



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Principals' Staff Committee Meeting  
March 16, 2016**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

March 15-16	STAC Quarterly Meeting
March 17	Draft Evaluations of 2016-2017 TMDL Milestone Submissions
March 24-25	LGAC Meeting
Apr 5-7	Environment Virginia Symposium (Lexington, Va.)
Apr 7	Draft Evaluations of 2016-2017 TMDL Milestones
Apr 14	Management Board meeting (in-person, Annapolis)
Apr 14	Reducing Pollution Indicator release
Apr 20	Enviro Literacy in the Mid-Atlantic
Apr 22	Final TMDL Milestones submissions
Apr 25-26	Environmental Finance Symposium

**Updates**

**Supreme Court declines to hear case on Chesapeake Bay pollution limits**

On Monday, February 29, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will not hear a case challenging the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The American Farm Bureau Federation, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the National Association of Home Builders and a number of agricultural trade associations filed suit against the EPA, claiming the federal agency lack authority to issue the TMDL. In 2013, the Pennsylvania Federal Judge Sylvia Rambo upheld the pollution limits, leading to an appeal from the Plaintiffs. The U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia also upheld the TMDL as legal under the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Supreme Court announced it would not review the case and upheld the appellate court's decision.

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

**Chesapeake Bay Congressional Delegation Briefing**

On February 29, EPA and its federal partners participated in a briefing for the Chesapeake Bay Congressional Delegation staffers. The meeting was requested by Senator Cardin's and Representative Whittman's staffs. The focus of the briefing was "Restoring the Chesapeake Bay - Next Steps." EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin helped lead the briefing along with Dr. Terron Hillsman, USDA State Conservationist of Maryland, Ann Swanson, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and Chesapeake Bay Program Office Director Nicholas DiPasquale. Chesapeake Bay federal agency partners also participated in a networking session following the formal presentations including representatives from NOAA, USGS, NRCS, the National Forest Service, NPS, DOD and EPA.

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

**Environmental Literacy State Cabinet Meeting**

The Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Cabinet Meeting will be held April 20, 2016 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis. The meeting, which will include state education superintendents, is designed to help states explore how they can assist local education agencies in creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms and to meet commitments under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay

Watershed Agreement and to examine opportunities provided by the environmental education provisions of the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act to support state and local environmental literacy programming. The meeting agenda is attached to the end of this program update.

Contact: Shannon Sprague, Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup, 410-267-5664, [shannon.sprague@noaa.gov](mailto:shannon.sprague@noaa.gov)

### **Public Input Period for draft CBP Watershed Work Plans**

March 7 marked the end of the public input period for the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's draft work plans pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement signed in 2014. The two-year workplans succinctly summarize the specific commitments, actions and resources each self-identified signatory and stakeholder will do individually and collectively to reach two-year targets for each outcome identified in the Watershed Agreement. The partnership's Goal Implementation Teams will review the feedback and incorporate changes to work plans as deemed appropriate and will present them to the CBP Management Board for approval. The work plans will be finalized on April 30, 2016. The draft work plans are available at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies>.

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

### **2015 EO Progress Report**

The Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) for the Chesapeake Bay's annual progress report, as required by Presidential Executive Order 13508, is now undergoing review with OMB and CEQ at their request. The report summarizes achievements from Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15), utilizing nearly \$513 million toward Chesapeake Bay restoration. This progress report will be the final report exclusive to the federal agencies, with significant progress made toward achieving the goals and outcomes set forth in the 2015 Action Plan. Annual reporting will now be incorporated as part of tracking the progress of meeting the goals of the state and federal Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which includes the goals set forth in the federal agencies' Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The report will be published on the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order website at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/> once it is approved.

