



Program Updates Management Board

October 10, 2024

CBPO Calendar

Sept. 5-6	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting (Norfolk, VA)
Sept. 9	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting
Sept. 10-11	STAC Quarterly Meeting
Sept 12	Management Board Meeting
Sept. 17	Principals Staff Committee Meeting
Sept. 17	Wetlands Workgroup Meeting - Tidal
Sept. 18-19	Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Meeting
Sept 23	Stewardship GIT meeting
Sept 23	Water Quality GIT meeting
Sept 25	Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT(6) Meeting
Sept 26-27	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting
Oct 1-2	Habitat GIT meeting
Oct 10	Management Board meeting
October 15	Wetlands Workgroup Meeting – Nontidal & Tidal:
Oct 15	Forestry Workgroup Webinar: Tree Stewards programs
Oct 21	Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
Oct 24th	Public Access Workgroup Meeting
Oct 25	Principals' Staff Committee meeting
Oct 28	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
Oct 30	WWTWG Small Groups Meeting

Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT1: Fisheries

Does not have any updates for the Management Board at this time.

GIT2: Habitat

Previous Meetings:

- Habitat Git Fall 2024 Meeting: The Habitat GIT Fall Meeting was on October 2nd and 3rd. This was a hybrid meeting with both in-person and virtual attendance options. The in-person location was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA. The calendar webpage for the HGIT Fall Meeting can be [found here](#).

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wetlands Workgroup Meeting – Nontidal & Tidal: The Wetlands Workgroup will be having their Nontidal & Tidal Workgroup meeting on October 15th from 10:00 – 1:00 ET. More information on this meeting can be found [at this link](#).
- Stream Health Workgroup Meeting: The Stream Health Workgroup ***canceled*** the October 18th Workgroup meeting and will be meeting next on December 20th from 10:00 – 1:00 ET.

Strategy Review System (SRS) – Healthy Watersheds Cohort: The Stream Health Workgroup is in the final stages of the most recent SRS cycle. Currently, the workgroup is working on finalizing their Work Plan and Management Strategy after receiving feedback from the SRS team last week. After which the documents will be posted to the workgroup webpage.

Strategy Review System (SRS) – Living Resources Cohort: The Brook Trout Outcome will be updating their Management Strategy after receiving the updated brook trout patch dataset in September. The updated Management Strategy will be submitted to the SRS Team by 10/28/2024, which is delayed from the previous September deadline. After which the documents will be posted to the workgroup webpage.

Brook Trout Workgroup: During the December 2023 SRS process, the Management Board identified the need for large scale brook trout restoration. In response, the Brook Trout Workgroup submitted a STAC workshop proposal to provide a local jurisdictional, multi-state, and federal blueprint (i.e. restoration plan) for extant brook trout populations in persistent and stronghold patches in Maryland and Pennsylvania counties. The STAC proposal was selected for funding. The steering committee is currently being identified and the first workshop call is Thursday, October 10th.

- Fy2024 Git Funding: The following project proposals were selected by CBP Leadership for GIT Funding:
- SAV: *Chesapeake Bay Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program Development*
- Stream Health: *Phase 3B – Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators – Physicochemical Metric Analysis*
- Wetlands: *Increasing Effectiveness of Landowner Engagement to Accelerate Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*

GIT3: Water Quality

September Meeting:

The WQGIT held a [meeting](#) on September 23rd, 2024, and discussed the following topics:

Workgroup Updates

- WWTWG
 - o The WWTWG Small Groups have been meeting and the next workgroup meeting will be on [October 30th](#) (rescheduled!).
- FWG
 - o The FWG is having a joint meeting with the LUWG and HWGIT on [December 2nd](#).
- LUWG
 - o The LUWG met in September and covered the release of 2024 LU/LC data in November which will cover three time periods, a note about an email that will be sent to jurisdictions about getting MS4 boundary information to USGS, and that there is a Gantt chart on Phase 7 land use classification which will be posted on P7 website soon and can currently be found on Sarah McDonald's [slides](#) from the September LUWG [Meeting](#).
- TCW
 - o The TCW has been collaborating with the LLWG and hopes to include the LGAC, the TCW has been collaborating with AgWG on PFAS in biosolids, and that the TCW would be interested with working with the WWTWG on the issue as well. The next TCW meeting will be a PFAS Quarterly meeting focused on PFAS in fish tissue, and the TCW will be presenting on their SRS requirements at the Clean Water Cohort QPM on November 7th. The TCW is still seeking Co-Chair nominations on a rolling basis.
- FFWG
 - o is starting to update the Federal Lands data layer (on the agenda for their next meeting). The annual call for data from Federal Agencies on BMP progress went out last week. The next FFWG meeting will also feature a round of success stories regarding stream restoration on federal land, in the vein of branching out beyond TMDL focused work.

