Scientific, Technical Assessment, & Reporting Team Meeting
TOPIC: Water Quality Science Support Needs
June 25, 2015
10:00AM – 1:30PM
Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Conference Line: 1-866-299-3188 Access Code: 410-267-5731
Adobe Connect: https://epa.connectsolutions.com/star/
Event webpage: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21560/

GOAL: Highlight science gaps where work is needed to support the outcomes, which then helps STAR prioritize its outreach efforts and engage or enhance partnerships to help fill those gaps.

AGENDA

10:00 AM **Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements** *(Scott Phillips and Mark Bennett – USGS, STAR Co-Chairs)*

10:10 AM **Communications** *(All)*

ACTION: STAR will notify the communications team of upcoming publications and projects.

10:25 AM **Water Quality Goal Team Science Support Needs**
STAR Leadership will review what we've learned meeting with outcome leads, what STAR has done to follow up so far, and key questions to help STAR and the Water Quality Goal Team focus on science needs for the development of their 2-year workplans.

Discussion Questions:
1. Have you established a sustained capacity to measure, assess, and report on progress towards achieving Watershed Agreement outcomes you are responsible for?

2. What scientific support gaps do you have, beyond currently provided support by partners, to meet your capacity to address your Watershed Agreement outcomes including: research efforts, monitoring, modeling, GIS, trends analysis?

12:30 PM **Lunch** (Bring a lunch or $10 cash for a Jimmy John's Box Lunch)

12:30 PM **STAR Seminar Presentation**
Update to the Watershed Load Indicator(s) – Joel Blomquist, USGS
Joel will deliver a presentation on his (and USGS colleagues) work on watershed trend indicators. These indicators support the work of the Water Quality Goal Team.

1:30 PM **Adjourn –** Next STAR Meeting: July (TBD)

Outcomes for Discussion:

Forest Buffer Outcome
Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.

Tree Canopy Outcome
Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

SAV Outcome
Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV (underwater grasses) in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward this ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of 90,000 acres by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.

2017 WIP Outcome
By 2017, have practices and controls in place that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment pollution load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.

2025 WIP Outcome
By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.

Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome
Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome
Continually increase our understanding of the impacts and mitigation options for toxic contaminants. Develop a research agenda and further characterize the occurrence, concentrations, sources and effects of mercury, PCBs and other contaminants of emerging and widespread concern. In addition, identify which best management practices might provide multiple benefits of reducing nutrient and sediment pollution as well as toxic contaminants in waterways.

Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome
Continually improve practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm aquatic systems and humans. Build on existing programs to reduce the amount and effects of PCBs in the Bay and watershed. Use research findings to evaluate the implementation of additional policies, programs and practices for other contaminants that need to be further reduced or eliminated.