



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
Program Update
April 8, 2021**

CBPO Calendar

April 9	BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call
April 12	Maintain Healthy Watershed GIT Meeting
April 13	Data Integrity Workgroup April 2021 Meeting
April 13	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee
April 14	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call
April 16	Stream Health Workgroup April Meeting
April 19	Sustainable Fisheries Executive Committee Meeting
April 19	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
April 20	Wetland Workgroup Meeting
April 21	Trading and Offsets Workgroup Conference Call
April 21	Non-tidal Network April Meeting
April 22	STAR Team Meeting
April 22	Bay Oxygen Research Group Meeting
April 26	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
April 28	Budget and Finance Workgroup Quarterly Meeting – Spring 2021
May 3	Status and Trends Workgroup
May 4-5	Habitat Goal Implementation Team
May 4	Conowingo WIP Committee Meeting
May 5	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
May 5	Communications Workgroup Meeting
May 5	Land Use Workgroup Meeting
May 6	May 2021 Modeling Workgroup Discussion
May 6	Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call
May 6-7	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting
May 11	Federal Facilities Workgroup Meeting
May 12-13	Management Board Biennial SRS Meeting May 2021

Program Updates

2019-2020 Bay Barometer Released April 6

The 2019-2020 Bay Barometer was released on April 6. This year's report contains updates for 12 outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* as well as highlights on progress for all 31 outcomes. The report shows an ecosystem in recovery from short-term weather impacts and long-term water quality degradation occurring from excess nutrients and sediment.

The report may be accessed at https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/Bay_Barometer_2019-2020_Web.pdf. And, a press release about the report is at: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/annual_bay_barometer_shows_mixed_recovery_of_chesapeake_bay_ecosystem

Contact: Rachel Felver, Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Director, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net.

Acting Chesapeake Bay Program Director Announced

On March 11, Acting EPA Regional Director Diana Esher announce that Michelle Price-Fay of the region's Water Division Office would assume the role of interim acting director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) and that Dana Aunkst would take over as division director for EPA's Region 3 Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division (LCRD). The changes became effective March 28. Bill Jenkins will continue as the acting deputy director for the CBPO as the search for a permanent deputy is conducted.

Michelle previously served as the chief of the Clean Water Branch of the Water Division and as Associate Director for the Office of State and Watershed Partnerships which focused on state assistance grants, nonpoint source management and oversight, green infrastructure programs, National Estuary Programs and other place-based initiatives including the urban waters federal partnership and the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Findlay where she focused on environmental and hazardous materials management with an emphasis in industrial hygiene and a minor in chemistry.

LGAC Plans for Collaborative Partnerships Forum

The CBP Local Government Advisory Committee met virtually March 18-19 to plan for an upcoming forum on building regional collaborative partnerships. LGAC members also heard updates on the federal budget, the development of watershed education modules for local elected officials, and trading and offsets of nutrients in the watershed.

Contact: Carin Bisland, bisland.carin@epa.gov

PA's York City Privatizes Wastewater System

Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of publicly traded American Water, announced an agreement with the York City Sewer Authority to purchase the wastewater system assets of the City of York for \$235 million. The City's wastewater system directly and indirectly serves more than 45,000 homes and businesses. As part of the agreement, Pennsylvania American Water will request approval to preserve the city's current wastewater rates for a minimum of three years. The agreement was approved by the York City Council on March 2 and by the York City Sewer Authority on March 24. The transaction is expected to be closed by the end of 2021 or early 2022.

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

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

During LGAC's (virtual) Quarterly Meeting on March 18-19, the advisory committee held its annual elections and voted Hopewell, VA Councilor Jasmine Gore as its new chair. New vice-chairs were also elected. In addition, LGAC members also approved updated by-law revisions and an updated strategic

priorities plan. Members spent time discussing the development of regional partnerships to address local priorities. This discussion provided preparation for an upcoming day-long Local Government Forum to develop recommendations around local government collaboration with local partners, to be held virtually June 3. They also provided input to CBP staff on land use resources and local engagement, trading and offsets of nutrients, and federal legislative efforts as well as CBP updates.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jestarr@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.

