



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Principals' Staff Committee
April 25, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Apr 27	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting
May 2	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management (GIT 6) Meeting
Apr 4-5	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting
Apr 28	States' comments on Interim Evaluations due
May 11	Management Board Meeting (1st Quarterly Progress Meeting)
May 17	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
May 23-24	Choose Clean Water Coalition conf
May 24-25	CAC meeting
Jun 8	Executive Council Meeting, Annapolis, MD

Updates

Bay TMDL Interim Evaluations

EPA sent draft Bay TMDL interim evaluations to the Bay jurisdictions and federal agency partners for their 2016-2017 Milestones the week of June 10. The interim evaluations include EPA recommendations for actions prior to the end of the milestone period to ensure jurisdictions and federal agencies remain on track. Jurisdictions' responses to the interim evaluations are due back to EPA on April 28 and the interim evaluations are scheduled to be finalized and posted to the Bay TMDL website this summer.

Contact: Lucinda Power, (410) 267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Commission Briefing for new EPA Administrator

On Monday, March 27 the members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission sent a briefing document to Administrator Pruitt along with a request to meet on May 5, 2017. The briefing document provides both a background on the Commission and its perspective on the current state-federal partnership working to restore Chesapeake Bay.

Contact: Jennifer Donnelly, (410) 263.3420; jdonnelly@chesbay.us

CBP Director on panel at CBP Environmental Literacy Summit

On April 11, CBP Director Nick DiPasquale took part in a panel at the Leadership Summit on Environmental Literacy in Laurel, Md. The purpose of the event was to explore how states and federal agencies can assist school systems in creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programs to meet education priorities and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement commitments. DiPasquale was on a panel titled "Setting the Stage" with Brad Knudsen of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Shannon Sprague of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. Also on the agenda were sessions on Student Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences and Sustainable Schools, a panel titled Getting It Done

and a state discussion and report out on priorities. One outcome of the meeting was agreement to propose a renewed Education Directive for the June Executive Council meeting.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

Environmental Finance Action Team

Following review and approval at the April 13th Management Board Meeting, the Environmental Symposium Report Action Team (AT) has requested that the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) review and comment on the attached DRAFT *Report on the Chesapeake Bay Program Response to Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium Recommendations and Final Report* by May 4, 2017. The Action Team will revise report prior to the May 17 PSC meeting based on the comments received.

Contact: Jag Khuman, (410) 537-3981, jag.khuman@maryland.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 elected new Officers at its quarterly meeting March 23-24 in King George, Virginia. Bruce Williams was nominated and approved to Chair the Committee. Pennsylvania selected Ann Simonetti as PA Vice-Chair, Maryland selected Kelly Porter as MD Vice-Chair, Virginia selected Richard Baugh as VA Vice-Chair and Daniel Chao (DC) was selected as At-Large Vice-Chair. Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in the District of Columbia, New York and Virginia.

During the two-day meeting, Members were briefed on upcoming decisions related to Climate Change and Accounting for Growth. The Committee agreed to host a forum to assist the CBP's Land Use Workgroup with developing plausible growth scenarios. The Forum will be held on June 7, 2017 in conjunction with LGAC's next quarterly meeting.

Mary Gattis and members of LGAC continue to facilitate the Local Government Engagement Initiative (LGEI). At the March 22 meeting in Annapolis, participants discussed local engagement strategy development and implementation and shared lessons learned to date. A summary of communications tools and resources needed by the jurisdictions will be delivered to EPA in April. Any questions about the Initiative should be directed to Mary at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

Contact: jstarr@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.

Governor McAuliffe appointed two new CAC members to replace Greg Evans and Bob Wayland:

Kendall Tyree of Richmond, VA has served as the Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts since 2009. As Executive Director she provides legislative and policy outreach for Virginia's 47 soil and water member districts, develops leadership and training programs for both Virginia's 333 elected Soil & Water Conservation District Directors and approximately 160 staff, leads community education programs at the state level including the Virginia Dominion Envirothon, a

natural resource competition for high school students, as well as oversees the organization financials. Prior to her time with the VASWCD she served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education to both Governor Warner and Governor Kaine. As Special Assistant she was legislative liaison between the educational agencies, the Governor's Office and the Secretary of Education. Tyree also holds a state teaching license in the content areas of Spanish, History and Government at the secondary level.