Phase 7 Development Timeline

Auston Smith, EPA walked through an example of the more detailed version of the Phase 7 development timeline, including broken out items for subtasks. Discussion followed including about discrepancies between this timeline and the LUWG's Gantt chart, responsible workgroups for various decisions, and specifics of the Phase 7 modeling effort. Auston will be in touch with Peter Claggett, USGS regarding the LUWG Gantt chart issue. No clear decision or uniformity in understanding regarding the approving body for Phase 7 tasks and inputs was reached, but the WQGIT will revisit this.

Partner spotlight: New York and Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Cassie Davis, NYS DEC and Emily Dekar, USC shared lessons and successes from NY on ‘Building Capacity Using Local Coalitions.’ This included an overview of how the USC is structured, its communications efforts, capacity building, and lessons for effective work on BMP implementation. Discussion followed including on carbon sequestration and ecosystem services provided by BMPs.

WQGIT feedback poll results:

Sushanth Gupta, CRC reviewed results and feedback provided by WQGIT members and interested parties. This was followed by additional thoughts from WQGIT Leadership, and a discussion that covered the prioritization of climate change, the CAP workgroup, and the theme of BMP effectiveness which many responses focused on.

Beyond 2025 Update

Doug Bell, EPA and KC Filippino, HRPDC gave an overview of comments received during the feedback period on the Draft Beyond 2025 Recommendations that ended on August 30th. They also described next steps for the Steering Committee and the timeline for approval up through the MB, PSC and EC.

Milestones retrospective

Suzanne Trevena, EPA reviewed the history and evolution of milestones within the partnership’s accountability framework. This will be a foundation for forthcoming conversations at the WQGIT regarding the approach to near term milestones, per last month’s decision:

Decision [[WQGIT August 2024](#)]: The WQGIT agreed to hold discussions on Milestones within the WQGIT for the “near term” milestones. “Near term” milestones are those milestones between 2026 and when there are new targets established by the partnership using the Phase 7 modeling tools. The WQGIT will develop recommendations for duration and piloting new ideas for the “near term” milestones. The WQGIT may also decide to delegate long term follow up items for milestones to the Milestones Workgroup.

Suzanne shared an initial timeline for upcoming WQGIT discussions on this topic and delivery of recommendations or updates to the MB or PSC for a decision. WQGIT members should be prepared for further discussions on this issue at upcoming WQGIT meetings, and review relevant materials as needed.

Additional Forestry Workgroup Updates:

Upcoming Webinars:

- October 15th - 12:00pm - 1:00pm
 - o CBP/Forestry Workgroup-hosted webinar on Tree Stewards programs across the watershed, with Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay), Fred Chalfant (TreeBaltimore), and Abel Olivo (Defensores de la Cuenca). Free registration [here](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 28th - 4:00pm - 5:00pm
 - o The Chesapeake Conservancy is supporting USFS with geospatial analyses for the State of the Chesapeake Forests 2.0 Storymap. During the September FWG meeting, the Conservancy presented these methods, but time constraints limited the discussion. If you would like to attend, please contact the FWG staffer: myang@chesapeakebay.net to be added to the calendar invite.
- November 6th - 9:00am - 11:00am
 - o The agenda for the November monthly meeting will be posted on the FWG [calendar page](#) a week before
- December 2nd - 10:00am - 3:00pm
 - o The Forestry Workgroup, Land Use Workgroup, and Healthy Watersheds GIT will host a joint meeting

Please note: *This will replace our regularly scheduled FWG meeting on December 4th. The meeting will be hybrid with an in-person option available at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office - if you are planning to attend in person [please fill out this form](#): - We hope you can join us!*

Timber Harvest Task Force:

- The FWG has approved the Timber Harvest Task Force's following recommendations, which will be presented to the WTWG and WQGIT for approval:
 - o Modifying forest harvesting efficiencies:
 - Recommend changing the credit duration to three years (to align with the harvested forest land use duration) and changing the efficiency rates to:
 - TSS from 60% to 85%
- TN from 50% to 90%
- TP from 60% to 85%
- Improving modeling of forest harvesting in Phase 7 of CAST
 - o Modify the harvested forest land use duration from one year to three years
 - o Change the default rate for states that don't report annual harvested forest acres from 1.5% of true forest to 1.1% of true forest
 - o Implement new processes to reconcile reported and mapped harvest data to avoid double-counting of clearcuts and improve spatial allocation of harvest
- The FWG submitted a comment letter to the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee on the Draft Beyond 2025 Report. You can view the letter on the FWG [calendar page](#), under "Supporting Documents"

Forest Buffer Action Plans:

Virginia has completed their Forest Buffer Action Plan! You can view the plan on the [FWG Projects and Resources page](#) under the "Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer 2022 Leadership Workshop".

Additional Federal Facilities Workgroup Updates:

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 8th - 10:00am - 12:00pm

- Agenda for the October monthly meeting is posted on the FFWG [calendar page](#)
- December 10th - 10:00am - 12:00pm
 - Agenda for the December monthly meeting will be posted on the [calendar page](#) a week before the meeting

CBP Annual Letter to Federal Agencies:

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office has released their annual letter to Federal Agencies requesting Best Management Practices (BMP) data submissions (for BMPs installed July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) uses these BMP data submissions to assess progress toward restoring the Bay. Submissions are due October 15, 2024.

