



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2013**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Sept. 17-18	STAC Quarterly Meeting (Annapolis)
Sept. 19-20	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting
Sept. 24	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting (TBD)
Sept. 26-27	LGAC Meeting (Shepherdstown)
Oct. 1	30 Day Public Comment Period
Oct 10	Management Board Meeting (Annapolis)

Program Updates

Letter from the Region III Administrator: Reporting BMP and Two-Year Milestone Progress

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some information that might be helpful to your Agency when reporting progress on implementing management practices aimed at achieving nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollutant reductions for your land and facilities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The reporting obligations, which stem from Executive Order 13508 signed by President Obama in May 2009, are aimed at ensuring that the federal government leads by example in reducing pollution from federal lands and facilities and that they work with the Bay jurisdictions to help them meet their Watershed Implementation Plan commitments in support of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

So that we may demonstrate continued progress and federal leadership, there will be a need to collaborate on two separate requirements - annual best management practice (BMP) progress reporting, and development of 2014-2015 water quality two-year milestones:

- Annual BMP Progress Reporting (Due October 1, 2013) – Each year during the fall, the jurisdictions submit data on BMP implementation to the Chesapeake Bay Program. This year, the expectation is that all federal agencies will provide the jurisdictions with information on new and previously unreported, but currently active, BMPs on federal land, so that it can be incorporated into the jurisdiction progress reports.
- 2014-2015 Two-Year Milestones (Due December 1, 2013) – The next cycle of water quality two-year milestones covering the years 2014-2015 need to include explicit programmatic and BMP-specific implementation milestones for federal facilities and lands. Detailed guidance on development of two-year milestones is available in the EPA's Guide for Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Two-year Milestones.

There is a great deal of excellent work underway by the federal agencies on implementing BMPs and demonstrating leadership in the Chesapeake Bay restoration. Providing this information to the jurisdictions will allow the federal agencies and the

jurisdictions to realize complete and valid credit for their work. In a subsequent letter to federal facility-level contacts (the members of the Federal Facility Team), we will provide greater detail on the formats to be used for these submissions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Mr. Jim Edward, Deputy Director at EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office (410-267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov). Thank you for your continued support in restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you - Shawn
Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator
EPA Region III

Report to Congress

EPA is required to develop a report every five years on the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) pursuant to Section 117(h) of the Clean Water Act. The report includes: the status and trends of the Bay ecosystem; the effectiveness of CBP in implementing management strategies; and recommendations for improved management through development of a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Comments are welcome on the Report, and Management Board members are asked to pay particular attention to the section on Management Strategies Effectiveness. Examples that illustrate this effectiveness, such as a small case study of PA's dam removal program for the fish passage goal, would be most welcome. Comments are sought by September 19.

Contact: Tom Wenz, wenz.tom@epa.gov

2012 Bay Barometer – In Production

CBP Communications is drafting the 2012 Bay Barometer, the partnership's annual publication on the Bay watershed health and restoration, in preparation for public release in early November. As with last year, the report will be short and succinct in style and will emphasize visual readability and clear messaging. Most importantly for MB information, this publication will be a synthesis of the 2012 watershed data has been vetted, approved by the Goal Teams and posted on www.chesapeakebay.net over the course of the year. **MB members will receive text for review by Monday, September 23 and are asked to return it to Margaret Enloe – menloe@chesapeakebay.net – by Friday, September 27 at 3pm.** Since indicator text and data is complete and public, text for review should be brief.

Publication Release: *Lessons from Chesapeake Bay Restoration* by CBP STAR & UMCES

Co-authors: STAR (CBP's Scientific, Technical And Reporting group) &
UMCES (Univ. of Md. Center for Environmental Science)

This co-authored, 58-page publication looks at more than 40 places where implementation of BMP projects or practices has made a positive difference in local water quality. The report covers the period of 1985-2011, is geographically focused on regions or locations in MD, VA, and PA, and connects specific water quality monitoring data to local restoration efforts. It is divided into three sections: What Works, Challenges, What We Need.

1. "What Works": This section provides examples of improvements to specific waterways as a result of 3 methods of reducing nutrients -- WWTP upgrades, better technology for reducing atmospheric deposition and improvements in agricultural practices.
2. "Challenges": Two major issues are highlighted both generally and with some local examples: 1) lag times (or delays between BMP implementation and observable water quality improvements), and 2) increased pollution sources due to population growth and its corresponding need for resources (i.e.: land use for development and agriculture)
3. "What We Need": The final portion of the report offers geographically specific examples of "what's working", and emphasizes a need for identifying locations of specific pollution sources, combined with targeting of specific practices as well as an array stormwater infiltration practices urban and suburban areas.