As a result of the February Citizens Advisory Committee meeting the CAC sent a letter to EPA Administrator Regan congratulating him on his appointment and encouraging him to “use all the tools at your disposal to ensure that those goals are met including revised 2-year milestones to prioritize the agricultural best management practices that will deliver the most nitrogen reduction and adapted financing plans to optimize what can be accomplished. Additionally, we recommend the EPA encourage and support the jurisdictions to identify restoration projects they can accelerate thanks to federal funding from the American Rescue Plan.” The correspondence also included a copy of the letter CAC sent to President Biden in January 2021 sharing CAC’s insights on early EPA priorities of leadership, funding, and accountability for the Biden Administration’s role in supporting the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

There are still 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies, 3 MD gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

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

To be added to CAC’s Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC’s Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

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

STAC March Quarterly Meeting

STAC held its first meeting of 2021 virtually on March 23-24th. Materials from the meeting can be found on the [STAC March Meeting Webpage](#).

STAC approved 5 proposals for the FY21 workshop cycle and provided suggestions to proposers for workshop planning. The membership reviewed upcoming vacancies and were notified of changes to

membership nomination and approval processes. STAC Staff and the Executive Board will focus on applying principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice throughout guidance documents, which includes membership processes. Following, STAC heard from the DEIJ Action Team for updates on the draft implementation plan and working options for the Community Advisory Board. STAC members were asked to provide comments on the plan and consider applications of these plans for STAC. Steering Committee co-chairs of the SAV Satellite Monitoring workshop gave an overview of the findings and next steps out of the recently released STAC report. STAC was asked for feedback on the Climate Change and Resiliency Cohort science needs and were reminded of the use of the Science Needs Database. The meeting's second day was dedicated to reviewing the STAC effort titled Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR). Through facilitated discussions, workgroup breakouts, and cross-workgroup breakouts, members review cross-cutting themes, recommendations, and next-steps. The CESR objectives are to identify gaps and uncertainties in system response —physical, chemical, biological, and socioeconomic— that impact efforts designed to attain the 2025 TMDL and WQS. All STAC members are split into one of three workgroups—watershed, estuarine, and living resources. Each will work within their groups and across groups to recommend research strategies that improve understanding of system response to support informed decision making to attain WQS and decision making under uncertainty. STAC aims to have a final report by December 2021.

Upcoming STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

June 15-16, 2021

September 13-14, 2021

December 7-8, 2021

FY2021 STAC Workshop Approved Proposals

1. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (State of the Science Workshop)
2. Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting (Programmatic Workshop)
3. Improving modeling and mitigation strategies for poultry ammonia emissions across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop)
4. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (Programmatic Workshop)
5. Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (Programmatic)

STAC Mini-Workshop Series: COVID Impacts on Bay Restoration Efforts

The impacts of COVID-19 have played out in many ways across the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. To better understand these impacts, STAC has brainstormed potential impacts during its meeting, then reached out to Bay Program committee and partners for what impacts they are seeing.

Based on the feedback from these discussions, we are developing 3 “mini workshops” to more closely examine the below topics. Each workshop would be approximately 2 hours long, with short presentations to set the stage and provide available data, then a discussion with targeted questions. Dates are not yet set, but will likely be in late April-early May.

Topics: What are we seeing? Gaps in understanding? Management Implications?

- Nutrients
- Fisheries
- Funding— In collaboration with the Local Government Advisory Committee and the Local Government Workgroup

FY2020 STAC-Sponsored Workshops

STAC has held one workshop thus far in FY2020, which runs from June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021

1. Advancing Outreach Effectiveness to Improve Conservation Practice Adoption

January 26-28, 2021, Virtual

This workshop fostered interactive discussions among farmers, outreach practitioners, and experts in behavioral economics to improve outreach capacity and address farmer concerns about conservation practice adoption. Along with funding partners from the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR), The Nature Conservancy, and the Walton Family Foundation, this STAC virtual workshop utilized facilitation and online survey software to best understand barriers to implementation of agricultural practices and to provide guidance to overcome these barriers to reach restoration targets. The findings and recommendations from this workshop will be released in a report to the Partnership.

The following workshops are in the process of planning.