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

### **NOAA releases preliminary data and findings on Harris Creek Oyster Reef Restoration Program**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently released a fact sheet on the preliminary data and findings about their work on the Harris Creek Oyster Reef Restoration Program. Preliminary data show that so far, oyster restoration efforts in Maryland's Harris Creek are doing well. Late last fall, scientists gathered data about oyster density on restored oyster reefs in Harris Creek on reefs that were seeded with spat-on-shell in 2012. One hundred percent of those sites exceeded standards set to show healthy restoration efforts—they have more than 15 oysters per square meter. And, 50 percent of those sites did even better—they had more than 50 oysters per square meter—shown in dark green.

A more comprehensive scientific report, including even more data about oyster density on these reefs as well as data on other ways scientists determine the health of restored reefs, will be released in late spring, after scientists have had time to fully analyze the data.

For more information: <http://www.chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/habitats-hot-topics/preliminary-data-show-harris-creek-oyster-restoration-project-doing-well>

### **CBP Deputy Director at Environmental Justice Conference**

CBP Deputy Director Jim Edward, who also serves as Chair of the CBP Diversity Action Team, took part in the 2016 Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program on March 10-11 in Washington, D.C.

The conference was an exchange of new ideas and new approaches to building healthy communities. The program format featured needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with an interest in health disparities and environmental justice. Information on the training programs agenda is available at [http://thenejc.org/?page\\_id=374](http://thenejc.org/?page_id=374)  
Contact: Jim Edward (410) 267-5705, [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov)

#### **Previously reviewed Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment released**

The Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment, was released on March 10. The initial draft of the report was issued in November 2014 and a final version compiled in May 2015. The report releases the findings of a study examining 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. CBPO Associate Director for Science, Analysis and Implementation Rich Batiuk and CBPO's Lew Linker took part development of the report.

Contact: Lew Linker, (410) 267-5741, [llinker@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:llinker@chesapeakebay.net)

#### **STAC Report on Roadside Ditches**

A new report by CBP's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) recommends that improved management of roadside ditches may present an underused, cost-effective opportunity for improving water quality in the Chesapeake region. The STAC workshop report, *Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals*, recommends that enhancing the design and maintenance of roadside ditches could help Bay Program partners meet the water quality goals of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Among the report's recommendations are the creation of a comprehensive roadside ditch management program, increased awareness through education and outreach efforts, and the targeted use of best management practices.

The report is available at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/349\\_Boomer2016.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/349_Boomer2016.pdf)

#### **CBP Launches ChesapeakeProgress Website**

The launch of ChesapeakeProgress was announced on Wednesday, February 17. It was promoted with a media advisory and call, and covered by 52 news outlets (including 37 print and online publications, 10 television stations and 5 radio stations; 49 news outlets published an article from the Associated Press). ChesapeakeProgress is meant to help federal, public and internal oversight groups track our progress toward the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and will be continually updated and improved as existing indicators are updated, new indicators are established and more information about how our work is funded becomes available. Research into target user needs has begun for ChesapeakeDecisions.

ChesapeakeDecisions is the second product in the ChesapeakeStat suite of accountability products and is envisioned as a decision support tool that will help the Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners work together and adaptively manage their strategies to achieve the goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, (410) 267-5780, [vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@epa.gov)

## **Funding**

### **NFWF Stewardship Grant Proposals Sought**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. EPA, is soliciting proposals to restore the habitats and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (Stewardship Fund) will award approximately \$10–\$12 million in grants in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program. Major funding for the grant program comes from the EPA; other important contributions are provided by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Altria Group and CSX. The Request for Proposals detailing NFWF's funding priorities and other key considerations is attached. Proposals are due by midnight, Thursday, May 14th and must be submitted through NFWF's online application at [www.nfwf.org/easygrants](http://www.nfwf.org/easygrants).

NFWF will host a webinar for applicants on *Tuesday, April 5th* to review the Request for Proposals and respond to questions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate, and can register for the webinar by following this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/879234741841069315>. In addition, NFWF will provide training on the new online FieldDoc tool for calculating nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed Stewardship Fund projects on *Thursday, April 7th*. All applicants, including those who have received Stewardship Fund grants previously, are strongly encouraged to participate, and can register for the webinar by following this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4333012970429665027>. **Contacts:** (at NFWF) Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)), Elizabeth Nellums ([elizabeth.nellums@nfwf.org](mailto:elizabeth.nellums@nfwf.org)) and Mark Melino ([mark.melino@nfwf.org](mailto:mark.melino@nfwf.org)) or by phone at (202) 857-0166.