The publication closes with a set of recommendations to the Partnership's Management Board for increased monitoring and assessment, better evaluation of the effectiveness of BMPs, and use of adaptive management in decision-making.

STAR & UMCES are working with the CBP Communications Office to finalize the report for release in the near future. MB will be given the opportunity for a more detailed briefing on the report before the release.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

CAC met in Lancaster, PA on Aug 22-23. The theme of the meeting was BMP implementation with a focus on forest buffers and CREP contracts. CAC participated in a tour with Land Studies to see examples of stormwater BMPs. CAC heard updates on the Bay Agreement and the Conowingo Dam relicensing. CAC is finalizing comments on the Bay Agreement. The next meeting will be on December 5-6 and will be held jointly with the Local Government Advisory Committee.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee:

Quarterly Meeting – STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY 2013 on September 17-18, 2013 at The Maryland Inn in Annapolis, Maryland. If you plan on attending this meeting, please send your RSVP to Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

STAC Reports – The following reports were submitted to CBP Management Board and a response has been requested on their specific recommendations:

- "Real World Wastewater Technologies Workshop: Advancing the World We Live In – Exploring Cutting Edge Wastewater Treatment Technologies" – STAC released this new report on September 3, 2013. It is a product of the May 16, 2012 STAC Sustainable Wastewater workshop. (For a copy of the report: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.)
- "Incorporating Lag Times Into The Chesapeake Bay Program" -- STAC released this report on September 11, 2013. It is a product of the October 16-17, 2012 workshop. A copy of the report may be found on the STAC website at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/305_Hirsch2013.pdf. Questions about this report, should be sent to Bob Hirsch (rhirsch@usgs.gov) or Matt Ellis (EllisM@si.edu)

STAC is also in the process of finalizing four FY 2012 workshop and review reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few months.

- 1) Evaluation of the Use of Shellfish as a Method of Nutrient Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay
- 2) Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay (M3.2)
- 3) Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats
- 4) Critical Issues in Implementing Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

STAC Workshops – STAC members voted in June to approve FY 2013 funds for four workshops that will take place before May 31, 2014. STAC staff and the workshop steering committees are in the beginning stages of the planning process. The approved workshops include:

- 1) *Management Effects on Water Quality Trends* - This workshop plans to investigate connections between trends in human activities (including management actions in the watershed), watershed loads, and estuarine water quality and living resources.
- 2) *Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* - The objective of this workshop is to create agreement among practitioners, regulators and scientists on a common language and methods for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health to address water quality, climatological impacts, physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.
- 3) *In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems* - This workshop will be an open forum to further discuss decentralized systems issues to bring the watershed as a whole into a new era of management. The workshop will focus on potential measures addressing state management of existing onsite septic systems and new technologies that may be used in new installations of onsite septic systems.
- 4) *The Peculiarities of Perviousness* - This workshop plans to define, measure, and model the nutrient dynamics from the land cover known as pervious land.

For additional information about STAC reports and workshops, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

Communications Workgroup

Recent Features:

Bay 101: Air Pollution http://www.chesapeakebay.net/videos/clip/bay_101_air_pollution

Photo Essay: Testing ospreys on Poplar Island for chemical contaminants

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/photo_essay_chesapeake_bay_ospreys_serve_as_sentinels_for_pollution

Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Fisheries

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

The Executive Committee is working to refine and strengthen the team's membership and improve stakeholder participation in GIT meetings.

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) met at the end of August to discuss and prioritize blue crab research and data needs. CBSAC members identified the top priority as fishery independent surveys, especially the summer surveys, focused on the spring through fall distribution and sex specific abundance of blue crabs.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force is moving forward with their draft Final Report which includes management recommendations to mitigate the spread and minimize the impacts of invasive catfish. The Task Force has been broken into small teams to accomplish specific tasks before a proposed in-person meeting this fall. This meeting will include discussions with local watermen about their experience with catfish in the Bay.

The Executive Committee discussed the fisheries New Agreement outcomes during their last two monthly calls. The July meeting included a listening session with interested stakeholders. The Executive Committee agreed to an oyster outcome of 10 tributaries and language for new blue crab management, forage fish, and habitat outcomes.

The Executive Committee will meet again on September 23rd. This meeting will include a presentation by the American Shad Indicator Action Team on their proposed revised shad indicator.

