



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
February 8, 2018**

**Draft Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Feb. 12	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
Feb. 12	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Feb. 14	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call
Feb. 15	Agriculture Workgroup Face-to-Face Meeting
Feb. 22	STAR Meeting
Feb. 22	Education Workgroup Meeting
Feb 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Feb. 26	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Feb. 28	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
March 2	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
March 5	Diversity Workgroup Conference Call
March 6	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management (GIT 6) Quarterly Meeting
March 8	Management Board Meeting
March 13-14	STAC Quarterly Meeting
March 21-22	Local Government Advisory Committee

**Updates**

**CBARA Reporting**

In December 2017, the Office of Management and Budget issued its second Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending Crosscut, which summarizes federal and state funding toward environmental restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The information in this report—including federal agency spending from FY2014-FY2017; state program spending from FY2015-FY2017; and federal and state budgets for FY2018—is summarized on ChesapeakeProgress ([www.chesapeakeprogress.com/funding](http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/funding)). There, you can interact with charts, view an at-a-glance summary of year-to-year changes in federal agency and state program spending, and download a spreadsheet of funding data. This webpage also includes information about funding watershed jurisdictions have received through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants.

Contact: Catherine Krikstan, [ckrikstan@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ckrikstan@chesapeakebay.net)

**CBP Unveils New Phase 6 Suite of Modeling Tools**

For over thirty years, the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has provided tools to model what is happening in the region. Recently updated, the new Phase 6 Watershed Model is the newest suite of tools designed to help state and local governments, working with local partners, to plan ahead and use limited resources effectively to reduce pollution. This new version, approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership in December 2017, brings more scientific and partnership input into the model

than ever before. It includes new science, new data and new inputs, including those from industries not previously involved. The model has further improved the ability to answer questions about how different land use types or land management decisions can affect nutrient and sediment pollution levels and will be able to better predict the impacts of population growth and climate change and better account for the sediment build-up behind the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River in Maryland. An online version of the Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model—the [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (CAST)—is available to anyone who wants to view and use this information. To access the Phase 6 Watershed Model, or the Chesapeake Bay Assessment Tool (CAST), visit <https://cast.chesapeakebay.net>. For more information on modeling at the Chesapeake Bay Program, visit <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/programs/modeling>.

### **MOU between Bowie State University and EPA Region 3**

On Thursday, February 1, EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio and CBPO Acting Director Jim Edward participated in a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bowie State University (BSU) and the EPA Region 3. The MOU will help promote equal opportunity in higher education, encourage the participation of BSU in EPA's programs, and increase the supply of highly trained, diverse professionals for potential federal employment.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov)

### **GIT Chairs and Leadership Teambuilding Work Session**

On Tuesday, January 30, the CBPO Goal Implementation Team (GIT) chairs convened for a regular quarterly meeting at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's (SERC) Mathias Lab Building. The GIT chairs meet quarterly to discuss progress toward meeting the Partnership's 10 goals and 31 outcomes. Specifically, the chairs discussed how they will work to implement the recommendations from the March 2017 STAC Ecosystem Services Workshop which focused on the suite of ecosystem service benefits – such as better recreation opportunities and improved fisheries – that can result in local watersheds from actions that are focused on reducing nutrient and sediment runoff. They also talked about ways to build on and improve team comradery and efficiency during challenging times and onboarding new members.

Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, [barranco.greg@epa.gov](mailto:barranco.greg@epa.gov)

### **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.*

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York. Staff is working with a Board Member from the National Association of Counties to identify a nominee for appointment in New York.

The Local Government Engagement Initiative held a conference call January 16th. Participants discussed their approaches to establishing local area planning goals, heard a presentation by Emily Trentacoste on priority watershed analysis, and discussed their needs for additional communications and engagement tools and resources. To support the jurisdictions with local engagement, LGAC members in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware will be holding a series of forums for local officials to discuss watershed protection and restoration, and Phase III WIP development during 2018. LGAC staff is

working closely with state WIP leads to coordinate schedules and agendas. Any questions about these forums should be directed to Mary Gattis.

LGAC is involved in several activities around environmental finance. As a follow up to their December meeting, LGAC members are advising the Environmental Finance Center on how to improve content and utility of the Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center.

LGAC Vice Chair Ann Simonetti will attend the EPA's Environmental Finance Advisory Board meeting in Washington, DC on February 20-21, 2018.

The next LGAC meeting will be held in Laurel, Delaware on March 21-22, 2018. The Committee will hear presentations on economic development, infrastructure and public health/safety projects and discuss the connections to watershed protection and restoration. The presentations and discussion are specifically intended to help inform Phase III WIP developers and those responsible for Watershed Agreement Outcomes. If you are interested in attending the meeting please contact Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@allianceforthebay.org).