Bill Dickinson of Alexandria, VA is Principal of the Environmental Policy Network, a home-based consulting firm located in Alexandria, VA, specializing in land conservation, open space public parks, and water resource financing and governance. Bill held analytical and managerial positions in the US Office of Management and Budget, Energy Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Retiring after 25 years of federal service, Bill was a founding board member of the Center for Watershed Protection. He served for 12 years on the board and as chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, and for six years a Virginia Land Conservation Foundation trustee. Currently he is Secretary-Treasurer of Alex Renew Enterprises, an independent public authority providing sanitary wastewater services to Alexandria and a large portion of Fairfax County and on the board of the Northern Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

In March, CAC sent a letter to the Executive Council encouraging them to advocate for full funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program and other Bay-related federal agency programs.

The next CAC meeting will be in Charlottesville, VA on May 24-25 following the Choose Clean Water Conference. The meeting will focus on the role and value of the Chesapeake Bay Program and case studies of how EPA funded projects have benefited local communities and waterways.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact CAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at jjstarr@allianceforthebay.org. For the coordinator contact: Jessica Blackburn.

Contact: 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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2017 on June 13-14, 2017 at a location to be determined in Annapolis, MD. Please direct any quarterly meeting inquiries to STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org. To be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, please contact STAC Staff.

Workshops:

Results of the FY17 Request for Proposals (RFPs)

STAC agreed to support the following 5 workshops in FY17:

- 1) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond

- 3) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 4) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design
- 5) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions

Ongoing Workshops

- 1) Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)

This workshop was held on March 29-30, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The objectives of this workshop were to discuss and develop the design of a Partnership framework that allows for translation of a suite of eco-services (flood attenuation, recreational values, storm buffering capacity, open-space access and wildlife habitat) that can be considered alongside water quality in decision-making when implementing best management practices (BMPs). Results would be used by the jurisdictions in the development of their Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to optimize achievement of nutrient/sediment load reductions while enhancing progress toward related outcomes in the 2014 Bay Watershed Agreement. Presentations and more information can be found [here](#).

The following three workshops will be held over the next month. For additional information, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

- 2) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads – **April 24-25, 2017**
- 3) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change – **March 28 (Blue Crab), April 25 (Submerged aquatic vegetation), April 26 (Oysters)**
 - a. On March 28th at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, this workshop held the first of three one-day sessions on Blue Crab. The goal of each session is to develop recommendations to guide adjustments of CBP monitoring plans and efforts in order to better anticipate, assess and ultimately plan to address the factor of risk that climate change may have on the capacity to meet related goals and outcomes. Additional information can be found [here](#).
- 4) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters –**Part II – May 2-3, 2017**
 - a. Part I of this workshop was held on February 6-7th at UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Additional information can be found at the meeting webpage [here](#).

Upcoming Reports

STAC is working to finalize five reports from the following FY2015 workshops. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. Information regarding each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) - can be found on the STAC workshop webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation

- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation
- 4) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- 5) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

For more information, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Reviews:

STAC has five review activities in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. All review reports (as available) can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.

- 1) Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

The panel completed their review. The final report is currently under review by STAC membership and will be distributed to the Partnership in mid-April.

- 2) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The STAC Criteria Addendum review panel is still finalizing its review of the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum. The review panel suggested a clarifying re-write of the addendum and then requested additional revisions to the updated document. The CBP has provided a new and improved document and the panel is working to formally complete their review over the next month.

- 3) Follow-up Review: James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation

STAC completed the review request from CBP for a review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation in October 2016. The review panel has been re-assembled to assess how well their findings and recommendations have been implemented in the revised chlorophyll criteria assessment methodology. The review will take place over the next month.

- 4) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

The panel have completed their review of the requested documentation and finalized a report of their recommendations. The panel is currently awaiting the remaining documentation on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill from the Modeling Workgroup to complete their review.

- 5) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

STAC received the official review request from STAR's Modeling Workgroup on the Water Quality Sediment Transport Model in late November. STAC Staff are currently working with the CBPO to finalize the review approach, questions, and documentation by mid-May.

Upcoming Reviews

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for one additional STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews between now and May 2017. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment.

- 1) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

One of the workshop proposals submitted to STAC for FY17 will be organized in lieu of a peer review on the application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations.

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon.