### **U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$500 Million in TIGER Discretionary Grants**

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced that the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER Discretionary Grant program) has up to \$500 million available for capital projects related to highways, bridges, public transportation, rail, ports, and intermodal projects. A primary selection criterion specifically mentions addressing environmental sustainability including avoiding adverse environmental impacts to water quality, providing environmental benefits such as ground water recharge in areas of water scarcity, and stormwater mitigation, including green infrastructure. Applicants are encouraged to provide quantitative information, including baseline information that demonstrates how the project will reduce stormwater runoff. Eligible applicants are State, local, and tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations, other political subdivisions of State or local governments, and multi-State or multi-jurisdictional groups applying through a lead applicant. *TIGER applications are due no later than April 29, 2016 at 8 PM E.D.T.* For additional information: <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger>

## **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 received notice that Governor Tomblin appointed The Honorable James Barnhart, Berkeley County Council (WV) to the Committee. Thanks to Teresa Koon and Matt Pennington for their

assistance with securing this appointment. We anticipate additional appointments in Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia in the coming months.

- LGAC's next meeting will be held on March 24-25, 2016 in Takoma Park, MD. Members will begin planning a Local Government Forum to address challenges and opportunities to achieving pollutant reduction through capital improvement projects. The meeting will include hands on learning about Takoma Park's experience with implementing capital projects that achieve pollutant reduction. Anyone interested in attending the meeting should contact LGAC's new program assistant, Jennifer Starr, at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org) or 804-775-0954.

Contact: Mary Gattis, [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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 their winter quarterly meeting on February 17-18, 2016 in Alexandria, VA. The theme of the meeting was urban restoration and protection efforts with a focus on Urban Tree Canopy.
- CAC sent a letter to the EPA Administrator urging her to fill the vacant position of Senior Advisor for the Chesapeake Watershed and Anacostia River. CAC believes it is critical that the Agency retain someone at the helm in a senior executive position helping to charting the course forward as we approach the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment in Chesapeake watershed restoration.
- CAC sent a letter to Virginia Governor McAuliffe thanking him for his leadership in facilitating the planned April 20, 2016 environmental literacy meeting between senior officials of the U.S. Department of Education and superintendents of schools from Chesapeake watershed states. The letter also encourages the Executive Council to continue to advocate with Congress and the Administration to support NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) Program – a principal source of environmental education and meaningful watershed experience funding, since this program is not included in the President's Fiscal 2017 budget request.
- Paula Jasinski, CAC Vice-Chair and Principal for Chesapeake Environmental Communications (CEC), is working on a NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) funded project that has analyzed climate data from the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Systems in Maryland and Virginia and that from NOAA's National Climate Data Center going back to the late 1800's. This project has documented clear trends in climate parameters within the Chesapeake Bay region over the last century, including very clearly defined trends on decreasing frost days, increasing length and earlier onset of growing season, increasing total annual precipitation, increase in precipitation intensity, and more. This data analysis will be used to develop more in-depth storylines around observed impacts of these changes to the NERRS sites and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem (e.g., SAV loss; cold shock mortality events to sea turtles, speckled trout, and pelicans; and implications for restoration and management). The project includes several communication products, a developing [website on the Changing Chesapeake](#), a new e-book chapter to be included in the [Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem Atlas](#) and a companion teacher's guide for in-classroom use, and a NOAA Science Seminar presentation (date to be determined).

Additionally, CEC is developing a strategic plan for how cultural institutions in coastal Virginia can effectively collaborate and educate the public on sea level rise. They are overseeing this project to better connect research institutions, educators, and outreach centers to develop consistent messaging and content that resonates with museum visitors.