- 1. Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations** (Received extension due to COVID. Plan to hold workshop in the fall)
- 2. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens** (July 2021)
- 3. Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap** (Received extension due to COVID. Plan to hold workshop in the fall)

STAC Reports

STAC recently released the following report:

- 1. [Exploring Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program](#):** This report summarizes the proceedings, findings, and recommendations of a FY2019 workshop. The workshop convened technical and management personnel to consider pathways to achieve the aforementioned goals. Acquiring CSI at no cost is an option under the NextView License agreement between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and Maxar (previously DigitalGlobe, Inc). The NextView License was developed by the NGA to accommodate United States Government (USG) agencies, contractors, partners, and other entities that require CSI to support USG interests. The basic premise of the agreement is that any federal agency that requires satellite imagery from contracted commercial sources can request and obtain said imagery at no cost to the local agency. As 2017 updates to the Water Resource Development Act, which amends Section 117 of the Clean Water Act, called for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out an annual SAV survey in Chesapeake Bay. This makes it

theoretically feasible for the EPA to now request and obtain the high-resolution CSI necessary for the annual SAV assessment.

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following six reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). 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.

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
6. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)
7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)

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](#).

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

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov

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.

Fish GIT Updates for the Management Board:

- **Forage Indicator Development:** The Forage Action Team recently convened to discuss results from a forage habitat suitability index, funded by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. Our partners from VIMS presented project results and suggested potential steps to create an annually updatable indicator. This indicator would focus on habitat suitability of bay anchovy and juvenile spot, two species identified as important for predators such as striped bass and summer flounder.
- **Oyster Restoration:** The MD and VA Oyster Interagency Teams recently completed their 2020 MD Oyster Restoration update. Both 2020 reports can be found on the CBP site.
 - [Link to MD report](#)
 - [Link to VA report](#)
- **Hardened Shoreline Threshold Maps:** The Bay Program GIS team recently completed mapping layers highlighting shoreline hardening percentages in MD (four counties) and VA. These maps were listed as action items for both the Forage and Fish Habitat Outcome.
 - [MD mapping layer](#)

- VA mapping layer
- **DEIJ:** At last month's Fisheries Executive Committee the team began conversations surrounding DEIJ and how our Goal Team, and partners, can integrate the concepts into our work. This will be an ongoing dialogue for our leadership team. We look forward to ongoing discussions surrounding the new draft strategy.

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.

- The Habitat GIT is searching for a Co-Chair to replace Christine Conn. Her last Management Board meeting will be in June.
- Habitat Goal Team Staffer, Julianna Greenberg has accepted a new position as a Community Development Project Manager at Grantworks in Austin, TX. Her last day will be April 15th, 2021.
- The Wetland Workgroup will be holding their bi-monthly meeting on April 20th, 2021. The agenda will feature updates on wetland mapping efforts, the STAC workshop being led by the workgroup, and a synthesis of sediment science by USGS.
- The Wetland Workgroup's STAC workshop titled "Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting" has been approved. They are currently seeking additional members for the steering committee.
- The Black Duck Action Team held a "revitalization" meeting on March 30th, 2021 to refocus the action team and determine priorities of the group going forward. The agenda focused on the recent updates made to the workplan, the current status and efforts of workgroup projects, and updates from members.
- The Stream Health Work Group will be meeting on April 16th to discuss their coming Strategy Review System (SRS) cycle and updates on ongoing projects.
- The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species will be hosting their biannual meeting on April 28th and 29th. The meeting will be virtual and will focus on updates from previous Small Grant Program recipients and on the selection of the 2021 Small Grant Program winners.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann
(greenberg.julianna@epa.gov; ossman.megan@epa.gov)

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 March 22, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.

- The WQGIT approved the new Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Vice-Chair, Emily Majcher from USGS.