Contact: dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

The Workgroup will use the Indicators Framework to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

Indicators

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Fish passage	Between 2012 and 2016, 1,126 additional miles were opened to fish passage, surpassing the 1,000-mile goal.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/fish-passage
Public Access	Between 2010 and 2016, 130 public access sites were opened to the public. This marks a 43% achievement of the goal to add 300 new access sites to the watershed, and brings the total number of access sites in the region to 1,269.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/public-access/public-access

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Juvenile Striped Bass Abundance (April 2017)
- Environmental Literacy Planning (April 2017)*
- Reducing Pollution (April 2017)
- Black Duck (April 2017)
- Forest Cover (May 2017)
- Toxic Contaminants (Spring 2017)

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: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, 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.

The Fish Habitat Action Team developed a workshop proposal for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee's request for proposals, which will evaluate factors influencing fish habitat function to

develop qualitative criteria improving restoration and conservation efforts throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. STAC approved the Fish Habitat workshop proposal at their March Quarterly meeting.

The Fish Habitat Action Team held a meeting in February to review their workplan. They held a follow up earlier this month to analyze their workplan progress, identify gaps and challenges, and prepare their strategy review presentation to the Management Board on May 11th.

The Forage Action Team met in February to learn about Maryland Department of Natural Resource's research and development of striped bass indicators and to hear an update on the GIT-funded study by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory to investigate the drivers of forage population trends. During this meeting, members reviewed a proposed strategy for further forage action and provided input to improve the strategy.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force reconvened in February to learn the latest research on population, diet and fish movement in the Chesapeake Bay and to plan for an invasive catfish workshop geared toward managers later in the year.

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee held their quarterly conference call to consider additional analysis regarding this year's advisory report. Members are preparing for the Winter Dredge Survey results analysis and review in mid-May with final advisory report expected in June.

Blue Crab experts met with climate experts during the "Aligning Monitoring with Climate Change" STAC workshop to gain a better understanding of the likely impacts of climate change and identify critical monitoring parameters. Key parameters identified were DO and bottom temperature. This workshop is the first of three workshops, which will increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and develop a long-term vision for management in the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact: Kara Skipper; kara.skipper@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 Goal Implementation Team's Spring 2017 will take place on May 9th at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's office in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The meeting will focus on preparing for the Management Board's Biennial Review and updating members with ongoing GIT activities. The Habitat GIT is working closely with the Cross-GIT Mapping team and NFWF to align priorities to reach outcome goals stated in the Watershed Agreement.

The 73rd Annual **Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference, Relevancy and Agility: The Rising Tide of Conservation**, will be held April 9-11, 2017 in Norfolk, Virginia at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. Visit <http://www.neafwa.org/conference.html> for more information.

The Wetland Workgroup, in collaboration with the CBP Web and Communications Teams, has refined the project scope of a GIT Funded project "Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs – information access and program cross-training." The refined RFP has been released by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, with proposals due April 5th, 2017. Contracts are expected to be awarded by the end of May.

The SAV Workgroup's GIT Funded project "Watershed group and citizen monitoring of fish habitat" is in the process of scheduling trainings for watershed groups to monitor SAV and forage fish. An existing citizen science app, Water Reporter, is being updated to include SAV and forage monitoring capabilities.

The SAV Workgroup hosted a workshop on March 29th at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD to focus on the SAV Survey and potential changes in design to help ensure continued monitoring under uncertain funding. Data users have been surveyed and an outcome of the workshop will be consensus on a path forward to continue SAV data collection in the Chesapeake. A workshop report will be available in the coming weeks.

The Wetland Expert Panel's final report received full partnership approval and recommendations will be adopted in the Phase 6 Watershed Model. [The full report is available online](#). The scope of work for a future Wetland Expert Panel to provide further BMP recommendations is in the process of being developed.

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be holding a Multi-State Landscape Science Workshop on Thursday April 27th at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia. The workshop is intended to serve a range of agency staff engaged in planning and implementing conservation activities with a purpose of helping agency staff understand the diversity of valuable landscape science available in our region, with a focus on the use and application of RCOA tools and how that information can be accessed to identify priorities and address data needs.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup is hosting STAC workshops to integrate climate change into monitoring of three groups: blue crabs, oysters, and SAV. The SAV focused workshop will take place in the Schmidt Building at SERC on April 25th, 2017. [More information can be found here](#).

Contact: Runion.kyle@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.

February updates: The WQGIT held conference calls on February 13th and February 27th.

The WQGIT endorsed the STAC workshop proposal entitled 'Integrating Science on Watershed and Estuarine Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond'.