CEC has just begun their work with the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program, led by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, to integrate the citizens monitoring data with EPA's water quality data. CEC's role will be to develop new data entry tools and an online database to support the effort and work with monitoring groups to ensure they understand how to use the tools. The project will increase the usability of the volunteer monitoring data and make it actionable in the Bay Program's broader protection and restoration efforts.

- CAC member, Joe Maroon and Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment, has been working with Chesapeake Media on hopefully developing a much needed local government version of the Bay Journal. They also will have several other grants up for consideration in April that would further the Bay goals, including environmental literacy, land conservation, and water quality protection.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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.*

- **Quarterly Meetings:** STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY 2015 on March 15-16, 2016 at The Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton) in Annapolis, Maryland. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at [kellyr@si.edu](mailto:kellyr@si.edu).
- **Workshops:** STAC hosted five workshops so far in 2016. Information regarding those workshop is below.

##### **1. Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality**

This workshop took place on January 13-14, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the future status of the processes taking place in the Lower Susquehanna River reservoirs, so that we can predict how any particular future watershed- or reservoir-management approaches will impact the attainment of the Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria. The workshop participants discussed what would be the best approach to modeling the process by which inputs to the reservoirs are transformed into outputs in the past, current, and in future conditions. The workshop steering committee is in the process of drafting a workshop report that will be distributed in April.

##### **2. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation**

This workshop took place on January 14, 2016 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland. The workshop identified ways to enhance the capacity of the CBP Wetland workgroup by facilitating a solution-oriented discussion with the workgroup and other key parties on the 2-year workplan for wetlands, key obstacles, potential opportunities to overcome those obstacles, and other parallel and related efforts. The objective was to demonstrate a pilot process on how other workgroups might similarly enhance their capacity to meet and implement their overall goals.

##### **3. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System**

This workshop took place on February 1-2, 2016 at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices in Arlington, Virginia. This workshop developed approaches to assess uncertainty in the suite of CBP models to support the Mid-point Assessment of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The workshop (1) explored and identified drivers of uncertainty in the Bay Program Partnership's modeling system, structure, parameters, data, and assumptions; (2) assessed the available methods for conducting uncertainty analyses in the suite of models; and (3) developed recommendations and priorities for conducting uncertainty analysis of the models in support of the 2017 Mid-point Assessment model review.

#### **4. Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation**

This workshop took place on February 17-18, 2016 at The O'Callaghan Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The goal of the workshop was to develop the requirements of an optimization engine that can simplify and guide Bay jurisdictions' efforts to develop Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) and Milestones that minimize implementation costs while achieving the required reductions and maximizing co-benefits. The workshop will generate recommendations for the best optimization method, key objectives, decision variables, an appropriate means of accounting for (i.e., modeling) the spatial and temporal interactions that will influence their effect on outcomes, the range to necessary constraints, and other data needs for a Bay optimization system.

#### **5. The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments**

This workshop took place on March 7-8, 2016 at The Westin Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop brought together a group of experts to join a discussion on the selection of various models, scenarios, downscaling techniques, and historical observation data to establish a framework for climate analysis in the Chesapeake Bay Program. The goal of the workshop is to assist the CBP with the selection process by addressing questions about climate variables of most concern, various approaches, climate characteristics, and climate change scenarios. The workshop steering committee is in the process of drafting a workshop summary that will be distributed in a few months.

In addition, STAC is planning two additional workshops that will take place before May 31, 2016.

#### **1. Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement**

This workshop will take place on April 12-13, 2016 at the UMCES Horn Point Lab in Cambridge, Maryland. The workshop will focus on the Choptank River as a microcosm for the Bay system, and will focus on the barriers and opportunities for integrating monitoring efforts for several inter-related outcomes (fisheries, SAV, water quality, stream health, and toxic contaminants). Some of the major items that will be explored include: (1) supporting adaptive management (including use of models and indicators), (2) aligning monitoring program objectives, (3) modifying network designs, and (4) assessing compatibility of sampling and analytical techniques.