- The WQGIT approved the 2025 WIP outcome science needs for inclusion into the STAR tracking spreadsheet.
- Lew Linker presented an overview of the recent paper *Atmospheric nitrogen deposition in the Chesapeake Bay watershed: A history of change*, which provides estimates of atmospheric nitrogen deposition to the Chesapeake watershed from 1950 to 2050.
- BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Coordinator, Vanessa Van Note and AgWG Coordinator, Loretta Collins provided a midpoint update on progress for the CAST 2021 Workplan.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on April 26, 2021. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Soil and Water Outcomes Fund (SWOF)
- Update on progress producing 2017 land use dataset
- CAST 2021 Update

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@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 next HWGIT [meeting](#) is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2-4pm. The meeting will feature a presentation on diversity and collaboration from Sara Painter of [WeConservePA](#) and Renee Carey from the [Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy](#). Angel Valdez, our Chair for the past six years will be stepping down and we will be requesting nominations for a new chair (send to njackson@chesapeakebay.net and rthompso@chesapeakebay.net). The proposed STAC workshop on Rising Watershed and Bay Water temperatures has been accepted and staff are beginning preparatory work on the first phase of the project. Healthy Watersheds staff are leading a synthesis element related to identifying watershed characteristics that may signify vulnerability or resiliency to stream temperature changes. Development of video tutorials for the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) mapping application and metric and analysis recommendations for the MDHWA is ongoing. The CHWA was demonstrated at the last LGAC meeting and will be presented at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) May 7th webinar. -

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: Hilary Swartwood; Swartwood.Hilary@epa.gov

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

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

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform success.chesapeakeconservation.org. Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner (wisnero@chesapeake.org) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed.

- The CCP is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of ‘Green Spaces’ in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities”.

Citizen Stewardship Team

- The Citizen Stewardship workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development” which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Stewardship workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- The Education Workgroup is preparing for the biennial Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit which provides federal, state, and regional partners with a forum for policy-level discussions and strategic planning to support efforts to ensure that students in the region graduate environmentally literate.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). The Workgroup is preparing to share important lessons learned from the ROLN project with other groups at the Bay Program. A poll will be distributed to Coordinators and Staffers to assess availability and choose a date that works for those who are interested in attending.
- In cooperation with the Education Workgroup and NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, the Stroud Water Research Center created the [CBW Public School Stream BMP Evaluation Tool](#). This map tool provides information to help identify and prioritize public schools within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that have the greatest need for Best Management Practice installations taking into consideration stream health, environmental literacy, and equity considerations. A Stakeholder Interview Report is currently available on the [Education Workgroup webpage](#).
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of [baybackpack.com](#), an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

Public Access

- The Public Access Workgroup is consolidating data from the jurisdictions to track public access site development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled “Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed” which will determine how residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites.
- The Public Access Workgroup will be hosting a Spring meeting. Date to be determined.

Fostering Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; wisnero@chesapeake.org

Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup continues to support the DEIJ Action Team Efforts to get feedback on the implementation plan and outreach strategy. The Chesapeake Conservancy was selected to complete The Diversity workgroup's GIT funding project, “Cultivating and Strengthening Relationships with

Underrepresented Stakeholders.” Finally, the Diversity Workgroup is in the final stages of selecting a new chair after holding interviews the last week of March.-

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; phillips.tuana@epa.gov

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.

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System

All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on [ChesapeakeDecisions](#).

The Local Action cohort is the last cohort to go through the current SRS cycle (2nd cycle). The SRS Planning Team has temporarily merged with the Biennial Meeting Planning Team and 3rd Cycle Planning Team as we approach the Biennial Meeting dates (May 12-13, 2021) and beginning of the 3rd SRS Cycle (June 2021). **Contact:** Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Goal Team 6

The GIT 6 Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on March 17, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: Strategy Review System (SRS)-related updates, GIT Funding Program updates, Culture of Trust Analysis updates, Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) updates (specifically around the topic of DEI), the draft 2021 GIT 6 Workplan, and workgroup updates.

Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov; or Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

FY 21 GIT Funding Program

FY21 process/planning discussions are underway with the GIT Funding Innovation Team (GIT FIT).

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

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Spring Quarterly Meeting will take place on April 28, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19), CWSRF follow-up discussion updates, restoration economy action item updates, as well as the BFWG Charge and draft 2021 Workplan. **Contact:** Bill Jenkins (Co-Chair), jenkins.bill@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), guck.michelle@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Spring Quarterly Meeting will take place on May 18, 2021 as a conference call. The “theme” for this meeting will center around Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion (DEIJ). More details to come. **Contact:** Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Shannon Moore (Chair), SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov; or Heidi Bonnaffon (Vice Chair), hbonnaffon@mw cog.org

GIT 6 Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov (until new GIT 6 Staffer is on-boarded)

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.