The WQGIT was briefed on observed regional trends to support development of draft Phase III WIP planning targets.

The WQGIT was briefed on the proposed process and structure for Phase 6 model development and fatal flaw review, and recommended that the fatal flaw review process be incorporated with new information regarding the changing modeling timelines and proposed strategic review guide for conducting the fatal flaw review. The revisions will come before the WQGIT for approval in April.

The WQGIT requested a communications document be developed in order to clearly communicate key information about the Phase 6 model for a general (non-technical) audience.

March updates: The WQGIT held a conference call on March 13th.

The WQGIT approved extending the deadline for jurisdictions to submit updated 2014-2016 historical data from April 1st to September 1st, to support development of historical progress scenarios through 2016.

The WQGIT discussed the proposed revisions to the Midpoint Assessment schedule and (1) recommended including a new row that directs the Partnership to re-evaluate the revised Midpoint Assessment schedule after the fatal flaw review is complete; (2) agreed to a 4-month review of the draft Phase III WIP planning targets; and (3) approved the revisions through July 2017.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on April 10th. A subset of the planned topics include:

The WQGIT will be briefed on the proposed Phase 6 Model Review Strategy, which includes Phase 6 model changes, fatal flaw review process guidance, and a review strategy document.

The WQGIT will receive presentations on a proposed midpoint assessment communications strategy from the Partnership's Communications Office and on a draft Phase III WIP local government engagement and communications template from LGAC's Local Government Engagement Initiative.

The WQGIT will be asked to approve the proposed revisions to the midpoint assessment timeline.

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.

Contact: Katherine Wares; 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

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.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

A GIT sub-group (the “SRS Small Group”) is working with the Fisheries, Habitat, Healthy Watersheds, and Stewardship Goal Teams; STAR; and STAC to prepare for the inaugural Quarterly Progress Session with the Management Board, to take place on May 11, 2017, where the progress of six outcomes will be reviewed. The GIT is also working on drafting a product from the February 2-Day Biennial Meeting that highlights key themes and considerations, to be presented to the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) at the May 17 meeting. The PSC will provide guidance on the content and revision of this product, and an abridged presentation may be scheduled for the June 8 Executive Council meeting.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

GIT Funding

GIT Coordinator and Staff have developed a GIT Funding newsletter, currently under review by the Communications team and other parties, to be distributed internally (with the option of distribution to a large, external audience). The goal of the newsletter is to highlight the purpose and process of GIT Funding, and to showcase, through project examples and testimonial, how this funding source has helped GITs overcome barriers to workplan implementation and successful completion of their respective Watershed Agreement outcome(s).

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

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup

The Workgroup is hosting a meeting on early April 12, 2017 to review the report on local elected officials’ information content needs and preferred delivery mechanisms developed by EcoLogix. The Workgroup will take time to review and comment on the report outline before a final draft is submitted. The Workgroup will also consider how this report will be used in the third phase of the local official watershed education project “*Implementation Support for Local Official Watershed Education and Capacity Building.*”

Contact: Reggie Parrish, parrish.reggie@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 Goal Team Science Needs. *The Chesapeake Bay Program’s Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team, in coordination with the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs), conducted an in-depth analysis of science needs of work plans for the Bay Agreement Outcomes. The science needs of the CBP GITs have expanded over the past 2 years to address the 2014 Agreement outcomes. Here are some results from this analysis:*

- The goals teams are benefiting from several Federal Partners focusing support on selected outcomes. For example, NOAA is providing the majority of support for the fishery outcomes, USFWS for several habitat outcomes, and USGS for Habitat, Water Quality, Toxic Contaminant, and Climate outcomes.
- We have involved new partners in helping address science needs, including the Eastern Brook Trout and Black Duck Joint Ventures.
- GIT funding provided by the CBP has also helped to address specific needs.
- The CBP Office resources have supported the needs of the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment with the GIS Team also supporting the cross-goal team mapping project.

The STAR team will summarize the remaining needs and work through the Management Board on ways to address the remaining gaps. STAR will also become a forum for GIT preparation for the SRS Biennial

Review, with dedicated meetings occurring two months prior to the Management Board's themed SRS quarterly review meetings.

STAR is supporting the Cross GIT Mapping project, utilizing monthly meetings to solicit feedback on mapping priorities from the GITs. The results will be used by the GITs and partners to identify areas where multiple outcomes can be addressed, and to help focus resources.

