Chesapeake Bay Program
Principal's Staff Committee
Program Update
March 2, 2021

CBPO Calendar

Mar. 3	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 3	Forestry Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 3	Communications Workgroup Meet
Mar. 3	Land Use Workgroup Conference Call
Mar. 4	**Coordinator/Staffer Meeting**
Mar. 4	Watershed Technical Workgroup Conference Call
Mar. 9	Federal Facilities Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 10	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call
Mar. 11	**Management Board Meeting**
Mar. 12	BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call
Mar. 15	Sustainable Fisheries Executive Committee Meeting
Mar. 15	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 16	Urban Stormwater Workgroup Conference Call
Mar. 17	Trading and Offsets Workgroup Conference Call
Mar. 17	Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT Quarterly Meeting
Mar. 18	Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call
Mar. 18-19	Local Government Advisory Committee Webinar
Mar. 22	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Mar. 23	Agroforestry Workgroup Meeting
Mar. 23-24	STAC Quarterly Meeting
Mar. 25	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Meeting
Mar. 30	Black Duck Action Team Meeting
Mar. 31	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership Meeting

Program Updates

Bay Barometer Development Underway
The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is developing the 2019-2020 Bay Barometer with a tentative release date of March 10. The Bay Barometer reflects progress on the variety of goals and outcomes the partnership agreed to work toward in the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.*
Contact: Rachel Felver, 410-267-5740

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative to Present Report

The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) presented its six-year accomplishment report during a meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Communications Workgroup on Wednesday, February 3. Created in 2015, the CMC brings together a diverse group of people who monitor water quality to provide a greater understanding of Chesapeake Bay watershed health. The CMC aims to provide technical, logistical and outreach support to volunteer-based and non-traditional monitoring groups and incorporate that data into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. The CMC launched a website in January 2019 to provide a platform to share CMC services and free resources, including quality assurance project plans, standard monitoring operating procedures and an interactive database for both data collectors and data users.
Contact: Rachel Felver, 410-267-5740

Hard-hit oyster growers see silver lining in restoration
Chesapeake Bay oyster farmers have been hard hit by some of the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine measures. Closed or limited restaurant openings and limited demand have left aquaculture operations with a glut of supply—oysters that are quickly growing past market size. But a new program has allowed growers in seven states to sell their uneaten oysters for use in restoration. In the Chesapeake, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) to buy nearly one million oysters and plant them in select oyster sanctuaries including three sites in Maryland: the Nanticoke River, the St. Mary's River and Mill Hill Oyster Sanctuary, south of Kent Island. The effort is part of TNC's two-year Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR) initiative in collaboration with Pew Charitable Trusts, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
For more information**:**
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/hard_hit_oyster_growers_see_silver_lining_in_restoration

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.

LGAC is preparing the agenda for the next quarterly meeting March 18-19. This is the annual meeting where elections occur, by-law revisions are considered and priorities are identified.

LGAC Members and/or staff are participating in the following action teams: DEIJ Action Team, BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team, and Plastic Pollution Action Team. LGAC members are also providing detailed review of the watershed education modules being developed using GIT funding. Finally Members have volunteered for jurisdiction association panels at annual conferences to discuss topics impacting local governments such as stormwater, climate and collaboration opportunities with farmers.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

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

The CAC held their quarterly meeting on February 25-26, 2021. The main theme will be climate change and topics will include updates on progress toward the 2025 water quality goals and other outcomes in the Watershed Agreement.

Governor Northam appointed three new members to the CAC:

- Donna Harris-Aikens of Manassas, VA, U.S. Department of Education
- Esi Langston of Norfolk, VA, Environmental Sustainability Manager, City of Norfolk
- Dana Wiggins, Virginia Poverty Law Center

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.

FY2021 STAC Workshop RFP

STAC released the FY2021 STAC Workshop Request for Proposals on December 1st. Proposals were due to STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey by February 16th, 2021.

