



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
December 11, 2014**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Dec 15	Management Strategies due for internal review
Jan 6	GIT Chairs Monthly Meeting
Jan 6-7	Modeling Quarterly Review
Jan 15	Management Board Meeting
March 16	Last day to submit management strategies for public review
April 15	Public review period closes

Program Updates

LSRWA Conowingo Report release

On November 12, the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, held a press call to discuss the findings of a recent study of the Conowingo Dam. The draft report was posted on line and officially released on November 13, with a public forum scheduled for December 9 and a public comment period open through January 9. The report examines the effect the Conowingo Dam has on water quality in the Bay and its tributaries, how the pollutants associated with the dam reservoir impact restoration efforts, the effects of dynamic equilibrium, among other issues. The findings also indicate that managing sediment through dredging, bypassing or dam operational changes does not effectively offset the impacts from the loss of trapping capacity.

Contact: Rich Batiuk (410) 267-5731, batiuk.richard@epa.gov

NACCS Work Session, November 18

As an action from the July Management Board meeting, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is hosting a work-session on the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive study (NACCS), sometimes referred to as the "Sandy Plan". The session was held at USACE in Baltimore on November 18. The work-session was an overview of the NACCS's findings including a demonstration of GIS data and overlays. It focused on analyses conducted for MD, VA and DC (and other jurisdictions, as identified ahead of time by those intending to participate).

Specifically, NACCS identified nine "focus areas" (i.e. areas of high risk from Virginia to Massachusetts) and possible opportunities in those areas. In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Norfolk, DC and Baltimore are identified. NACCS does not identify site-specific projects. This work-session was an opportunity for interested CBP jurisdictional and federal partners—as well as GIT representatives—to talk about possible collaboration on site-specific projects in these areas.

For more information, contact Heather Cisar heather.r.cisar@usace.army.mil.

PSC Chair Letter re: BMP Verification

On November 3, Secretary Joe Gill, Principals' Staff Committee chair, signed a letter to the Chesapeake Bay Program Partners asking them to help with implementation of the Chesapeake Bay basin-wide BMP verification framework (approved and adopted by the partnership in September). In the letter, PSC Chair Gill specifically calls on CBP jurisdictional and federal partners, GIT and workgroup chairs, advisory

committee chairs, the CBP Communications Office and others to take efforts to help the partnership fulfill its commitment to implement the framework.

Contact: Rich Batiuk (410) 267-5731, batiuk.richard@epa.gov

CBP Goal Implementation Team Chairs meetings

On November 5, the CBP Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Chairs met to discuss issues related to the development of management strategies pursuant to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement including: how to foster collaboration between the GITs/workgroups to ensure integration between management strategies/activities, the development of a workplan template, CBPO help with jurisdiction participation and stakeholder outreach, and batched releases of draft strategies. Several of these issues will be discussed further during future Management Board meetings. The GIT Chairs agreed to meet monthly to discuss issues of mutual interest and challenges related to management strategy development.

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

Chesapeake Bay FLCD meeting

On October 28, the Chesapeake Bay Federal Leadership Committee Designees met at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Management Board Chair Nick DiPasquale provided an overview of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and how federal agencies are participating. The FLCD also discussed how setting targets for federal facilities will help BMP progress reporting and support jurisdictions WIPs, as well as the implications to reporting requirements of the Executive Order based on the new Agreement and next steps with OMB/CEQ.

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

Executive Order Progress Report

Plans are underway for completing a 2014 Progress Report pursuant to the Federal Executive Order on the Chesapeake Bay. In an effort to simplify the report, the federal partners agreed that the majority of the report would be in table format. A first draft was planned for December 2014 with a final release at the end of January 2015.

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

CBP Partners at Restore America's Estuaries Conference

CBP Partners and staff participated in 13 sessions of the Restore America's Estuaries Conference held November 3-6 at the National Harbor Center outside Washington, DC. Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay, helped kickoff the conference as part of a keynote "special session" titled "Chesapeake Bay Clean-Up Effort - Are We on Track?" The session was moderated by Chesapeake Bay Foundation President Will Baker and including speakers from The Nature Conservancy and Key-Log Economics. The conference also included Chesapeake Bay related presentations from other partners including USGS, NOAA, USFWS, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia University Forestry and Natural Resources, the Chesapeake Research Consortium, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Office staff.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, (410) 267-5740, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Coastal Assessment Explores Impact of Land Development on Chesapeake