GIT4: Healthy Watersheds

Leadership Transitions:

We wish to inform you that, due to time constraints, Jason Dubow has decided to step down from his role as Vice-Chair of the Healthy Watershed GIT (HWGIT).

In light of this change, the HWGIT is now accepting nominations for a new Vice-Chair. If you are interested in this position or would like to nominate someone from your jurisdiction, please send the nominee's contact information and a brief biography to our HWGIT staffer:

myang@chesapeakebay.net by October 18th.

We are pleased to share that we have already received one nomination, Debbie Herr Cornwell from the MD Department of Planning. Debbie is a licensed landscape architect with over 30 years of experience across private, nonprofit, and government sectors. Drawing on her experiences working in a multi-disciplinary design firm and as a sole practitioner, she has designed and constructed environmentally sensitive projects for private and government clients. Prior to coming to the Maryland Department of Planning in 2017, she worked for nine years at the county government level assisting citizens in navigating the development review and approval process, preserving agricultural lands and developing local policies. Debbie currently serves as Manager of the Natural and Working Lands Unit in the Research, Review and Policy Division of MDP.

During our upcoming HWGIT meeting on October 21st, we will present the nominees and conduct a vote. We will share the results with the Management Board during their November 7th meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 21st - 11:00am - 1:00pm
 - Joint meeting with the Protected Lands Workgroup
- November - TIME TBD
 - Joint meeting with the Climate Resiliency & Stream Health Workgroups
 - ***Please note*** - *the original date announced for this meeting was Nov. 21st - however due to the MD Water Monitoring Conference falling on the same date - we are working to schedule a new time.*

- December 2nd - 10:00am - 3:00pm
 - o Joint meeting with the Land Use & Forestry Workgroups
 - o This will be a **hybrid meeting** with a **virtual and in-person option** at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.

Notifications:

- Updates to the HW Management Strategy and Workplan:
The HWGIT has made significant revisions to the Management Strategy and two-year Workplan for the Healthy Watersheds outcome. The most notable change is the removal of the restricted focus on State-Identified Healthy Watersheds, replacing it with an expanded scope including all Healthy Watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Both updated documents have been submitted to the Management Board and are posted on the [CBP Watershed Agreement page](#).

GIT5: Stewardship

The Stewardship Goal Team (GIT 5) Collaboration Meeting was held on September 23rd at the Anacostia Community Museum. This was attended by members of each workgroup within GIT 5 as well as other interested parties and was a successful way to facilitate discussion on steps for future collaboration within GIT 5 and among external workgroups.

Stewardship Workgroup

- Work is progressing for the Stewardship Network Study & Asset Mapping GIT funded project with contractors from Local Concepts LLC. The project is working to develop a visualization (now called “Chesapeake Steward Map”) of the network of networks supporting stewardship work in the watershed, in order to assess and use networks more effectively to strengthen collaboration and increase progress toward our shared goals and outcomes. This will serve many 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.). The tool will provide a platform for stewardship providers to share their information (such as who they are, what they do and where, and which other providers they interact with), which will be used to help show existing and facilitate new connections among the various entities working in the field. It will also highlight strengths and gaps in partner relationships and geographic areas to inform future efforts. With over 130 early joiners on the map, it is currently being tested for functionality and refined to suit feedback and needs. Outreach to grow the use of the tool will be ongoing.
- The Workgroup completed its biennial progress review with the Management Board in March, and updated the Management Strategy and the new two year action plan (2024-25) throughout April-May. The Workgroup is now forming small teams to begin work towards actions intended to be started and/or completed in 2024.
- Ashley Traut from the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition has begun transitioning out of his co-chair role. A call for new co-chairs is being developed with his support.

Education Workgroup

- The GIT funded project entitled, “How Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) are Advancing K-12 Student Outcomes” is nearing completion. The project included gathering data from school and school district personnel through surveys and focus groups to identify key areas where nonformal education organizations should be focusing to increase school district engagement. Using feedback from the state departments of education and NAAEE affiliate leaders, a rubric has been finalized as a self-assessment tool to help school districts and nonformal environmental education (EE) providers strengthen connections between EE programs and required school curricula. The tool is being field tested with partners across the region.
- Work has wrapped up with contractor WE Strategies on the Workforce Landscape Assessment GIT funded project. The contractor team and advisory committee have been meeting regularly to guide the project in the run up to the closeout of this award. A workshop held in July allowed the contractors to present their findings and recommendations and gain feedback from more of the CBP community. Final recommendations and a draft of an interactive career pathways tool will be presented to the Workforce Action Team for discussion of next steps to consider after the contracted project has completed.
- The Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) measures and tracks progress on the Student Outcome of the Environmental Literacy Goal across the watershed. The next round of tracking is underway with surveys having been sent to all school districts. Data will be available in early 2025.
- The Education Workgroup finished conducting community listening sessions this summer. The feedback has been developed into a report that will be used to inform the workgroup’s priorities and future work plans at the state and regional levels.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup has compiled its 2023 data collection and is working with CBP staff to update public information and the workgroup’s analysis and method document.
- The next Public Access Workgroup Meeting will take place on October 24th from 10am-11:15am.