STAC FY2021 Workshop RFP

STAC December Quarterly Meeting

STAC held its final meeting for 2020 on December 14-15, 2020 over Zoom. STAC received updates from the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). All three advisory committees have continued to improve communication and collaboration, and this update gave STAC an overview of the committees' current priorities and projects. Representatives from CBP leads of the Clean Water SRS Cohort provided STAC with the latest science needs for discussion and received feedback on filling these gaps from the membership. Along with this presentation, Breck Sullivan (CRC, STAR) gave a preview of the new Science Needs Database, which will allow STAC members to easily engage with the CBP science needs.

In STAC's continued effort to better communicate with decision-makers and the public, Caitlyn Johnstone and Rachel Felver (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Communications Workgroup) presented the various tools and products that the CBP Communications Workgroup can assist with developing for various STAC efforts. Day 1 wrapped up with a presentation from Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) and the CBP Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT) on the tidal water quality long-term trend data. Day 2 of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing drafted sections and identifying key messages of the STAC Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR—formerly SGA).

Materials and presentations from the December meeting can be found on the STAC December Webpage.

STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2021 Quarterly Meetings. All meetings are planned to be virtual, but STAC Staff will continue to monitor the possibility of in-person meetings in 2021.

March 23-24, 2021

June 15-16, 2021

September 13-14, 2021

December 7-8, 2021

STAC-Sponsored Workshops

STAC held 1 workshop since the last program update:

1. **Advancing Outreach Effectiveness to Improve Conservation Practice Adoption**
   January 26-28. 2021, Virtual
   This workshop fostered interactive discussions among farmers, outreach practioners, 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**

2. **Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens**

3. **Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap**

STAC Reports

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)
8. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program (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.

STAC Recommendations Database

Development of the CBP requested STAC Recommendations Database has continued to make substantial progress this quarter. STAC staff has tagged each recommendation with key words and categories, organized by the CBP Goal Implementation Team and workgroup structure. The CBP Data Team has released the test site, which is fully functional and completed Beta-testing by STAC members in February 2021. STAC Staff will then release the website to partners and present its functionality at various partner meetings throughout the beginning of 2021. The test website can be found here.

STAC-sponsored Reviews of the Plastic Pollution Action Team Products:

In November 2019, EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board approved the formation of a Plastics Pollution Action Team (PPAT) to address the emerging and growing concerns of microplastics in the watershed. More specifically, the PPAT was asked to assist in implementing the following recommendations resulting from the April 2019 workshop, Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals:

- The Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team should incorporate development of ERAs of microplastics into the CBP strategic science and research framework, and the Plastic Pollution Action Team should oversee the development of the Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) focused on assessment of microplastic pollution on multiple living resource endpoints.
- STAC should undertake a technical review of terminology used in microplastic research, specifically size classification and concentration units, and recommend uniform terminology for the CBP partners to utilize in monitoring and studies focused on plastic pollution in the bay and watershed.

In support of these recommendations, the PPAT is currently overseeing the preparation of an Ecological Risk Assessment of microplastics in the Potomac River and creation of a Terminology document currently being performed by a third party. Both products were requested to be reviewed under two STAC-sponsored Reviews.

1. Terminology Document Technical Review: The contractor, Tetra Tech, is currently under contract with US EPA Region III to develop a uniform size classification and concentration unit terminology for microplastics and a Preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment. The Chesapeake Bay Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) has been formally requested by both US EPA Region III and the Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board to provide a Technical Review of the report (Standardization of Terminology Recommendations for Microplastic Ecological Risk Assessments in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed, hereafter referred to as the Terminology Document). The review team has completed the draft review report and it is in final development stages with STAC Staff and the STAC Executive Secretary, Denice Wardrop (CRC Executive Director).
2. Phase II ERA Merit Rapid Response Review: STAC convened a panel on November 11, 2020 to conduct a Rapid Response Technical Review. By design, these Rapid Response Technical Review advisories involve a limited number of individuals, occur in relatively short time frames, and generate concise and focused reports. The panel reviewed the following documents provided by the PPAT: Phase II: Preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment Conceptual Model for Striped Bass Exposure to Microplastics; Microplastics Ecological Risk Assessment: Phase II Model. Powerpoint presentation by Bob Murphy and Jennifer Flippin (Tetra Tech Center for Ecological Studies) and Ryan Woodland, University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; Developing a Preliminary Conceptual Ecological Risk Assessment Model and Science Strategy for Microplastics in the Potomac River. Quality Assurance Project Plan prepared for US Environmental Protection Agency. Tetra Tech July 10, 2020.