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org) or 717-475-8390.

#### **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.*

CAC will hold their quarterly meeting on Feb 22-23 in Annapolis, MD. They will meet in the Fish Shack on Feb 22 from 11am-5:15pm. All are welcome to come by and say hello. Topics include: A discussion with Annapolis Mayor Buckley; a briefing on the Bay Barometer and the Citizens Monitoring Cooperative; Updates from the Bay Program including the PSC retreat decisions; discussions with Secretary Grumbles and Region 3 Administrator Cosmo Servidio; and a discussion on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lead by Choose Clean Water Coalition and the CBP Diversity Workgroup. On Feb 23 the CAC will meet at the Waterfront Hotel from 8:30-Noon and have updates on BMP verification and the Oyster BMP Expert Panel. The Committee will conclude their meeting by setting their priorities for the upcoming year.

CAC officers are Paula Jasinski (VA), CAC Chair, and Matt Ehrhart (PA), Vice Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray [abray@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org)  
For program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2017 on March 13-14, 2018 at a location to be determined. More information will be available on the [March meeting webpage](#). For any quarterly

meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, [hinrichse@chesapeake.org](mailto:hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

#### ***Workshops:***

On January 17-19, STAC hosted a workshop titled "Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025: A Proactive Visioning Workshop". This meeting brought together scientists and managers to understand the status of the current CBP management modeling system and discuss future directions for management modeling in the CBP moving toward 2025 and beyond. More information can be found [here](#).

STAC is planning for two additional workshops this spring. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision – **Date TBD, April 2018**
- Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The Tribble Connection – **May 23-24, 2018**

#### ***Upcoming and Recent Reports:***

STAC will be releasing the following four reports in February. All STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available. For more information regarding STAC-sponsored independent reviews, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

- 1) CBP Partnership's Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts (Review)
- 2) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM) (Review)
- 3) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation (Workshop)
- 4) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design (Workshop)

STAC is also working to finalize the following eight reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to FY2016 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 3) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 5) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 6) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 7) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 8) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org)

## **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

### **Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup**

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, [free.laura@epa.gov](mailto:free.laura@epa.gov)

### **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.*

To develop the 2018-2019 workplans, the Sustainable Fisheries GIT presented workplan actions to the full team at their biannual meeting and solicited team feedback from an online survey. With full team input, staff developed draft workplans, which they have shared at workgroup meetings throughout the month of January.

- The Fish Habitat Action Team held a conference call in January where the team discussed and provided feedback on the upcoming Fish Habitat Workshop, the potential for a regional Chesapeake Bay Fish Habitat Assessment, recent efforts to communicate the benefits of incorporating fish habitat into Watershed Implementation Plan development, and the 2018-2019 draft workplan.
- The Forage Action Team also held a conference call in January, which focused on discussing and refining the draft 2018-2019 workplan, learning about member efforts and research, and determining next steps.
- The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee conducted their winter meeting at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission in Virginia. During this meeting, members learned about new tools to study a prevalent blue crab virus, reviewed the report “Economic and Ecological Effects of Derelict Fishing Gear in Chesapeake Bay”, evaluated uncertainty surrounding exploitation rate estimates, provided feedback on the draft workplan and discussed the timing and need for the next blue crab stock assessment.
- The Oyster Interagency teams have solicited feedback from their members on the draft workplans and have incorporated those changes into the 2018-2019 workplans.

The Fish Habitat Workshop Steering Committee is continuing to plan for the upcoming workshop in spring 2018. This [workshop](#) will compile datasets on habitat condition and stressors in freshwater and estuarine habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, develop a strategy to assess the watershed habitat condition using these prioritized datasets, and identify use and users for a regional fish habitat assessment.

Contact: Kara Skipper; [kara.skipper@noaa.gov](mailto:kara.skipper@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.*

Members of the Habitat GIT Staff traveled to Wilmington, DE on January 31<sup>st</sup> for the 2018 Delaware Wetlands Conference. Highlights of the program include keynote speaker Dr. Lenore Tedesco and sessions focusing on climate change, salt and freshwater restoration, coastal preparedness and outreach. They look forward to catching up on the latest wetland research and networking with like minded professionals.