Protected Lands Workgroup (Support from Chesapeake Conservation Partnership)

- The Protected Lands Workgroup will be co-hosting a joint meeting with the Healthy Watersheds GIT on October 21st from 11am-1pm.
 - o It will be an opportunity to learn more about the Healthy Watersheds GIT (Goal Implementation Team) and to think about ways for future collaboration.
- Update regarding the tracking of progress for the workgroup's goal of preserving two million acres by 2025: Our previous update, based on 2022 data, provided a status of land conservation and highlighted areas for improvement in our data collection methodology. Moving forward, we plan to conduct another data collection, incorporating

data reflecting land conservation activities through the end of the calendar year, 2024. In addition, we will be working with the Protected Lands GIS Community of Practice to develop a protocol for collecting the date of establishment for land protection projects moving forward. These simultaneous actions are being taken to ensure that our progress report to the Chesapeake Bay Program is delivered without any delay, and that we are on a path for the future that ensures the most accurate tracking of land conservation for a range of purposes over time.

Diversity Workgroup

- The Diversity Workgroup has been exploring 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. This also entails working to broaden participation to include entities currently missing that would help to round out the group's capacity to implement actions and achieve progress toward the Outcome. Recent Workgroup and Steering Committee meetings have included many new members who are eager to contribute to the work, and these groups are pleasingly the most diverse we've seen in any CBP meetings! Members have also begun joining small action focused teams to implement the new work plan, demonstrating a commitment towards greater engagement.
- The Diversity Workgroup has been involved in contributing to the internal assessment and development of recommendations as part of the CBP's "Beyond 2025" process. Forward-looking discussions have been held with Workgroup and Steering Committee members and other partners over the past year to explore ways to center people in Chesapeake Bay efforts beyond 2025, and to consider a vision and hopes for the future of the watershed. These insights have been carried by staff to the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee meetings and the "People" topic recommendations.
- The Diversity Workgroup presented its progress review to the Management Board in March, 2024. The Diversity Workgroup updated their Management Strategy and developed their new two year action plan (2024-2025) from March through the end of May. The Workgroup has begun coordinating the creation of small action teams to tackle key work plan actions, especially those intended to begin in 2024.

GIT6: Enhance Partnering, Leadership, Management

September Quarterly Meeting: GIT6 had its last quarterly meeting on September 25th, from 10 am to 3 pm. The meeting hosted updates from the GIT6 workgroups, showcased improvements on the Shared Learning Series pilot module, and left room for discussion on expanding GIT6 membership. To access more information on the meeting, including any meeting materials, please click [here](#). If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Erin Sonnenburg, at Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov.

Contact Information: Lucinda Power(Chair) power.lucinda@epa.gov, James E. Martin(Chair) james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov, Greg Allen (Coordinator) allen.greg@epa.gov, Erin Sonnenburg (Staffer) Sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov.

Strategy Review System Workgroup:

The Clean Water Cohort is preparing for its Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board, which will take place on November 7th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

The Brook Trout Workgroup requested, and was granted, an additional extension on the deadline for the submission of their Management Strategy. The deadline for the Brook Trout Management Strategy has been extended to October 28, 2024. This extension will allow for the better integration of results from a GIT funded project into strategic planning documents.

The Strategy Review System (SRS) Workgroup convened on September 27, 2024. Topics discussed included cohort updates, reflections on SRS strengths and opportunities for improvement of the based on the first year of the 4th cycle, adaptations could be made to the SRS process for the second year of the 4th Cycle, kicking off planning efforts for the SRS Biennial Meeting, and workgroup logistics. Outcomes of the meeting include the formation of a small planning group to begin scoping out the 2025 Biennial Meeting agenda and logistics, agreement to offer outcome leads the opportunity to create a one-year or two-year workplan in year two of the 4th cycle, and plans to continue discussions about how we can leverage and streamline parts of the SRS process to most effectively serve our partnership's adaptive management as we approach 2025.

The Strategy Review System (SRS) Workgroup continues to solicit nominations for Chair and Vice/Co-Chair. Experience with the science and practice of adaptive management, public policy or the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance and structure are valued. After new leadership is confirmed, the SRS Workgroup will revisit the team's purpose and scope of work to ensure progress is being thoughtfully made on key priorities. Please contact SRS Coordinator Sarah Brzezinski, Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov, to self-nominate or to recommend a colleague for consideration.