#### **2. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making**

This workshop will take place on April 20-21, 2016 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Virginia. This workshop will bring together the Team PIs and other experts in the field of shallow water modeling to discuss the early results of the shallow water model comparison effort. This workshop will focus on addressing a set of three key questions: (1) How well are the pre-existing and newly developed models able to reproduce observations of water quality in the Chester River, and why are certain models better able to reproduce the observations than others? (2) What methodologies are available for scaling up this shallow



water multiple modeling effort for implementation at the full Chesapeake Bay scale? (3) What specific nutrients reduction scenarios will be implemented by each modeling team, and how should these scenario results be compared?

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at [dixonra@si.edu](mailto:dixonra@si.edu) or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_ws.php](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php).

- **Reviews:**

STAC is currently sponsoring two review and planning for approximately six additional reviews. Details of those reviews are listed below.

- 1. Microbeads/Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay**

At the request of the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC), STAC sponsored a technical review panel to identify (1) sources of microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay, (2) known impacts of microplastics on aquatic life and human health, (3) data gaps, and (4) policy actions to reduce microplastics. The review panel has been gathering data and drafting a review report since early November. Due to new federal legislation, the review panel recently modified the scope of this review to further emphasize the issues. Former STAC Chair, Kirk Havens presented the preliminary findings to the CBC on January 7, 2016 at their quarterly meeting. A final report will be distributed mid-March.

- 2. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum**

The CBP's Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup (CAP WG), under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR), requested a STAC review of the CAP WG technical report "Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries 2015 Technical Addendum." A review panel has been formed and an information session has been scheduled for February 12th. The review is scheduled to be completed in early 2016.

Additionally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews are below.

1. Proposed revised James River chlorophyll a water quality criteria
2. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
3. Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder
4. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
5. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
6. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at [gardnarn@si.edu](mailto:gardnarn@si.edu) or visit the STAC review webpage at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_rev.php](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php).

- **Report:** Finally, STAC distributed a workshop report entitled " Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals" on March 7, 2016. The report is a product of a 2014 workshop focused on improving roadside ditch management to meet TMDL goals, reduce flooding, and buffer impacts. As always, the report can be found at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_ws\\_pubs.php](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws_pubs.php).  
For additional information contact Natalie Gardner at [gardnarn@si.edu](mailto:gardnarn@si.edu)



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

### **Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

*The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.*

- The Fish Habitat Action Team is designing a project to build on previous work by TetraTech. Last year TetraTech developed a review and synthesis project on the habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species as part of a CBP contract with TetraTech to support CBP's management strategies. Fish Habitat Team members have identified research needs which will expand upon the previous project to identify major stressors and threats to fish habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office hosted an [Oyster Summit](#) on February 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Fredericksburg, VA. The summit convened a broad group of stakeholders, including managers, industry, scientists, non-governmental organizations and community groups across jurisdictions to discuss shared interests in increasing the number of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. The products from the Summit are being developed and will include a summary report of the Summit presentations and discussions.
- The final report from the October 2015 Cownose Ray Scientific Workshop hosted by the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Team is now available at this [link](#). Jurisdictional management agencies are using this report as a resource to inform discussions around this species.

Contact: Bruce Vogt, [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto: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 has welcomed Christine Conn as Vice Chair of the Habitat GIT, and as of April 30<sup>th</sup> Christine will assume chairpersonship and David Whitehurst will come on board as Vice Chair. A big thank you to former Chair Mike Slattery and current Chair Jana Davis. A spring Habitat GIT meeting is being planned for early May.
- The 72nd Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held April 3-6, 2016 at the Westin Annapolis. On the first day of the NEAFWA conference, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative staff will lead a workshop providing a hands-on introduction to information and tools developed by LCCs in the Northeast Region. [Registration](#) is now open.
- The Conservation Fund's Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities and Landscapes Course will be held May 3-5, 2016 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. During this 3-day course community-based teams will focus on the economics, community character, natural resources, and partnership building skills necessary for creating sustainable communities. The [application deadline](#) is March 14, 2016.