STAC Synthesis Update

The STAC-sponsored Science Synthesis project continues progress and in September, due to COVID-related setbacks, Jeremy Testa (UMCES, lead PI) requested a no cost extension (NCE). Details can be found below in Testa's rational. The STAC EB approved the NCE during their November 2020 meeting.

Research Activity and Progress (*Jeremy Testa, UMCES)*: Despite of our delayed research activity, we plan to continue to present our progress to the Chesapeake Bay Program so that lessons learned from our synthesis can be communicated to the restoration partnership as early as possible. In fact, we hope the frequency of our presentations to the CBP will communicate our findings to the community in a similar timeframe as originally proposed, or envisioned. We have already made two oral presentations at the Chesapeake Bay Modeling workgroup Quarterly Meetings in May and July 2020, and we are committed to making two additional presentations in fall 2020 and winter 2021. Since our last update in April 2020, we have continued our statistical analysis (CART, GAM) to determine climate and biogeochemical controls on daily oxygen depletion metrics, (b) computing metrics of ecosystem metabolism (e.g. primary production, respiration) from each station's oxygen time series, and (c) assembling and collating the data necessary to perform these analyses.

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

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates
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.

- The Fish Habitat Action Team kicked-off its GIT-funded project "Developing Communications and Guidance on Shoreline Protection Options for Coastal Landowners." This project will be headed by Action Research, and will follow guidance from a proceeding project that surveyed coastal landowners on benefits and barriers to living shorelines. The FHAT, Communications Workgroup, and a number of state agencies convened to brainstorm a list of initial resources and community partners with the project PIs. For more information on this project, or the proceeding report, please email Justin Shapiro (justin.shapiro@noaa.gov)
- The MD and VA Oyster Interagency Team recently posted its 2020 annual Virginia Oyster Restoration Update. The corresponding Maryland update will be available in the coming weeks.

- 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.

- At the November 12th Quarterly Progress meeting, the Wetland Workgroup and Black Duck Action Team jointly requested MB support in securing capacity and funding for a short-term Living Resource Data Manager to help address issues related to wetland restoration and enhancement tracking in the watershed model, as well as other living resources. The workgroup chairs provided a proposal detailing the work and funding required, which was approved at the January MB meeting. The position will be filled pending EPA funding.
- The HGIT is seeking nominations (ideally a state representative) for a new co-chair to replace Christine Conn.
- The Wetland Workgroup held its bi-monthly meeting on February 16th. The agenda will feature updates on wetland mapping efforts and GIT funding projects.
- The Wetland Workgroup is submitting a proposal for a STAC workshop titled "Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting." They are currently seeking additional members for the steering committee.
- The SAV Workgroup held its annual meeting on February 17th. The agenda will feature updates on workgroup actions and activities and member presentations on current research/projects.

- The Stream Health Work Group held its bi-monthly meeting on Friday, February 19th. The agenda will feature updates on several ongoing workgroup projects as well as priority setting for the next year.
- Members of the Habitat GIT are continuing to conduct outreach related to the 2019 GIT funded project Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure in Vulnerable Areas. The project aims to work in Williamsport, PA, Cambridge, MD, and West Point, VA.
- The Fish Passage Workgroup is currently working to update the language about the goal on the Chesapeake Bay Program's website, including ChesapeakeProgress, to more accurately reflect the state of the science and the outcome change that occurred in January of 2020.
- The Brook Trout Genetics STAC Workshop, sponsored by the Brook Trout Work Group, has been postponed until the Fall of 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with the hopes of being able to meet in-person at that time.

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 January 25, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.