Budget and Finance Workgroup:

The workgroup was awarded funds for its STAC workshop proposal. The workshop will explore the natural and social sciences gaps that impede the use of market-based approaches for Chesapeake restoration. On June 28th the first meeting of the steering committee was held to discuss next steps.

Contact Information: Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair) elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; Khesha Reed (Co- Chair) reed.khesha@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup:

August 20 LLWG Quarterly Meeting:

On August 20, the Local Leadership workgroup hosted its August quarterly Meeting. The Webpage for this meeting can be found [here](#). The theme for this meeting was water quality toxics and Local Government Initiatives. The workgroup hosted Jennifer Reitz from the University of Delaware, to discuss EPA's TAB program for brownfield assistance, as well as a panel of speakers from DNREC, DOEE, VADEQ, and MDE. To view resources shared and notes from the meeting, please reach out to Erin Sonnenburg, at sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov for a full write up.

Soliciting names for LLWG Chair: The LLWG is soliciting nominations for their soon to be vacant VC position. If there is any interest in the position or a recommendation for another individual, please send information to Rick Mittler, at rmittler@allianceforthebay.org and Les Knapp, at les.knapp@maryland.gov.

SRS 4th Cycle, Year 2: Next year, March 2024, the LLWG will be joining the Management Board and SRS Workgroup at the March MB QPM with updates on their LLWG related outcomes.

November LLWG Meeting: The next LLWG meeting will be on November 12, 2024. To access the meeting website, please click [here](#).

Submitted Articles/Blogs: The LLWG submitted a Climate Resiliency & Public Safety Article to be published in their upcoming Borough News - Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness issue. The article focused on actionable guidance and inspiring stories of flooding resilience and preparedness from across the state. The article provides valuable insights and practical strategies to help Pennsylvania boroughs build safer and more resilient communities.

Scientific Technical Assessment & Reporting Updates

The [September STAR Meeting](#) theme was "Collaboration leading to social and environmental change". The meeting opened with a debrief of the August STAR Meeting Menti Poll Results from the Strategic Engagement Team Staffer, Bianca Martinez Penn. This poll asked STAR members what challenges they were having with audiences they're trying to reach and what topics around engagement they want to discuss. This was followed by a short documentary from *Converge*, titled "[Impact Networks: Creating Change in a Complex World](#)". This film explores the patterns impact networks follow to accelerate learning and collaboration leading to social and environmental change. This documentary was followed by a guided discussion by SET Leaders with the purpose to engage and initiate conversations on network building within the Bay Program and with external audiences. The meeting closed with a presentation from Kelsi Furman (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA) on understanding how diverse marine resource users interact with and value marine biodiversity, capturing the diverse knowledge and perceptions of management approaches and examining the relationships between social-ecological system components. The next STAR meeting will be [Thursday, October 24th, 2024](#)

Modeling Workgroup:

The Modeling Workgroup held its last Quarterly Review on [July 9th](#) and [July 10th](#), 2024. On the first day of the July 2024 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review, presentations included a review of the STAC Climate Change 3.0 Workshop, an overview of the Phase 7 Watershed model, an update on CalCAST development, an update on progress on Phase 7 WSM model development, a presentation on Development of Efficient Multi-Objective Optimization Procedures, and a presentation on Stormwater Management in a Changing Climate SWM & AG BMPs. The day also featured a discussion on Updating and Improving Loading Sensitivity to Inputs, Phosphorous Loading Processes, and Related Activity Update. Day 2 included an update on the Main Bay Model, a Phase 7 update of Model Criteria Assessment, discussion on Whole Bay Criteria Assessment, Decarbonization Sensitivity Scenarios on atmospheric chemistry models, a review of CBP Multiple Tributary Model (MTM) Work and Progress on the East Coast Tracer Model, a presentation on the Documentation of Algal Temperature Correction for Algal Growth, and updates on MTM progress. Day 2 concluded with a discussion of climate change impacts in the Chesapeake region beyond mid-century. The MWG will hold its October Quarterly Review on [Tuesday-Wednesday](#), October 8th-9th, 2024.

Phase 7 Modeling:

The Phase 7 modeling work is proceeding as planned. Timelines of the various elements and recent presentations are available on the Phase 7 Model Development Webpage. The most recent CBP Modeling Quarterly Review was held on October 8 and 9, 2024. Please use this link for the agenda and meeting presentations: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/modeling-workgroup-quarterly-review---october-2024-day-1>

Watershed Modeling

Watershed modeling efforts through 2024 will be to continue develop CalCAST and the Dynamic Model, and to improve inputs and model sensitivities. After successful early trials, CalCAST is being fully built out as a statistical version of CAST to directly test the ability of model parameters and structures to mimic observed loads. The Dynamic Model is continuing to be developed with emphasis on simulation techniques in small watersheds that match the observed variability in concentration and relationship to flow. The Modeling Team is producing a literature review to inform the updates to the sensitivities to inputs. Work is progressing with the Ag Modeling Team, Wastewater Treatment Workgroup, and Urban Stormwater workgroup on improving input data sets. At the October 8-9 MCBP Modeling Quarterly the initial full development of the Phase 7 Dynamic Watershed Model will be, for the first time, be presented and reviewed.

