Quarterly Meetings. Meeting in June and September are planned to in-person.

March 14-15th, June 13-14th, September 12-13th, and December 5-6th. Two meeting will be held virtually and two in-person with a hybrid option.

March 14-15, 2023: virtual

June 13-14, 2023: in-person at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA

September 12-13, 2023: in-person, Location TBA

December 5-6, 2023: virtual

STAC-Sponsored Workshops

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

1. *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model* (Programmatic Workshop): **March 7-8th, 2023 in Fairfax, VA**. Workshop webpage
2. *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes* (Programmatic Workshop): **March 16th, 2023 on Kent Island**. Workshop webpage
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): **March 21-23rd, 2023 in Woodbridge, VA**. Workshop webpage
4. *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality* (State of the Science Workshop): **April 6-7th, 2023 in Manassas, VA**. Workshop webpage
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): **May 25-26th, 2023 in Hershey, PA**. Workshop webpage

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. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (FY21)
2. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens (FY 2020)
3. 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. **Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services** (FY21): Workshop webpage
2. **Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed** (FY21): Workshop webpage
3. **Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (FY20): Workshop webpage
4. *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
5. *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.

Seasonal Summary - Fall 2022

1) A Fisheries GIT Winter Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 1st-2nd, 2023. The Goal Team will be meeting on Maryland's Eastern Shore to discuss oyster restoration, blue crab abundance, and better connecting fisheries science needs/objectives with interests of faculty and students at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. More details and a full agenda are below:

- Where: University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Richard Henson Center (with virtual options)
- When: March 1st-2nd (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
- Interested in attending: RSVP LINK
- Agenda: LINK HERE

2) NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office recently released its Seasonal Summary Report for Fall, 2022 (attached below). These quarterly reports compile available observational data, such as salinity, flow, and temperature, and relate these conditions to potential impacts on key living resources in the bay.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; 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.

February 2023:

- **HGIT ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Habitat Goal Implementation Team continues to be short staffed and is struggling to keep up with current deadlines. The advertisement for a second HGIT Staffer closed on January 11th, and interviews are currently underway. We anticipate a new staffer will be hired by end of February/beginning of March. Until then, there is full anticipation the deadlines will slip due to current workload and staffing shortage.

- **SRS CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY COHORT:** The **Wetland** and **Black Duck Outcomes** are in the middle of their 2-year review cycle. The new 2023-2024 Logic & Action Plans have been drafted and are currently undergoing a Public & Signatory Feedback Period. The work plans can be found at the SRS Doc Status webpage. Feedback gathered during this period will be incorporated into the final documents, which will be presented for Management Board approval in March. Presently, the two outcomes have also requested extensions on their science needs deadlines. The current science needs can be found at the STAR website.

- **WETLAND WORKGROUP VICE CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT**: Following the recommendations from the Wetlands Workshop, the Wetland Workgroup is reorganizing to have a Chair and two Vice-Chairs (one for tidal and one for non-tidal wetlands). The announcement was sent out in January, and **the advertisement will close March 1, 2023**. If you are interested in filling one of these vice-chair positions or if you'd like more information, please contact: Chris Guy (chris_guy@fws.gov), Cheyenne Owens (cheyenne_owens@fws.gov), Gina Hunt (gina.hunt@maryland.gov), and Bill Jenkins (Jenkins.bill@epa.gov).

- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

    - **STREAM HEALTH WORKGROUP MEETING:** The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for **2/17 from 10:00-12:00 ET**. This will be a virtual meeting and the agenda will be sent out soon. Additional meeting information can be found on the CBP Calendar for this event.

    - **WETLAND WORKGROUP MEETING**: The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for **2/21 from 2:00-4:00 ET**. This will be a virtual meeting and the agenda for this meeting will be posted soon. Additional meeting information can be found on the CBP Calendar for this event.

- **FY2022 GIT FUNDING:** the following projects were approved by the CBT for funding in the current GIT Funding cycle. The Scopes of Work have been finalized and will be advertised sometime this month.