STAR Analyst, Dr. Qian Zhang, is the recipient of the prestigious [Innovyze Excellence in Computational Hydraulics/Hydrology Award](#) for 2017! This national award is given annually by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE) and the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP) to recognize a student whose research contributes substantially to the knowledge pool in the area of Computational Hydraulics & Hydrology.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

The CRWG held its quarterly in-person meeting on March 20, 2017, with a focus on Climate Resiliency mapping, future funding opportunities, and upcoming priorities from the workplan. The CRWG reviewed the 2017 Midpoint Assessment climate change policy options under review by the Principal Staff Committee and has put forward alternative language related to the "qualitative" policy option for the Partnership's consideration. The CRWG's proposed language reads as follows:

Optimize Phase III WIP Development and Adaptively Manage BMP Implementation: During the development of Phase III WIPs, jurisdictions will prioritize BMPs that are more resilient to future climate impacts over the intended design life of the proposed practices. During each two-year milestone development period, jurisdictions will consider new information on the performance of BMPs and the programs that support them, including the contribution of seasonal, inter-annual climate variability and weather extremes. Jurisdictions will assess this information and adjust plans to implement their Phase III WIPs to better mitigate anticipated increases in nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment due to climate change. Jurisdictions would provide a narrative consistent with the Guiding Principles that describes their programmatic commitments to address climate change in their Phase III WIPs.

On March 28, a STAC workshop was held regarding monitoring and climate change for blue crab. This was one of a series of three one-day STAC workshops (SAV, Oyster, and Blue Crab) for the purposes of developing recommendations to guide adjustments of CBP monitoring plans and efforts in order to better anticipate, assess and ultimately plan to address the factor of risk that climate change may have on the Partnership's ability to attain Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goals and Outcomes. Future workshops in this series will occur on April 25 & 26, 2017.

INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORKS

Due to scheduling conflicts, March's IMN meeting was postponed until April, where the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative's Indicator Matrix that provides possible matches between management plan information needs with volunteer monitoring program assessment metrics, as well as results from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's work with the Chesapeake Bay Program's nontidal water quality monitoring network protocol comparison study, will be reviewed.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS WORKGROUP

During February 2017, CBP partners requested an overview and update of the Chesapeake Bay tidal waters benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring program with applications of its Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity. The methodology supports Clean Water Act 303d impairment listings in tidal waters of Chesapeake Bay. Specific interests among the partners includes 1) sampling distribution, 2) latest work regarding reference community classification and 3) the power of the tool to discriminate causes of impairment. The CAP WG webinar occurred on April 4, 2017 to address these interests. See the CAP [calendar event page](#) for the presentation and supporting materials.

MODELING WORKGROUP

Development of the Watershed Model Phase 6 final version to be released for fatal flaw review on June 1 continues, and presentations regarding development were held during the April 4th Modeling WG Meeting. There will also be a follow up Modeling WG conference call held on May 4th. Plans are also underway to help finalize STAC reviews of pieces of the modeling framework including the approach to simulation of the Conwingo and climate change. These reviews will likely be held in the Spring.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; 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.

The Communications Workgroup reviewed its priorities from the previous year at their April meeting, with the intent to create a two-year workplan. Kristin Reilly (CCWC, Communications Director) gave an update on the Coalition's activities to support CBP and led a discussion about how CBP partners could communicate the successes of the partnership. Jennifer Starr (ACB, LGAC) updated the workgroup on the activities of the Local Government Engagement Initiative.

On April 10, Rachel Felver (ACB, CBP Communications Director) spoke to the Water Quality GIT about the Midpoint Assessment/Phase III WIP planning communications strategy. On April 13, the office put out a press release with NOAA updating on oyster restoration progress. In March, CBP ran a "This is Progress" campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to highlight progress made toward the Agreement and the data available on [ChesapeakeProgress.com](#). A separate "Chesapeake Stories" Facebook campaign features short, one-minute videos where watershed residents share their stories: what their waterway means to them, how they interact with their environment and what environmental issues face their communities.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Mar 29-30	STAC Workshop: Ecosystem Services/Co-Benefits (Annapolis)
Apr 4	Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management (GIT 6) Meeting
Apr 10	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Call
Apr 12	Local Leadership Workgroup Meeting
Apr 13	Management Board Meeting
Apr 18	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team Meeting
Apr 18	Environmental Finance Action Team Meeting

Apr 21

Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team Meeting