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, [Jennifer\\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto: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 held conference calls on February 8th and February 22nd.**
  - The WQGIT approved the proposed mapping protocol for tree canopy versus forest lands, and the elimination of the 'tree canopy over scrub shrub' land cover class in the Phase 6.0 Model. Maryland and Virginia will work with the CBP land data team to compare the new method with their current methods and determine which method provides the most accurate data.
  - The WQGIT approved the proposed point source data project to document the current process for receiving and correcting point source data that is fed into the Bay Watershed Model.
  - The WQGIT approved the Phase III WIP Stakeholder Assessment Action Plan.
  - The WQGIT approved the crosswalk report developed by the Phase 5.3.2 Nutrient Management Task Force.
  - The WQGIT approved the proposed charge and schedule for convening an ad hoc task force with cross-sector representation that will frame out the options for a WQGIT recommendation regarding the development of local area targets for the Phase III WIPs.
  - The WQGIT received briefings on the Chesapeake Bay Commission's Phosphorous Management Tool report, the proposed Oyster BMP crediting framework, and the roles and responsibilities for reviewing the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- **The WQGIT will hold conference calls on March 14th and March 28th. A subset of the topics include:**
  - The WQGIT will be asked to approve the tree canopy land use loading rates.
  - The WQGIT will be asked to approve the Street Sweeping and Storm Drain Cleaning BMP expert panel report.
  - The WQGIT will receive an update and continue discussions regarding the possibility of using 2025 forecasted conditions to develop Phase III WIPs.

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.*

- **Workplan Development:** The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT will meet on Tuesday, March 29 for a face-to-face meeting in Annapolis. This meeting will have a presentation on the FY14 GIT Project titled "Identifying Additional Healthy Watersheds in West Virginia." This project summary will help set the stage for a conversation related to tracking state-identified healthy watersheds and next steps. There will also be a discussion on local engagement at our Goal Team and how it can relate to the broader CBP partnership so as to assure cooperation and coordination when it comes to local engagement efforts. In addition, the team will take time to hear a presentation from a local government partner on their efforts related to healthy watersheds.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, [Phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto: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

- The workgroup met on March 1st to discuss preliminary results from the field test of the citizen stewardship index as well as discussing the goals and directions for the workgroup. During the meeting the group decided to form a subgroup to organize the communications and outreach surrounding the index results. Please contact Amy Handen at [Amy.Handen@nps.gov](mailto:Amy.Handen@nps.gov) for more information.

### Environmental Literacy

- Current workgroup efforts include planning an April meeting with the Chiefs of Education from each jurisdiction as well as representation from the U.S. Department of Education to discuss the importance of creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms across subject areas. Please contact Shannon Sprague at [Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov) for more information.

### Public Access

- The Public Access team is continuing to make progress on the Public Access site development Workplan, as well as preparing for the development of the Public Access Data Quality Assurance and Application Integration project. The group has collected data on new access sites developed in 2015 and is in the process of compiling the data to get a final indicator report. For more information please contact John Davy at [John.Davy@nps.gov](mailto:John.Davy@nps.gov).

### Land Conservation

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership mitigation work group convened in late February to discuss ongoing work to avoid and minimize impacts of linear infrastructure projects on natural, cultural, and historic resources. The group is compiling and reviewing case studies from other regions to identify lessons learned.
- Draft landscape conservation goals were released to participants for comment. The Partnership is continuing to identify new members to serve on the steering committee in 2016.
- For more information contact Kate Baker, [kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org)

Contact: Julie Walker, [jwalker@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jwalker@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.*

- **New Chair and Vice-Chair:** Mike Foreman, the current GIT 6 Chair has announced he will step down in April after the goal team's April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Efforts are underway to identify a replacement for both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. A position description was sent out to the goal team with a request for nominations. The goal team presented at the March Management Board meeting during the Program Updates to speak about the position description. Once the nominee has been confirmed by the team, they will go to the Management Board during their April meeting to affirm the nomination of the new chair.
- **Budget and Finance Workgroup Formation:** The Management Board endorsed the formation of a new Budget and Finance Workgroup. The GIT is currently working to identify potential members and leadership roles for the workgroup. Carin Bisland and Greg Allen developed a mailing list to solicit for members and a mission statement for the workgroup was sent out along with a membership.