    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:

Nominees for WQGIT At-Large Membership

The WQGIT has six at-large member spots. Three spots are nominated and confirmed annually on an alternating basis. Each of the four nominated individuals for this cycle had two minutes to briefly introduce themselves to the group and speak to the relevant experience and perspectives they can offer. WQGIT members are polled and the three at-large members will be confirmed at the February 27 WQGIT meeting.

Tree Canopy Indicator Update

At the June 2022 WQGIT meeting, the Forestry Workgroup presented a proposal for a new methodology for the Tree Canopy indicator focused on capturing all gains/losses of tree cover on developed and developing lands. Some WQGIT members raised concerns about this expanding the scope beyond the urban/community focus of the outcome. Separate calls were held to understand WQGIT concerns, and the Forestry Workgroup approved the decision to move forward with the original WQGIT approved methodology (2018), with minor technical adjustments aligned with feedback received.

Julie Mawhorter (US Forest Service) provided a brief update on this process and responded to questions from the group. WQGIT members raised suggestions to clearly communicate why there is a numerical difference between the tree canopy indicator and CAST analysis, as well as highlight that tree canopy loss is readily picked up by the imagery while tree canopy establishment lags in the imagery. This indicator will be shared at the February 9 Management Board meeting focused on the Tree Canopy Outcome SRS Review.

Updates to Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) Scope and Purpose

The WTWG revisited and updated its Scope and Purpose to better align with the group's strengths and partnership needs moving forward. Cassie Davis, WTWG Chair, summarized these updates for the WQGIT. The WQGIT membership approved the changes presented.

WQGIT 2023 Outlook

The WQGIT leadership presented potential ideas to enhance the WQGIT's meeting schedule for 2023, including a possible face-to-face meeting later in the year, as well as quarterly "themed" meetings focusing on items from our Logic and Action Plan. Initial reactions were collected live via

Mentimeter and additional feedback is requested via JamBoard. Revised plans and a tentative schedule will be shared and confirmed after the February WQGIT meeting.

The WQGIT will meet on February 27, with agenda topics to be determined.
Water Quality GIT Contact: Jeremy hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org); 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.

The Healthy watersheds GIT will be having their meeting on February 13th from 11-1:30. The meeting will be focused on the upcoming land use outcomes SRS meeting with the Management Board, and how the outcomes under the HWGIT have opportunities to work with groups like the Stream Healthy WG and the Climate Resiliency WG. To view the agenda and other meeting materials: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/maintain-healthy-watersheds-git-meeting-february-2023

The HWGIT has been actively involved with the SRS process for the Land Use Options and Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics outcomes. They will be presenting on their last two years to the Management board on March 9th.

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: rthompso@chesapeakebay.net; 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.

GIT 5 has hired two staffers through the Chesapeake Research Consortium. Wuillam Urvina will be supporting the Diversity, Public Access, and Protected Lands Workgroups. Jimmy Looper will be Supporting the Diversity, Stewardship, and Education Workgroups. Both will also be working with the overall GIT management and coordination. Welcome Wuillam and Jimmy!

Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship Workgroup's January 26th full membership quarterly meeting continued its ongoing goals of building a community of practice among stewardship practitioners throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and engaging the membership in implementation of the 2022-2023 Logic & Action Plan.
- The January 26th meeting also furthered its ongoing goal of offering participants opportunities

to share what they are working on, to gain support of potential partners and to gather input and solve challenges. This was accomplished through the presentation of the U.S. Forest Service's Baltimore Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP), and ensuing discussion about how features of this tool might be helpful in planning the Workgroup's GIT-funded project that will be mapping out stewardship network connections throughout the watershed.

● Lastly, the quarterly meeting facilitated a discussion regarding strategies and projects working to help meet the Watershed Agreement's tree planting goals, including efforts underway through the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition to increase seedling supply (proposed), as well as a new Green Workforce Development Network. These examples highlight how many Outcomes can intersect with and be supported by stewardship work, and that many of our CBP content areas have identified workforce needs, which are being coordinated through the new CBP cross-outcome Workforce Action Team.