- SRS will be added as a standing announcement to increase visibility of the 2025 WIP Outcome 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plan.
- USGS provided an overview of new factsheet that summarizes and translates the findings and complex science of nitrogen and phosphorus trends in the nontidal portion of the watershed.
- UMCES and USGS presented the tidal station-based water quality trends ending in 2019 and demonstrated a new interactive tool to explore and use the tidal results
- Michigan State University (MSU) discussed the substantial progress that has been made over the last three quarters in the development of an optimization for CAST Phase 6 applications.

The WQGIT held a conference call on February 22, 2021. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- At- Large Members for 2021
- 2025 WIP Outcome SRS Science Needs
- Update on Progress Producing the 2017 Land Use Dataset
- Ecosystem Consortium Marketplace
- STAC Workshop on Freshwater Mussels

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.

HWGIT has been preparing the narrative analysis and presentation for the Land Use Options Evaluations (LUOE) outcome review for the Quarterly Progress meeting. It was reviewed by GIT members at the HWGIT February 8 meeting, along with the Land Use Methods and Metrics (LUMM) outcome. Members will also hear from Dr. Kirsten Hazler on the development of a healthy watershed prioritization model for Virginia's healthy waters and watersheds. HWGIT Coordinator is also reviewing land use and land conservation materials for the Cross-Outcome Watershed Education Materials for Local Governments, a GIT funded project contracted to Green Fin Studio. The team is continuing work with Tetra Tech developing the strategy and data source identification for the MDHWA and supporting the development of a STAC workshop proposal on rising water temperatures.

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 Chesapeake Conservation Partnership held a Steering Committee Meeting on January 22nd where members discussed recommendations that emerged from the CCP Annual Meeting last fall.
- 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 beginning to prepare for the biennial Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy 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). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- The Education Workgroup is working to finalize 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. The Stroud Water Research Center developed this online map tool, in cooperation with the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office.
- 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.

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

Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup held a meeting on Friday, February 19th from 9 AM-12 PM. The agenda will include updates, breakout rooms to discuss how other the work of other outcomes in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* can incorporate DEIJ considerations, and discussions on how to meet specific actions in our diversity 2020-2021 logic and action plan. In addition, the workgroup is currently seeking nominations for workgroup chair. Self-nominations were due by February 22nd. Please help spread the word and email Tuana Phillips (Phillips.tuana@epa.gov), Diversity Workgroup Coordinator, for more details on how to self-nominate.

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

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS). ChesapeakeDecisions is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) and Management Board members through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The Local Action cohort is the final cohort to go through the current SRS cycle (2nd cycle). Their Quarterly Progress Meeting (QPM) took place February 11, 2021. The SRS Planning Team and Biennial Meeting Planning Team are in the process of planning for the Biennial Meeting (mid-May 2021) and 3rd SRS cycle (Summer 2021). Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Winter 2020

The GIT 6 Spring Quarterly Meeting will take place on March 17, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include: Strategy Review System (SRS) 3rd Cycle Planning updates, Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) updates, and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; or Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov.

FY 2020 and 2021 GIT Funding

The FY20 external reviews took place February 2021. Awards to winning bidders will go out in March 2021. FY21 process/planning discussions are underway. Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Winter Quarterly Meeting took place on January 27, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19), CWSRF follow-up discussion updates, Diversity, Equity, Justice and Inclusion (DEIJ), and restoration economy action item updates. 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) Winter Quarterly Meeting took place on February 23, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include: the impacts of COVID-19 on local governments and Diversity, Equity, Justice and Inclusion (DEIJ). Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com; or Shannon Moore (Vice Chair), SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@epa.gov

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 January STAR meeting focused on 1) science needs for CBP outcome for Watershed Implementation Plans 2025 , 2) gathering feedback on the newly created Science needs database and 3) providing feedback for the Local Action cohort's SRS presentations, which were presented at the February meeting of the Management Board A common need for the Local Action cohort outcomes is improved translation of science and increasing capacity to inform local leaders and decision makers. A separate follow-up call was conducted to focus the ask of the MB for increasing capacity to address the Land Use Options and associated outcomes.