Contact: Gary Shenk, USGS

Optimization

Progress on the CBP BMP optimization work will next be presented at the January 2025 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review. For the most recent presentation on CBP BMP optimization please refer to the presentation at the Modeling Quarterly on Tuesday July 9th.

Contact: Lew Linker, EPA

Estuarine Modeling

Several presentations on the CBP Estuarine Modeling was reviewed at the CBP Modeling October Quarterly Review (October 9, 2024). Presentations included updates on the Main Bay Model, Multiple Tributary Models, and more.

Contact: Lew Linker, EPA

Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT):

The [September ITAT Meeting](#) held a meeting on Hypoxia in Chesapeake Bay with more conversations on this topic to follow in the [October ITAT Meeting](#). The meeting began with reminders for members to consider submitting proposals for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Synthesis Request for Proposal. It was also mentioned that ITAT will be present at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay - [Watershed Forum](#) (October 18th – 20th, Shepherdstown, WV) to demonstrate the [Watershed Data Dashboard](#) and [ITAT's Tributary Summaries](#) (under "Projects and Resources") and how this can be a useful tool for different organizations. Kyle Hinson (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, VIMS) presented to us his recently published material ([Scientific Reports](#)) where he compared commonly applied techniques for modeling climate change impacts and how the choices made during the experimental design stage can have substantial alterations on future estimates of Chesapeake Bay water quality. The next ITAT meeting will take place [on October 23rd, 2024](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) 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 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), CBP Modeling Workgroup, Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee, 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) and Kaylyn Gootman (gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov).

Data Integrity Workgroup:

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their fall quarterly meeting on [September 30, 2024](#). Participants introduced themselves and provided monitoring and laboratory updates. Labs are at different points in the process of switching over their flow analyzer instruments from Lachat to SEAL instruments, and shared insights from the process so far. Jerry Frank (CBL) updated the group on blind audit samples, sharing that the first round of samples would be going out shortly, and the second round soon after. Mike Mallonee (ICPRB) presented the split sample data from the coordinated split sample program, and there were no issues. Doug Chambers (USGS) then gave a presentation on a bias he discovered in the suspended sediment concentration (SSC) analysis for NTN stations in karst watersheds. He found that after a switch in collection bottle type, an increase in suspended sediment and turbidity was found in reusable plastic bottles. This

relationship associated with a switch in bottle type was only found in karst watersheds. Doug shared some ideas for why this might be occurring, as well as steps that are being taken to address this issue. The issue has been shared with the Nontidal Network as well as USGS Sediment Labs Workgroup, and new procedures are being taken to address the issue. The next DIWG meeting will be in the winter.

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

The Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) met for their quarterly public meeting on [September 16, 2024](#). Peter Tango (USGS) shared an update from the Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup, and the next steps for this group going forward. Updates on the 4-Dimensional Interpolator development were shared. Rebecca Murph (UMCES) provided an overview of the interpolator development, how it works, and what data it uses. Elgin Perry presented a case study investigating how well multiple simulations will cover the observed data, using Goose Reef profiler data. Jon Harcum (TetraTech) presented an overview of methods for analyzing high frequency data. The next BORG meeting will be a Development Team meeting on October 21st.

Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup:

The Nontidal Network Workgroup Leadership Team met on September 23rd, 2024. The meeting started on some updates for funding opportunities, including an [Decarbonization effort](#) awarded to Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and the Nature Conservancy to assess wetland preservation, shoreline integrity BMPs and other nature-based solutions related to decarbonization. Additionally, there are negotiations with satellite imagery consumer companies for communication and improved efforts with the CBP GIS team. Following this, leaders had made the decision to postpone the October in-person meeting to Spring 2025 as responses to the attendance poll were low. Leaders discussed how NTN can bring together more participation from field technicians alongside management staff. Also, NTN leaders are planning to arrange field site visits to coincide with field audits. The next NTN WG meeting will be a hybrid meeting on [Wednesday October 23rd, 2024](#) with the aim to continue discussions on engaging tech leads with NTN.

Hypoxia Collaborative Team:

The Hypoxia Collaborative Team met on [March 4, 2024](#). Partners shared updates on their ongoing work. Then, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (NCBO) team shared the proposal for the 2024 hypoxia station deployment locations with justification for the proposed placements. This proposal was followed by a robust discussion of the proposed two geographical areas. The collaborative was given an additional week to provide feedback or follow-up thoughts on the proposed locations. Peter Tango (USGS) then went over a proposed model-assisted optimization analysis for a high frequency sensor water quality sampling design strategy for long term and near term to support bay habitat and criteria assessment at the segment scale. This analysis was proposed for GIT funding and this project was selected to be funded. The scoping meeting for this GIT funded project was on July 11th, 2024. The Hypoxia Collaborative Team will meet next on [October 16, 2024](#).