Education Workgroup

● The Education Workgroup successfully facilitated the meeting of representatives from across the watershed for the 2023 Environmental Literacy Forum, held January 18-19 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The Forum utilized guest speakers, moderated panels and state breakout sessions to share examples of successful and emerging school district-level environmental literacy planning efforts, uplift and advance new environmental literacy planning strategies, and connect school district initiatives with state strategies while transferring best practices from school district exemplars. Teams of educators attending together had the opportunity to apply the information gained during the sessions to strengthen their own environmental literacy plans.

● The Education Workgroup, in partnership with contractor Local Concepts, hosted the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN) on January 20th as an added part of the Forum. ROLN provided a structured opportunity for state networks to engage in deep collaboration and develop authentic engagement strategies. Networks also worked to identify and share the necessary next steps for advancing systemic environmental literacy at the state level.

● Conversations that began at the Environmental Literacy Forum & ROLN will continue to develop at a follow-up meeting on February 9. This meeting also seeks to review Forum evaluation and discuss improvement to future event structure.

GIT 5 Contact: Britt Slattery, britt_slattery@nps.gov (Coordinator); Wuillam Urvina, urvinaw@chesapeake.org (Staffer); Jimmy Looper, 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.

2022 GIT Funding Program – 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 were due to CBT by December 7, 2022 and are currently under review.

Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) – The GDAT meets biweekly 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; and Kristin Saunders (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 28, 2023.
Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), shimkin.martha@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), 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, 2023 as a joint meeting with the Local Government Advisory Committee.

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

GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) 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 January STAR meeting was focused on gathering feedback from attendees on three topics. The first part of the meeting was a discussion on the estuaries components of the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report. After a brief, contextual presentation on the CESR report's main findings for the estuaries component, attendees brainstormed criteria for selecting areas with critical shallow water habitat. The next part of the meeting focused on gathering feedback on how to improve tutorial story maps teaching the usage of Bay Program tools for targeting conservation and restoration decisions. The meeting concluded with the Forest Buffers outcome presenting their science needs, as part of the Strategic Science and Research Framework. STAR members provided feedback on the science needs and considered potential resources to address these gaps. The next STAR meeting is on February 23rd, 2023.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup held its quarterly review on January 10th and 11th, 2023. The January 2023 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review outlined the schedule and provided status updates on the Phase 7 suite of models in development. The 12 presentations ranged from the modeled consequences of climate change on striped bass habitat and SAV habitat, to discussions on proposed refinements to the summer hypoxia forecasts and the developments in model optimization efforts. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly will be held on April 4th and 5th, 2023.

Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

The January ITAT meeting began with a presentation on the new planned mapping capabilities for CAST. More information on these additional features for CAST can be viewed here. The meeting also involved discussion of which topics ITAT should cover in 2023 and which actions the workgroup can take to better integrate the tidal and nontidal water quality trend data. ITAT members also provided comments on their work to update the James River Tributary Summary. The next ITAT meeting will take place on February 22nd, 2023.

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) and Kaylyn Gootman (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 is scheduled for February 28th, 2023.

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

The BORG Team met in early January to continue discussion on GAM model development. The meeting focused on elements needed in the short-term variability component (2nd stage) of the 4-D DO estimator and to propose mathematical tools for implementing these concepts. The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled soon.

Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup

The January 2023 NTN Workgroup meeting focused on gathering input from members on the mission and purpose of the workgroup. An update was given on the Monitoring Kick-Off meeting that took place in January. There was also a presentation on site selection for future water quality monitoring activities in the Chesapeake Bay, with specific emphasis paid to small, highly agricultural watersheds. The next NTN Workgroup is scheduled for February 15th, 2023.