The Wetland Workgroup is experiencing a leadership transition as Chair and Co-Chairs Amy Jacobs and Erin McLaughlin have stepped down from their roles. The Habitat GIT is now soliciting nominations for these positions. Please email Christine Conn ([Christine.conn@maryland.gov](mailto:Christine.conn@maryland.gov)) and David Whitehurst ([david.whitehurst@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:david.whitehurst@dgif.virginia.gov)) with any nominations by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, [hobaugh.paige@epa.gov](mailto:hobaugh.paige@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 conference calls on January 8 and January 22. A subset of topics discussed included:**

- The WQGIT voted on new at-large members and leadership to the WQGIT. Three new at-large members were confirmed for the 2018-2019 term: Beth McGee, Jenn Volk, and Lindsay Thompson. The WQGIT voted for Teresa Koon to continue in her position as WQGIT vice-chair, and voted for a co-chairmanship of the WQGIT between James Davis-Martin and Dinorah Dalmasy for the 2018-2019 term. The co-chairmanship will go before the Management Board for approval at the February 8 Management Board meeting.
- The WQGIT reviewed actions and decisions from the December 19-20, 2017 PSC retreat
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the work of the Management Board WIP Template action team on developing Phase III WIP guides for incorporating multiple Watershed Agreement outcomes in Phase III WIP development and implementation.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the Modeling Workgroup's analysis of outstanding issues following the December 19-20, 2017 PSC retreat, including analysis of assimilative capacity, available air allocation pounds, and jurisdictional planning targets.
- The WQGIT discussed resources available to assist jurisdictions in engaging local governments in the Phase III planning targets review process, and request local government contacts from the jurisdictional WQGIT members.
- The WQGIT was briefed on PA's approach for developing local planning goals as part of PA's Phase III WIP.

#### **The WQGIT will hold conference calls on February 12 and February 26. A subset of planned topics includes:**

- The WQGIT will be briefed on changes to the Current Zoning and Historical Trends 2025 forecasting scenarios. The WQGIT will decide whether to continue to use current zoning as the baseline 2025 growth scenario.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Forestry Workgroup's materials to assist WIP developers to address forest and tree cover concerns in the Phase III WIP development process.

- The WQGIT will be briefed on new trend results from nutrient and sediment monitoring in the Chesapeake watershed.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the scope of the FY 2018 WIP Assistance proposal to support the development and implementation of the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the WWTWG recommendation to forecast 2025 conditions for wastewater loads. The WQGIT will review and approve the WWTWG recommendation for incorporation into CAST at the end of March 2018.
- The WQGIT will discuss the upcoming Strategy Review System quarterly presentation to the Management Board on the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's progress on outcomes and management strategies.

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

Contact: Katherine Wares; [kwares@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:kwares@chesapeakebay.net)

### **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.*

Contact: Drew Pizzala; [drew\\_pizzala@partner.nps.gov](mailto:drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov)

### **Diversity Workgroup**

EPA Region 3 and Bowie State University Memorandum of Understanding Signing took place on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The Chesapeake Bay Program was mentioned in this MOU for the following: Strengthen BSU staff and student connection to Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and coastal resources through interaction with Chesapeake Bay Program partners or hands on learning experiences.

The Diversity Workgroup has partnered with the Audubon Naturalist Society to celebrate Black History month by organizing and leading the green career fair portion of their "Taking Nature Black" Event. Held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, This event will be centered around supporting environmental careers, environmental justice and promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within the environmental movement. Other CBP partners that have partnered on this initiative include MD-DNR and Choose Clean Water Coalition. Other CBP partners such as the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of the Environment have committed to either sponsor this event or serve as exhibitors. To register or learn more, please see the following link: <https://anshome.org/taking-nature-black/>

Contact: Darius Stanton; [stanon.darius@epa.gov](mailto:stanon.darius@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.*

### **GIT 6 Work Plan**

The GIT has drafted a revised work plan for calendar year 2018. All GIT members have had the opportunity to review and comment on this work plan. Comments received are currently being compiled and addressed, after which the document will be considered final and will be uploaded to the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **CBP Biennial Strategy Review System**

The SRS team is developing a recommended guidance document for updating management strategies as part of the Quarterly Progress Meeting process. The document is currently being reviewed by GIT 6 members, as well as leadership for GITs 1-5 and STAR. After the February 9 review period, this document will be considered final and will be integrated into the SRS Quarterly Progress Meeting Guide. The team is also developing guidance for revising Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes. The document is currently being reviewed by GIT 6 members, and will be presented as a recommendation to the Management Board in March or April 2018. The SRS team is currently exploring options for tracking decisions made at SRS Quarterly Progress meetings, so that all stakeholders (MB members, GIT leadership, etc.) have access to up-to-date information on the status of actions and decisions.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can now be found under "Project and Resources" of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **FY2017 GIT Funding**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust released the FY2017 GIT Funding RFP, which had a closing date of Friday, January 19, 2019. Proposals are currently being reviewed and scored by those identified as "reviewers" by project leads. The deadline for review/scoring is Wednesday, February 7, 2018. After this time, awards will be made to those projects with appropriate bids, and a second RFP may be released for those projects that received incomplete bids. The timeline for the release of a second RFP is late February 2018.

