Scientific, Technical Assessment, & Reporting Team Meeting
TOPIC: Habitat Outcomes & Indicator Framework

December 3, 2015
10:00AM – 2:30PM
Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)

Conference Line: 1-866-299-3188 Access Code: 410-267-5731
Adobe Connect: https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/star
Event webpage: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/22936/

GOALS:

1) Discuss science needs to support the habitat outcomes. STAR will use the findings to prioritize its coordination efforts with STAC to engage additional science providers to help fill those gaps.

2) Update STAR on the development of the Indicator Framework.

AGENDA

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

Upcoming Conferences & Meetings
- National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER) – April 18-22, Coral Springs, FL. **Abstracts are due by January 8, 2016.**
- National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQML) – May 2-6, 2016, Tampa, FL
- Citizen Science Association (CitSci2017) – February, Raleigh, NC

STAC Meeting – December 8-9, Annapolis, MD
- STAR will be presenting the science priorities of the GITs.

10:10 AM   **Communications** *(All)*
STAR will notify the communications team of upcoming publications and projects.

10:20 AM   **Habitat Goal Team and Fish Habitat Outcome Science Support Needs** *(Mindy Ehrich, Jennifer Greiner, and Bruce Vogt)*
The session will focus on science needed to carry out work plans for the outcomes being addressed by the Habitat Outcomes (listed on the next page) and the Fish Habitat Outcome. The goal team leads will review science needs for each outcome with an emphasis on monitoring needed to measure progress for each outcome. STAR will review what we've learned from previous meeting with outcome leads and will further discuss the two questions listed below. The information will be used to help the STAR Team and STAC work with the Goal Teams to build science capacity to carry out their 2-year work plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you established a sustained capacity to measure, assess, and report on progress towards achieving Watershed Agreement outcomes for which these specific groups are responsible?

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, and trends analysis?

11:40 AM   **Update on the Development of the Indicator Framework** *(Doreen Vetter)*
Doreen will provide an overview of the new indicator framework, recently approved by the Management Board, and discuss the re-launch of the Status and Trends Workgroup. We will be celebrating this big step forward with desserts!

12:00 PM   **Lunch & Indicator Framework Celebration** (Bring a lunch or $10 cash for a Jimmy John's Box Lunch)

12:30 PM   **Summary of Key Results for the SERC Shorelines Project**
Presenters: Tom Jordan, Denise Breitburg, Melissa McCormick, and Don Weller – Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
Tom, Denise, and Don will present updates regarding results from the ongoing shoreline project, and there will be a discussion regarding lessons learned as well as the ways in which these findings can be incorporated into the developing Chesapeake Bay Program work plans.

2:30 PM   **Adjourn**

Outcomes for Discussion

Fish Habitat Outcome
Continually improve effectiveness of fish habitat conservation and restoration efforts by identifying and characterizing critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and tributaries for important fish and shellfish, and use existing and new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments to inform restoration and conservation efforts.

Wetlands Outcome
Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance the function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban) but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.

Black Duck Outcome
By 2025, restore, enhance and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

Stream Health Outcome
Continually improve the knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed. By 2016, develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide methodology and local level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with citizens, local governments, elected officials and stakeholders.

Brook Trout Outcome
Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an eight percent increase in occupied habitat by 2025.

Fish Passage Outcome
Continually increase available habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in Chesapeake Bay freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles, with restoration success indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.