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup:

The CAP workgroup met on [August 13, 2024](#), as a hybrid meeting with both in-person and virtual attendees. The in-person attendees convened at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. This all-day meeting covered a lot of topics including our monitoring and assessment framework, hearing from the EPA, as well as perspectives from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); an overview and question and answer session on the 4-Dimensional Interpolator; and rigorous discussion on short duration criteria attainment decision making. With many important topics, the group decided to meet more frequently going forward, and will meet on an every other month schedule, with the next meeting on [October 9th, 2024](#).

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG):

The [STWG met on January 29th](#) to foster cross-outcome learning and discuss STWG plans for 2024. The meeting began with a presentation on the [Forage Status and Trends Report](#), which synthesized all research findings and projects completed since 2014 in support of the Forage Outcome. The full workgroup will next convene as needed while individual teams continue to meet to work on new indicator development projects. STWG aims to give a brief presentation on plans for the future of STWG at the November STAR Meeting. This will bolster joint STAR/STWG engagement with outcome leads and indicator teams.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG):

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup will be holding a special working meeting on Coastal Wetland and Marsh Adaptation with Envision the Choptank on October 22nd, 2024. Through September, workgroup members met with Envision the Choptank partners to learn about marsh areas of concern to help plan the meeting. The working meeting will focus on sharing information about adaptation strategies for brackish saltmarshes, non-forested tidal wetlands, and forested tidal wetlands in priority regions along the Choptank River. Meeting participants will also have the opportunity to utilize the mapper that was developed during the GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation Project to encourage discussion around where to target adaptation projects.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup is also working with the Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team and the Stream Health Workgroup to plan a joint meeting. Meeting topics will focus on climate considerations, in particular flow and temperature, from a whole watershed perspective. The meeting date is still to be determined.

Indicator Update

Our indicators team updated the [Toxics Policy and Prevention Outcome](#) on ChesapeakeProgress this past week. This outcome aims to improve the practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm the plants and animals that rely on the Bay, including us humans. It considers the impact that PCBs have on the health of the Bay, as well as other pollutants like metals, priority organics and PFAS. The overall percentage of the Bay contaminated by toxics in 2022 remained the same from the previous assessment period (2020)—78% of tidal segments are considered to be fully or partially impaired. A few other

notable highlights—22% of tidal segments currently are not impaired, 61% are impaired by PCBs (a slight decrease from 63% in 2020) and 1% are considered impaired by PCBs and PFAS. PFAS was first included in the 2020 data.

Strategic Engagement Team & Communications Office Updates

On September 24, the Strategic Engagement Team (SET) used their bi-weekly meeting to discuss their action tracking sheet to review status and next steps, while considering necessary follow-up actions. Currently, SET is tracking 48 different action items that have arisen from their quarterly meetings since Fall 2022 and has taken action on 25 of them. The SET coordinator and staffer will reach out to the relevant workgroups to discuss the identified actions for follow-up. The next SET bi-weekly meeting will take place on October 22, and the next Quarterly meeting will take place on January 14, 2025 and feature the Clean Water cohort.

Communications Office

Executive Council:

The Executive Council meeting will take place on December 10 from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Annapolis, Md. The Executive Council planning committee continues to meet bi-weekly to discuss agenda topics as well as further details regarding logistics. Starting in November, the planning committee will start to meet weekly leading up to the meeting. The planning committee is recommending that the Executive Council take the following actions at their meeting:

- Sign a directive to create the Agriculture Advisory Committee.
- Issue a charge approving the recommendations for Beyond 2025 and instructing the partnership to begin implementation of Phase 2.

Published blogs:

The following blogs were published in September:

- Bohemia River and its ties to a famous Chesapeake Bay mapmaker
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog>
- Far from the shores of the Chesapeake, organizations are recognized for their efforts to keep the Bay healthy <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/far-from-the-shores-of-the-chesapeake-org-anizations-are-recognized-for-their-efforts-to-keep-the-bay-healthy>
- Like farmer, like son <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/like-farmer-like-son>

Advisory Committees Updates

Local Governments Advisory Committee

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

LGAC held its most recent quarterly meeting on September 26th-27th, 2024 in Shepherdstown, WV. Meeting minutes and presentations from the meeting are available on the [September meeting webpage](#).

LGAC now seeks a representative from Maryland and Pennsylvania.

If there are MB requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the LGAC Coordinator, Laura Cattell Noll at lnoll@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staffer, Kayli Ottomanelli at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

Stakeholders Advisory Committee:

The Stakeholders' Advisory Committee held their previous quarterly meeting in Williamsport, PA on Sept 18-19, 2024. Topics included a briefing on Beyond 2025 public feedback, a tour of Turtle Creek stream restoration, continued discussion on the CBP's role in land use, and consensus points for the 2024 annual recommendations to the Executive Council.