STAR

The March STAR meeting focused primarily on the science needs of the Local Action Cohort as well as upcoming monitoring opportunities. The associated topics included 1) Identifying science needs of the Outcomes Tree Canopy, Land Use Methods and Metrics, and Land Use Options Evaluation workgroups, 2) Addressing the PSC request to improve the CBP monitoring networks, 3) An update on the awarding of STAC proposals for FY 2021. STAR members will continue conversations regarding the PSC monitoring request by potentially setting up small groups to address this request.

Data Integrity Workgroup (DIWG)

The Monitoring Program Networks are following CDC protocols to continue monitoring efforts. They are able to accomplish almost everything they were doing prior to the pandemic. In the DIWG held on December 2nd, they discussed a potential STAC proposal for updating the Tidal monitoring and assessment program. Peter Tango is leading the STAC proposal effort to help the monitoring capacity issue which is influencing the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome. The workgroup also discussed the new advancement in Continuous Water Quality Monitoring and gave a 2020 summer hypoxia update. The Chesapeake Bay had the second least amount of hypoxia this summer on record, and only one cruise had above average hypoxia. This was the late July cruise, and it was the hottest July on Maryland record. The hypoxia for 2020 seems to follow the forecast. [Here](#) is a Press Release from the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP). The DIWG is planning to meet on April 13 2021. *In addition the DIWG has attached the link for the first video in a series of short instructional sampling materials:*

<https://teams.microsoft.com/#/files/General?threadId=19:c7c7af1fa0894f50b007223acc1fc266@thread.tacv2&ctx=channel>

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The Criteria Assessment Protocol WG's final STAC Workshop proposal on Advancement Monitoring and Assessment opportunities and options was submitted to CBP-STAC on February 26th for their consideration of support. The proposal was approved by STAC during its March 2021. After addressing comments, awards are made in June with a 1-year timeline to conduct the workshop. CAP WG will have additional responsibilities associated with the March 2021 PSC request to review the monitoring programs addressing water quality standards attainment assessments, providing recommendations on a path and needs to address capacity shortfalls over a 9-month review period. (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO , CRC Staffer: Breck Sullivan)

Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup

The **Nontidal Network team** of the Integrated Monitoring Network WG met on March 17th. Updates reflecting new network funding investment by USEPA through Lee McDonnell to sustain monitoring at the long-term Conococheague Creek, MD monitoring site that was about to be removed from the NTN for lack of funding support starting April 2021. NTN team work continued on network budget review and plans to prioritize potential network adjustments to address level funding influence and investments that might change the portfolio of stations (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO, CRC Staffer: Breck Sullivan).

The new **4-dimensional interpolator team (4D BORG)** has further received financial support from Lee McDonnell (EPA) to move forward on tool development. The team has created a membership list and will have its initial full members meeting April 22, 1-2:30PM (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO, CRC Staffer: Breck Sullivan, Tom Butler)

The **Hypoxia Collaborative** has organized its first meeting for April 30, 2021 to review assets, consider sampling designs and network designs associated with deployments of vertical profiling water quality sensor arrays. (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO, Bruce Vogt NOAA, CRC Staffer: Justin Shapiro, Breck Sullivan)

Integrated Monitoring Networks groups will further be involved in responsibilities associated with addressing the March 2021 PSC request to review the monitoring programs addressing water quality standards attainment assessments, watershed monitoring capacity, and analysis tools, providing recommendations on a path and needs to address capacity shortfalls over a 9 month review period. (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO, CRC Staffers: Breck Sullivan).

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup will update the CBP Partnership on progress in developing the next generation airshed, watershed, and estuary models at the April 6-7 Quarterly Review. In addition, a refined analysis of the transport and fate of atmospheric oxidized and reduced nitrogen is underway to better support the understanding and management of atmospheric deposition in the Chesapeake region and watershed. Finally, an analysis of the movement and fate of marine wastes is being planned in order to examine technical aspects of No Discharge Zones in tidal Chesapeake waters.