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) recently completed an assessment of three watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay region (Corsica, Magothy, and Rhode Rivers), exploring the linkages between dominant land-use type (agriculture, residential, and mixed-use, respectively) and aquatic ecosystem health. Habitat health was determined based on factors of water quality including dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorous concentrations, and aquatic organism health indicators of fish and shellfish growth, disease prevalence, abundance, and diversity. The assessment results, published November 12, suggest that environmental pressure from development could both weaken the capacity of the Bay to provide essential ecosystem services and counteract the benefits of current restoration efforts. The study also showed the effectiveness of using living marine resources as bioindicators of watershed health and highlighted tradeoffs that exist between types of land use and natural resource health.

While the ecosystems of the watersheds were determined to be resilient in maintaining their health in the face of environmental stress, the results caution against pushing the ecosystems beyond their threshold and suggest that future management plans use smart development strategies that account for those thresholds and balance environmental protection with economic growth. Understanding how these observations relate to local human activities and subsequently indicate trade-offs between land development and aquatic ecosystem health is necessary for balancing the needs of the growing population and protecting the Chesapeake Bay's valuable ecosystem services, from commercial and recreational fisheries, boating, and ecotourism. For more information, please contact AK.Leight@noaa.gov or Bob.Wood@noaa.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.

LGAC hosted a Monitoring Workshop September 25, 2014 in Shepherdstown, WV. The workshop attracted a wide range of people and organizations engaged in local monitoring programs. Participants developed strategies for increasing local governments' use of monitoring as a tool in watershed protection and restoration. There was broad recognition of the fact that local governments are generally unaware of local watershed conditions and more attention needs to be paid to getting available information into the hands of local governments and helping them understand how to use the information to develop watershed restoration plans. LGAC welcomed five new members to the Virginia delegation in September. Fairfax County (VA) Supervisor Penelope ("Penny") Gross was elected Chair.

LGAC's most recent meeting was held December 4-5, 2014 in Easton, MD. Please contact LGAC Coordinator Mary Gattis for information.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@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.

CAC held a quarterly meeting on Nov 20-21 in Columbia, MD. The meeting theme was stewardship. Among the agenda items CAC hosted a panel discussion on Environmental Justice and Diversity. CAC will hold officers elections and thanks John Dawes for his service as Chair from 2012-2014.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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.

Special Announcement:

STAC is happy to announce the newest member of its staff, Rachel Dixon of Chesapeake Research Consortium. Rachel joined Natalie Gardner and Matt Ellis as STAC staff in early November 2014. She graduated in 2011 from UNC Wilmington with a BS in Marine Biology, and received an MS in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware this summer. She will be a great asset to the committee and we are excited she has joined the STAC team. Please join us in welcoming her to the Bay Program Partnership! Rachel's email address is dixonra@si.edu.

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC held its third quarterly meeting of FY 2014 on December 9-10, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. For information contact Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

Recent Workshop:

STAC held a workshop entitled "Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Watershed: Improving roadside ditch management to meet TMDL water quality goals." The workshop took place on October 9-10, 2014 at The Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland. The goals of the workshop were to increase awareness of the critical impacts of roadside ditches and best management practices (BMPs) to reduce these impacts, inventory the current status of ditch management across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, develop recommendations for how best to improve roadside ditch management to meet TMDL goals, reduce flooding, and buffer impacts of climate change. The steering committee is currently drafting a workshop report that will be distributed in January 2015.

STAC held a workshop entitled "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities" on November 12-13, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, Maryland. The workshop goals were to identify (1) forage groups of the Chesapeake Bay that are critical to assess for fisheries management; (2) existing data for these groups; (3) data gaps; and (4) strategies to improve the quantification of the forage base of this system. These strategies will both provide guidance in understanding and using current forage data, and allow for future integration of new research findings and enhanced approaches.

Upcoming Workshops:

STAC is currently planning three workshops that will take place before May 31, 2015. Those workshops are listed below.

- 1) Innovative Monitoring Approaches
- 2) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.
- 3) Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu or visit that STAC workshop webpage at http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

Activity Reports:

STAC is in the process of finalizing four activity reports:

- 1) In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems.
- 2) Management Effects on Water Quality Trends.
- 3) The Peculiarities of Pervious Cover: A Research Synthesis on Allocating Pollutant Loads to Urban Land Use in the Chesapeake Bay.
- 4) Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects in the Chesapeake Bay.