The Stakeholders' Committee's 2024 Priorities that drive the quarterly meetings include: (1) engagement in the Beyond 2025 work and a deeper dive into accountability for the Bay TMDL; (2) a broad understanding of the policies and incentives across the watershed for key outcomes with a focus on forest cover and land conservation with an intent to identify gaps; (3) continued engagement on equitable access to grants and capacity building; (4) intentionally learning and development of internal Committee guiding principles that advance inclusivity of all members.

Their next quarterly meeting will be Dec 12-13, 2024 in the Washington, DC area.

Their 2025 quarterly meeting dates are:

February 20-21; May 21-22; September 17-18; and December 11-12.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies.

The Stakeholders' Committee officers are Chair- Chuck Herrick (DC) and Vice-Chair Donna Harris-Aikens (VA).

To be added to Stakeholders' Committee Interested Parties List, please contact: Alex LoCurto alocurto@allianceforthebay.org For program questions, contact Jess Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific Technical Advisory Committee

STAC-Sponsored FY24 Science Synthesis RFP: Proposals due Dec 2nd

The Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) invites proposals for a STAC-sponsored science synthesis project aimed at managing climate change impacts on water quality, people, and living resources in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This project should analyze and synthesize existing data to inform climate adaptation and risk-informed decision-making, while addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) in its research approach. Proposals are due by December 2, 2024, with up to \$125,000 available in phased funding. For more details, including the scope, budget requirements, and application guidelines, visit the STAC website.

New STAC-led Working Group: Social Science Working Group

STAC has approved the creation of a Social Science Workgroup (SSWG), which will be formally convened as a Standing Workgroup under STAC's authority. The workgroup's membership will be selected by STAC.

The SSWG's goal is to advance the integration of social sciences into the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) efforts, emphasizing the human dimensions of watershed management. Social sciences encompass disciplines such as economics, sociology, governance, environmental justice, and public policy. The workgroup will help define and apply social science frameworks to address key partnership challenges and foster collaboration between physical and social scientists.

The SSWG will include individuals from diverse social science fields, including behavioral economics, sociology, environmental justice, and governance. This diversity will ensure broad perspectives to address the CBP's complex socio-environmental challenges. Staff support will be provided by the Chesapeake Research Consortium, including the STAC Coordinator and STAC Projects Manager. Funding for the workgroup (e.g., travel, meeting logistics) will be provided by the EPA through the Chesapeake Research Consortium.

September 2024 Quarterly Meeting

The September 2024 Quarterly Meeting was held in-person on Tuesday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 11th at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle in Howard, PA. Please visit the September 2024 STAC Quarterly Meeting page for meeting materials and recordings.

STAC visited the restoration site of Millbrook Marsh on the morning of the first day. The Nature Center is a 62-acre site consisting of a 12-acre farmstead area and an adjacent 50-acre wetland area and is covered by a Conservation Easement between Penn State and ClearWater Conservancy protects the wetland from future development. Members were guided through the Nature Center by Dr. Larry Brannaka (USFWS) and assisted by Adam Smith (USFWS) and Bob Vierck (USFWS).

STAC allocated the remaining \$20,000 of FY24 workshop funding to two teams that began their planning in September 2024, bringing the total to four funded workshops for the fiscal year. These proposals were reviewed and discussed by STAC members, with further details provided by those involved in the proposals as needed. The total FY24 workshop funding amounted to \$40,000. The four STAC workshops are listed below:

- Striped Bass Survey Assessment and Habitat Connections
- Blueprint for Building Partnerships and Recommendations for Scaling Brook Trout Restoration in Stronghold and Persistent Patches
- Identifying Natural and Social Sciences Gaps to Support Market-Based Approaches to Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration
- Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Advance Chesapeake Bay Research and Management: A Review of Status, Challenges, and Opportunities

Recently Published Reports

All STAC review and workshop reports are available for download on the STAC Publication webpage. So far in 2024, STAC has published four workshop reports:

- Hegberg, C., J. Egan, C. Brosch, J. Hubbard, P. Imhoff, D. Lueckenhoff, T. Miles, W. Teel, and D. Wood. (2024). Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities. Download.
- Mason, P., G. Noe, Berlin, C., D. Clearwater, S. Claggett, D. Goerman, B. Landry, and A. Santoro. 2024. Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services. Download.
- McPhillips, L., A. Buda, Z. Easton, W. L. Daniels, S. Fathel, J. Ignosh, C. Raj, D. Sample. (2024). Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality. Download.
- Berger, K, K. Filippino, G. Shenk, N. Goulet, M. Lookenbill, D. Moyer, G. Noe, A. Porter, J. Shallenberger, B. Thomas, and G. Yactayo. (2024). Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model. Download.
- Hanson, J., K. Brownson, E. Gilinsky, K. Gootman, B. Jenkins, R. Rossi, K. Saunders, L. Wainger, B. Williams, and S. Yee. (2024). Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of Multiple CBP Outcomes. Download.