Contact: Bruce Vogt, bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

GIT 2 – Habitat

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

After serving nearly a two year term, Jeff Horan is stepping down as Chair of the Habitat GIT. He has accepted a new position as Forest Ecologist with Refuges in the FWS Northeast Region.

The Stream Health Workgroup is revitalizing and a meeting is planned to coincide with the Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference in Baltimore on October 30, 2013.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov

GIT 3 – Water Quality

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.

Over the spring and summer of 2013, the Milestones Workgroup and Water Quality GIT conducted several discussions on planning for the 2013 progress run and 2014/15 milestones, and reached the following decisions: (1) All jurisdictions submit their “draft” milestones by January 15, 2014; and (2) The jurisdictions have the opportunity to revise based on 2013 progress run, EPA’s comments and revisions to the 2015 land use projections available tentatively in April 2014. EPA will consider May 15, 2015 as the date-certain for submitting final milestones and noted that it would post draft and final milestones, as well as comments on the draft. It was also clarified that milestones could be amended at any time.

In addition, the Agriculture Workgroup is working to finalize Watershed Model Phase 5.3.2 recommendations for the following best management practices (BMPs) in time for the 2013 progress runs – conservation tillage, which will allow “stackability” with other BMPs; nutrient management, which could convert from a land use change to an efficiency BMP and define a new tiered management approach; and cover crops, to include additional cover crop species to the currently approved wheat, rye and barley species. The recommendations will be brought to the Water Quality GIT for review and approval at their October 15th call. The Poultry Litter Subcommittee is working on developing new baseline data on poultry production within the Bay watershed, and expects to have information ready for approval in late Fall 2013.

Finally, the Water Quality GIT approved a draft addendum to the Partnership’s BMP Protocol, which will 1) allow submission and approval of incremental recommendations from the Partnership’s BMP Expert Panels and 2) require future panel reports to include a technical appendix to the BMP Expert Panel Reports. Both pieces of this addendum are intended to streamline the review process and to more efficiently make decisions that benefit the Partnership in the approval and use of these BMPs. Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

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 Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT (GIT4) continues to provide an exciting forum for shared learning and strategic collaboration in support of programs that protect healthy waters and watersheds. On September 27, the GIT4 forum will be expanded by way of two 90-minute sessions on healthy watershed protection at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum in Shepherdstown, WV. Also, the September 11 GIT4 meeting agenda includes the following: discussion of a potential EPA HQ-funded pilot healthy watershed protection project in the Chesapeake basin; a case study about how Trout Unlimited is pursuing brook trout habitat conservation with its Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund; a College of William and Mary study of local government watershed protection tools that are in effect in

Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia; an adaptive management review of GIT4 strategies past and future; pending improvements to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model that will facilitate better focus on local watersheds; and forecasts of urban change and corresponding estimates of forest and farmland conversion.

Contact: Mike Fritz, fritz.mike@epa.gov

GIT 5 – Foster Stewardship

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.

No new updates at this time.

Contact: Amy Handen, AMHanden@chesapeakebay.net

GIT 6 – Partnering and Leadership

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

These past few months, GIT6 has been very focused on assisting the Bay Partnership with the development of a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. During the initial public comment period, GIT 6 was responsible for tracking all incoming letter and blog comments on the proposed Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and reporting out periodically to the MB members through email updates that tracked any new comments, edits, updates, or changes in resolution status from proposed by the Editorial Board or Issues Resolution Committee.

GIT 6 is currently in the process of compiling the results from a Survey Monkey sent to MB members on August 27th regarding their jurisdiction or organization's opinion on proposed changes to certain goals and outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement draft document. These results will be presented at the September 12th MB meeting.

In accordance to the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement timeline approved by the Management Board on July 12th, GIT6 is focused on the upcoming 2nd and final public comment period running from September 23rd until October 23rd. During this open comment period, GIT6 will again be tracking all comments in the online comment & issue registry. These comments will be shared with the Editorial Board, Issues Resolution Committee, and other Goal Implementation Teams on a periodic basis via email update. The email updates will include any newly received comments, and changes proposed by the Editorial Board or Issues Resolution Committee.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Recent Meetings and Events

July 11-12	Management Board Retreat
July 22	STAR Tidal and Non-Tidal Workgroups meeting
August 8	Management Board Conference Call

August 22-23	CAC Meeting (PA)
Sept. 6	Full Draft Agreement Circulated Among MB