Review Reports:

Finally, STAC distributed a review report entitled "Review of the Final Report of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Invasive Catfish Task Force" on November 7, 2014. At the request of CBP's Sustainable Fisheries GIT, STAC conducted a peer review of the recommended management options that could be applied Bay-wide to respond to the spread of invasive blue and flathead catfishes, and reviewed and recommended potential management options. As always, the report can be found on the STAC publications database at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.

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.

- Fisheries GIT leadership and staff held a full Fisheries GIT meeting December 2-3rd at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD. The meeting featured breakout groups and discussion for each of the fisheries management strategies. Presentations included updates on Virginia and Maryland restoration progress during 2014.
- STAC released their review of the Invasive Catfish Task Force's report. The Task Force will meet this winter to address these comments and consider refining the report and policy recommendations as needed.
- The Fisheries GIT's STAC workshop titled "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities" took place November 12-13, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD. Tom Ihde (STAC member) and Ed Houde (Chesapeake Biological Lab) co-chaired this workshop. The workshop outcomes were presented at the December Fisheries GIT meeting.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

The Habitat GIT met on October 21 and 22 in Annapolis, MD. The purpose of the Fall 2014 meeting of the Habitat Goal Implementation team was to engage state fish and wildlife experts in a Chesapeake landscape conservation planning and design effort to exemplify scalable, strategic habitat conservation in action. The meeting also informed GIT members about the opportunity to influence management strategies being developed to achieve habitat outcomes in the Chesapeake Watershed

Agreement signed by the Governors in June. The Habitat GIT workgroups and joint venture leads highlighted recent accomplishments and presented their specific plan of action to address the ongoing management strategy process (what, why, who, how).

The workgroups and action teams are planning to meet before the end of the year and information will be available on the CBP website.

Jennifer Greiner (Habitat GIT coordinator) chaired a panel presentation at the 2014 Restore America's Estuaries Summit in National Harbor, MD. The presentation panel for "Pilot Model for Brook Trout Habitat Prioritization in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" consisted of Alan Heft (MDNR), Scott Schwenk (North Atlantic LCC), Todd Petty (WVU, Downstream Strategies), and Sandy Davis (FWS). The results of the model should be accessible and available in February 2015 as an online decision making tool.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.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 met for a face-to-face meeting on October 7-8 in order to clarify overall Midpoint Assessment priorities, and to identify steps to move forward. At the meeting, the WQGIT formally approved moving forward with the proposed Phase 6 land use changes and the updated 2014 land use projections. They also approved the proposed set of Midpoint Assessment roles and responsibilities for STAR, Modeling Workgroup, and WQGIT.
 - For a complete list of next steps, action items, and decision items, please see the [meeting summary](#).
- The Forestry Workgroup had a face-to-face meeting on December 3rd and 4th. The meeting's focus was on the management strategy development for the two forestry outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Upcoming BMP panel reports for WQGIT review include Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage, Nutrient Management, Elimination of Gray Infrastructure, and Riparian Forest Buffers.

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.

- Management Strategy Development Update:
Healthy Watersheds GIT members and interested parties met on October 30th for a Work Session on management strategies. The discussion was focused on the Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Methods and Metrics, and Land Use Options Outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. GIT leaders and staff met in early November to plan for the next steps.

- GIT leaders are working with Maryland and Virginia to update the map of State-identified healthy waters and watersheds before the end of the year.
- The GIT is aware of potential overlap among different management strategies and plans to coordinate with other GITs such as the Stewardship and Habitat GITs on subjects that are relevant to more than one outcome.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, Phillips.tuana@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.

Citizen Stewardship

On November 3rd, the Stewardship Implementation Team met with a representative from the Puget Sound Partnership to share insight on their efforts to track and quantify citizen stewardship as part of their larger Puget Sound Restoration Tracking initiative called Vital Signs. This presentation provided valuable information to inform the goal teams' efforts in developing the citizen stewardship management strategy. There was a kick off meeting to begin a discussion on developing, implementing and measuring this new outcome on November 18th at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis. Please contact Amy Handen at amy_handen@nps.gov for more information on this meeting.

Environmental Literacy

The Sustainable Schools Group meet on October 1st and 2nd at NCTC to discuss the status of sustainable schools within each state, and collaborate to develop management strategies. In addition, the Education Workgroup leadership met on October 27th and 18th at NCTC to finalize the new MWE definition and work on the development of management strategies. The entire education work group met on Nov.14 to further develop draft management strategies. Please contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information on this meeting.