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 in March of 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 met on February 4th, 2021. The agenda includes an analysis of designated use classification for Chesapeake Bay CB6 and CB7 segments in Virginia (Tish Robertson VADEQ), design review for Maryland's case study on criteria assessment for all published criteria reflected in the Bay TMDL related water quality standards (Matt Stover MDE), and a draft 2021 STAC workshop proposal on updating the monitoring and assessment framework of the CBP partnership with new data sources, new technologies and advances in assessment frameworks (Peter Tango USGS).

Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup

The Integrated Monitoring Network WG met on Wednesday January 20, 2021 to discuss a prioritization in planning for downsizing the CBP Nontidal network across the watershed under present levels of funding resources available. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th, 1:00-2:30PM which will continue to focus on the Nontidal network prioritization and revision criteria and strategy. (Coordinator: Peter Tango, USGS@CBPO)

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup is actively working on next generation airshed, watershed, and estuary models to support CBP partners and decision makers in the December 2020 direction given by the PSC to

consider results of updated methods, techniques, and studies in 2025 to revisit existing estimated loads due to climate change to determine if any updates to 2035 load estimates are needed.

CRWG

The CRWG continues to develop their next 2-yr logic and action plan and further discussed the workgroup's function and identifying priority actions during their February 17, 2021 meeting.

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

The ITAT has just released a summary report describing trends in Potomac River tidal water quality and the factors that affect them. The Potomac summary can be downloaded from "Track Progress" page on the CAST website. See the "Tributary Summaries" section at the following link: CAST - TMDL Tracking (chesapeakebay.net). Draft summaries for the Rappahannock River and Upper Mainstem Bay are planned for 2021. Every autumn, the ITAT releases an update of trends in water quality at all long-term tidal water quality monitoring stations across the Bay and its tributaries. PDF maps of the latest results documenting trends through 2019 can be downloaded from the ITAT website at Integrated Trends Analysis Team | Chesapeake Bay Program. 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). Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

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

~~**Indicators**~~

Indicators

The following indicators were updated since the July Management Board meeting:

Indicator	*Statement of Status/Progress*	*Link*
Fish Passage	In 2018 and 2019, 30.5 additional stream miles were opened to fish passage through dam removal projects, representing a 23% achievement of the target to open an additional 132 miles every two years. *In January 2020, the outcome was modified from the original language. Updated Outcome Language: Continually increase access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed's freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad,	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/fish-passage

	hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.	

We do not currently anticipate finalizing any indicator updates in advance of the March MB meeting.

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.

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

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.

February Management Board Updates

Communications Workgroup

On February 3, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around Black History Month and Valentine's Day. Additional shared messaging content can be found at:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41859/02_february_comwg_shared_messaging_(1).pdf
Jake Solyst, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, shared results from the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2020 website analytics review. The presentation can be found at:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41859/2020_analytics.pdf
Caroline Donovan, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies, presented an overview of the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative's six-year accomplishment report draft. The final report will be published in March.

Communications Office

The following blogs were published in December:

- A small hunter faces a big problem
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_small_hunter_faces_a_big_problem
- Chesapeake Bay sees health score decline by one point, but retain D+ grade
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake_bay_sees_health_score_decline_by_one_point_but_retain_d_grade
- Twenty years later, the restoration efforts on a New York farm help secure its future
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/twenty_years_later_the_restoration_efforts_on_a_new_york_farm_help_secure_i
- Honoring a steadfast orchestrator of Chesapeake Bay restoration
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/honoring_a_steadfast_orchestrator_of_chesapeake_bay_restoration
- Make your winter Bay-friendly!

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/make_your_winter_bay_friendly

- Five bugs that are a sign of clean water
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/five_bugs_that_are_a_sign_of_clean_water
- Restoration turns back the clock on a trout stream
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/restoration_turns_back_the_clock_on_a_trout_stream
- Bass confusion from land pollution
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bass_confusion_from_land_pollution
- Hunting for fossils “a marilandia”
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/hunting_for_fossils_a_marilandia
- Hard-hit oyster growers see silver lining in restoration
  https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/hard_hit_oyster_growers_see_silver_lining_in_restoration

Contact: Rachel Felver; rfelver@chesapeakebay.net