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 core members of the STWG last met on January 9th to review the 2022 workplan and discuss priority items for 2023. Discussion included evaluating where progress has been made in address workplan items, the role of the workgroup in preparing for 2025, and setting priorities for the new year. The STWG will next meet in March 2023.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup's January Meeting focused on identifying collaborative opportunities between the CRWG and other Chesapeake Bay Program Living Resources outcomes (i.e., Sustainable Fisheries, Healthy Watersheds, and Habitat Goal Implementation Teams and the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Stream Health, and Brook Trout Workgroups). Representatives from these groups presented on recent efforts and climate related needs and gaps that pertain to their goals and outcomes. After the presentations, the workgroup and representatives participated in a discussion to help review and develop collaborative actions to include in the 2023-2024 CRWG Logic and Action Plan (workplan). Based on the discussions, the CRWG leadership team drafted new actions to include in their workplan that focuses on the following:

- Explore multimeric resilience indices related to living resources for tidal and watershed waters (Action 1.6)
- Explore opportunities to support long-term monitoring of habitats and aquatic resources to track the effects of environmental and ecosystem changes (Action 1.7)

- Support discussions on how to feasibly track and measure resilience progress for habitat and communities to support the Chesapeake Bay beyond 2025 goal setting conversations (Action 2.1).

Additionally, the workgroup submitted their draft workplan and updated Management Strategy to the Strategy Review System team. These documents are currently open for public review and comment. Lastly, the workgroup is circulating a Membership Survey as a means of updating the membership list, planning the structure of the workgroup's meetings, developing actions, and identifying expertise and interests to help the workgroup align climate resiliency priorities between the CBP and participating partners.

The February CRWG meeting will be held on **February 23rd, 2023 from 1:30-3:30 PM** and will have presentations on the results of the GIT-Funded Marsh Migration Data Synthesis Project, updates on the GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation Project, a review of the 2022 LGAC Forum on integrating resilience into local planning, and the results of the membership survey.

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

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

February 2023 Management Board Indicators Update

February MB Indicators Update

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

- Diversity (2022 data)

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

- Forest Buffers (2021 data)
- Local Leadership (2022 data)
- Tree Canopy (2021 data)
- Fish Passage (2021 data)
- Climate Monitoring and Assessment: Average Air Temperature and Total Precipitation (2021 data)

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, 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.

Strategic Engagement Team
The Strategic Engagement Team is working on follow up actions from the October 4 meeting with the Clean Water Cohort and the November 29 meeting with the Climate Change and Resiliency Cohort.

Communications Office
On January 24, the Communications Office hosted a public webinar featuring Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST), Resource Targeting Portal and the Very High Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data Project. Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting, John Wolf, USGS and Peter Claggett, USGS were the presenters. Over 115 people attended the webinar.

- Access a recording of the webinar here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkOwuskIU4U&t=55s

40th Anniversary Planning Committee
The Communications Office is leading the 40th anniversary planning effort and convened a team of planners for each jurisdiction and federal agency. The kick-off meeting took place on January 19. The Communications Office is in the process of hosting one on one meetings with each partner.

Executive Council
Planning for the 2023 Executive Council meeting began on January 11, 2023.

The following blogs were published in January:

- Celebrating 40 years of science, restoration and partnership https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/celebrating-40-years-of-science-restoration-and-partnership
- How do road salts impact Chesapeake critters? https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how-do-road-salts-impact-chesapeake-critters
- Five free tools that are helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/five-free-tools-that-are-helping-to-restore-the-chesapeake-bay-watershed
- 2022 survey results show Bay Program partnership's continued challenge to increase racial diversity https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/2022-survey-results-show-bay-program-partnerships-continued-challenge-to-increase-racial-diversity
- Creating green infrastructure with and for vulnerable communities https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/creating-green-infrastructure-with-and-for-vulnerable-communities
- Year in photos: The Chesapeake watershed in 2022 https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/year-in-photos-the-chesapeake-watershed-in-2022
- When other plants are losing their leaves, witchhazel puts on a show https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/when-other-plants-are-losing-their-leaves-witchhazel-puts-on-a-show