CRWG

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) met with the Forestry Workgroup on March 8th to discuss potential coordinating efforts to connect tree canopy and DEIJ data with the extreme heat temperature climate change indicator. CRWG members met on March 12th to exchange information on marsh migration research with Tetra Tech. During the March 15th CRWG meeting, members learned about the USGS coastal habitat research in connection with marsh migration and sea level rise effects and discussed the revised climate resiliency logic and action plan and management strategy. The CRWG leadership presented the climate change science needs during the STAC quarterly meeting on March 23rd. The discussion focused on the wetland migration and BMP climate resilience assessment needs.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

This spring, the ITAT is focusing on two major goals: (1) develop and apply approaches to account for COVID-related gaps in 2020 data in this year's tidal trends analyses; (2) release summary information on trends in tidal water quality across the tidal Chesapeake tributaries along with summary descriptions of factors affecting them. These summaries will provide reference information for discussions with the research community and regional stakeholders to advance our understanding of these trends. Once available, summaries will be posted on the "Track Progress" page of the CAST website at [CAST - TMDL Tracking \(chesapeakebay.net\)](https://www.cast-tmdl.org/track-progress). PDF maps of tidal water quality trends through 2019 can be downloaded from the ITAT website at [Integrated Trends Analysis Team | Chesapeake Bay Program](https://www.itat.org/). Trend results are produced by analysts at both MD DNR and VA DEQ (Old Dominion University) using a standardized method and co-developed software package. An interactive mapping tool called baytrendsmap is available at the following link for partners who want to produce their own customized maps of annual

tidal water quality trends: [baytrendsmap R package v1.1.0.9003 \(chesapeakebay.net\)](https://baytrendsmap.R.package.v1.1.0.9003.chesapeakebay.net). Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

The Status and Trends Workgroup has a meeting on April 5th that will focus on the theme of indicator development. Agenda items include a presentation on forage fish indicator development, a review of changes made to the water quality loads and flow indicator, and a discussion on next steps for the local leadership outcome in developing an indicator from their developed survey (which is pending OMB ICR approval).

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org and Tom Butler; butlert@chesapeake.org

Indicators

No indicators were updated since the March Management Board meeting.

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- *2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) – update with 2020 data*

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

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Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

Communications Workgroup

On April 7, the Communications Workgroup will host the bi-annual workgroup retreat. Melissa Ehrenreich, Chesapeake Conservancy, will open the meeting and discuss some of the work Chesapeake Conservancy has done with American Indians in the Chesapeake region. Cindy Chance, National Park Service will discuss her work with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Train and review their terminology guide. Caitlyn Johnstone, CBP Outreach Specialist with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will provide an update on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Diversity Outreach plan. Marisa Baldine the Communications Staffer with the Chesapeake Research Consortium will provide an update on Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week planning and review shared messaging for April.

Meeting materials can be found here:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications_workgroup_april_meeting1

Communications Office:

On April 6, the Communications Office will publish the Bay Barometer.

On April 21, the Communications Office will host a webinar open to the public discussing native plants and pollinators.

Published blogs:

The following blogs were published in March:

- Trying to keep its head above water
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/trying_to_keep_its_head_above_water
- Pennsylvania parks are ready to shine
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/pennsylvania_parks_are_ready_to_shine
- On land preserved in Rachel Carson's name, spring isn't so silent
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/on_land_preserved_in_rachel_carsons_name_spring_isnt_so_silent
- For fishing enthusiasts, warming waters is a hot issue
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/for_fishing_enthusiasts_warming_waters_is_a_hot_issue
- Life under the fallen leaves
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/life_under_the_fallen_leaves
- How to let students find their own meaning
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how_to_let_students_find_their_own_meaning
- From invasive fish to sustainable dish
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/from_invasive_fish_to_sustainable_dish
- A faith-based farm renews the spirit of the land
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_faith_based_farm_renews_the_spirit_of_the_land
- A tale of two lakes and their segregated past
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_tale_of_two_lakes_and_their_segregated_past
- Caring for creation
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/caring_for_creation

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