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

### **GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Workgroup is working with the SAV workgroup to develop a process for creating finance systems and/or strategies. The third and final "dialogue session" was scheduled for January 17, 2018. Due to inclement weather and participant availability, this meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for March 14, 2018. This session will expand to include additional stakeholders from industry, banking, and other relevant sectors. Findings will be presented to the Management Board after the third dialogue session, and planning will begin for how to translate the work with the SAV workgroup into a larger, one-day finance system/strategy workshop.

Contact: Dan Nees, [dnees@umd.edu](mailto:dnees@umd.edu)

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, [freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@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.*

### **Addressing the Modeling Needs of the GITs.**

For a recently held STAC modeling workshop, STAR worked with the Goal Teams to identify modeling needs (beyond water quality) based on the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. In addition to water quality, it was brought to the attention of the to provide their modeling needs for the future. STAR is beginning a dialogue between the Goal Teams and Modeling WG to see how the needs can be prioritized and addressed in the future.

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

The January quarterly meeting of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup was postponed until Monday, February 12 due to the federal government shutdown. At this meeting, the CRWG will initiate the CBP Strategy Review System (SRS) process by reviewing progress to date, identifying factors influencing goal attainment, and completing the climate resiliency logic table. The CRWG is also busy preparing briefing materials and communication/outreach related to climate change and the midpoint assessment for the March 2 Principals' Staff Committee meeting. The PSC is expected to finalize the policy approach for addressing climate change in Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans at this meeting. The CRWG has also submitted a proposal to STAC for a workshop in fall 2018 to examine the results of the climate change modeling component of the midpoint assessment and recommend next steps to complete the next phase of the modeling effort by 2019.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup met on January 11, 2018 with presentations that included a detailed assessment of the Chesapeake assimilation capacity for nutrient loads in order to accommodate, to the extent possible, the special conditions of the New York and West Virginia basins. Presentations and meeting summary can be found at

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/january\\_2018\\_modeling\\_workgroup\\_conference\\_call](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/january_2018_modeling_workgroup_conference_call)

Contact: Melissa Merritt; [mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net)

### **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.*

On January 10, the Communications Workgroup held a retreat in Baltimore, Md. The theme was media relations, and the morning consisted of two panels: one with environmental organizations about how they reach out to the media, and another with environmental reporters about what makes a story worth telling. In the afternoon, members received a media relations training from Abel Communications.

On January 4, the CBP Communications Office released the *2016-2017 Bay Barometer*. You can [read the blog](#) or look at the [publication](#). Copies of the Barometer and accompanying [rack card](#) will be distributed to the PSC, Management Board, Communications Workgroup, Education Workgroup, Local Government Advisory Committee and GIT and advisory committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. If you would like copies, contact [Rachel Felver](#). In addition, copies of the rack cards will be sent to all Sustainable Schools, and teachers who would like more can request them.

We are working closely with Tetra Tech to develop communications products in support of the midpoint assessment and Phase III WIPs. The first communications package – consisting of talking points, fact sheets, social media posts, PowerPoint, a blog and a video – deals with the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools. Similar packages are in development for climate change, the Conowingo Dam and Phase III planning targets. If you are interested in receiving any of these materials, please contact [Rachel Felver](#).

Last month, we updated the Blue Crab Management Outcome page on [ChesapeakeProgress](#) to reflect the fact that the outcome is considered complete. This month, we will update our three Environmental Literacy indicators – which track environmental literacy preparedness, student Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) and sustainable schools – as well as our Oyster Outcome page.

The Bay Program has a new video about agriculture. Watch it on our [website](#), [Vimeo](#) or [YouTube](#).

2017 by the numbers:

- Posted 130 [blog](#) posts on chesapeakebay.net
- Surpassed 5,000 [Facebook](#) page likes
- Surpassed 10,000 [Twitter](#) followers
- Surpassed 2,700 [Instagram](#) followers

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; [jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net)

#### **Recent Meetings and Events**

Jan. 16	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting (GIT6)
Jan. 22	WQGIT Conference Call
Jan. 22	Stewardship Workgroup Meeting
Jan. 23	Diversity Workgroup Meeting
Jan. 25	STAR Meeting
Jan. 30	Quarterly Goal Team Chairs and Leadership Meeting
Jan. 31	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
Feb. 5-6	Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Meeting