Public Access

The Public Access Team has continued to monitor progress on the implementation of the Public Access Plan. Initial observations indicate that 2014 could be a good year for new site development throughout the watershed. The Team met on November 25th. Topics for the agenda included: the process for updating new sites added in 2014, review of draft public access outcome Management Strategy, review of this year's public update process for new potential sites, determine partner update process for 2015, discussion of partner participation in developing potential projects for future grant funding, and review of developing river segments of need when no new potential sites have been identified. Please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov for more information on this meeting.

Land Conservation

The 5th annual meeting of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership was held on October 3rd and 4th. Over 70 conservation leaders from federal and state agencies and NGOs from around the watershed gathered for a two day meeting in Sheperdstown, West Virginia. One of the main topics of the meeting was preliminary discussions on building the management strategy for land conservation. In addition, several speakers including Chris Miller of the Piedmont Environmental Council and Joanna Ogburn of the Chesapeake Conservancy provided updates on conservation efforts in the watershed to date. This newly named Chesapeake Conservation Partnership developed a brand identity and web

presence for the Partnership that was debut at the National Conference for Large Landscape Conservation in D.C. For more information on the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership contact Kate_Baker@partner.nps.gov.

LandScope

LandScope, since the launch of its Chesapeake-focused platform in 2012, has been the shared GIS system in which members of the Partnership compile data and share updates on priorities and conservation efforts throughout the watershed. This free, publicly accessible web application enables decision-makers, practitioners, and citizens within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to work together toward shared land protection goals.

Users of the LandScope Chesapeake system will now enjoy a sleeker, faster, more modern user interface with a host of upgrades. This top-to-bottom overhaul of LandScope's technical architecture presents users with a completely redesigned map viewer, as well as upgraded capabilities that improve the user experience in a variety of ways, including:

- Mapping tools that more quickly and intuitively enable LandScope's 300-plus data layers
- More map options powered by ArcGIS Online—users can search on the tag "LandScope" and combine the results with their own datasets
- iOS compatibility for LandScope's thousands of maps, videos, photos, and articles
- A more direct and dynamic system for pulling map layers from LandScope's data partners—for example, maps depicting a state's most crucial habitats

Contact the LandScope Chesapeake Team at LandScope_ContactUs@natureserve.org if your organization has maps you would like to contribute to LandScope.

Contact: Amy Handen, ahanden@chesapeakebay.net

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.

Bay Watershed Agreement Management Strategies

The GIT continues to be the lead group for tracking management strategy development and providing guidance on the timing and content for the strategies. A contract for GIT meeting facilitation and content development support will be established and administered on behalf of all CBP GITs.

GIT Funding:

The final amount of EPA funds available for FY14 GIT project funding was determined to be \$862,000. With this amount of funding, the top three proposal priorities across GITs will be funded. The 17 projects will be funded through three existing Interagency Agreements (USFWS, USCOE, USGS), three existing EPA grants (MD DNR, ICPRB, VA DEQ), and one EPA HQ Office of Water contract. Actions to pursue and finalize funding mechanisms and prepare detailed project specifications continue.

New Financing Workgroup:

GIT 6 has proposed the formation of a new Financing Workgroup that would provide guidance on a range of issues related to funding with a purpose of continually improving coordination and innovation on budgeting in the Bay Program. This workgroup would go beyond EPA funding, and would address opportunities to enhance coordination of funding across the CBP partnership including state and federal budget issues. GIT 6 plans to provide details on this workgroup to the Management Board at the next meeting.

Local Leadership Outcome:

A workshop for local leaders was held on December 3 in Catonsville, MD. Local officials, trainers, and educators will be invited to attend this workshop, and ideas to contribute to management strategy development will be shared and discussed.

Governance Document:

The Governance Document was finalized in July 2014. Since then, suggested revisions have been collected. These revisions will be reviewed at the December GIT 6 meeting to be implemented in the six month revision of the Governance Document.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@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.

Contact: Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the 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.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Dec 9-10	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Dec 9	USACE Conowingo public meeting (Harford County Cmty College)
Dec 6-7	Environmental Justice Conference (College Park, Md.)
Dec 4-5	Local Government Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting (Easton, Md.)
Nov 20-21	Citizens' Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting (Columbia, Md.)
Nov 12-13	LSRWA Conowingo report release