The group is looking for individuals with the skills or interests in one or more of the following: finance and innovative environmental finance, knowledge of funding sources, economics and measures of merit (e.g., NPV, ROI), financial reporting, and knowledge of Federal, State and Local government budgeting and procurement processes. For more information about the workgroup or to suggest members, please contact Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

- Governance Document Updates: Potential revisions to the Governance Document have been collected since the last update in July 2015. The GIT plans to discuss the revisions to be made at their April monthly meeting and present a plan of action to the Management Board at their May monthly meeting. The current Governance Document is always available online at [http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP\\_Governance\\_Document\\_7-14-15.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf).

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

- Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum:  
The STAC review of STARs Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup (CAP WG) technical report for USEPA “Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and its Tidal Tributaries 2015 Technical Addendum” was initiated on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Peter Tango and Rich Batiuk provided an information session to the review panel. The review is expected to provide feedback on the scientific basis underpinning the document in 4-6 weeks.
- Seminar on nutrient and sediment trends in the watershed:  
Doug Moyer, USGS, provided a seminar on nutrient and sediment trends in the bay watershed. Information on trends from over 80 sites with data from 2005-14 were presented. The results can be found at: <http://cbrim.er.usgs.gov/summary.html>
- Integrated Monitoring Networks Workshop:  
April 12-13, 2016 at UMCES-HPL has been established for the monitoring workshop. STAR Leadership in cooperation with the Integrated Networks Workgroup (INWG) is coordinating with STAC to use a single geographic region linked with several agreement outcome targets to provide a process that produces an integrated monitoring plan. This is a pilot process to addressing larger spatial scaled and additional outcome with integrated monitoring efforts.
- Citizen Science Project Data Classification Framework:  
The Citizen Science Project Team has developed a 3-tiered data classification framework over the last 6-months for use with citizen science and nontraditional partner data by the CBP. The framework has been supported by the Data Integrity Workgroup, INWG and STAR. The framework is anticipated to be shared with the Management Board in a spring 2016 meeting.

Also, the Citizen Science Project has a new Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator under the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Anne Dunckel. Anne’s bio is here:

*Anne grew up in San Antonio, Texas, swimming in the Guadalupe River and eating tacos for breakfast. She received her Bachelors in geology with a focus in hydrology from the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Her coursework included researching thermal gradients of microbial mats at hot springs in the Chilean desert. After completing her undergraduate degree, Anne worked as an AmeriCorps conservation crew member, building trails and removing invasive in Texas parks. Following that stint in the wilderness, she completed a Masters in Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, where she was a Jefferson and NSF graduate research fellow. She focused on researching how nitrogen pollution from agricultural fields turns into a greenhouse gas in nearby streambeds. She recently works at Stream Watch (now Rivanna Conservation Alliance) as the monitoring program manager, overseeing the citizen science water quality monitoring program. Her love of volunteer work extends beyond her daily work, as she is a Board Member is Charlottesville Community Bikes and volunteers at a local bike shop, radio station and during trail building days.*

Contact: Peter Tango, [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Diversity Action Team**

*The Diversity Action Team was formed following the signing of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement in June 2014 and is tasked with developing the Management Strategy associated with the Diversity Outcome. The Action Team's goal is to identify stakeholder groups that are not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making and implementation of conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage in the Bay Program's efforts.*

- The Diversity Action Team has some significant proposed 2016-2017 actions and we would really like more participation. We are in need of a point of contact in every partner state and federal agency for the Diversity our outcome. The contact will be the person who will coordinate workplan activities and communications to the Diversity Action Team coordinator.
- The Diversity Action Team partnered with the Audubon Naturalist Society to pull off a Green Jobs fair for a Black history month celebration called *Taking Nature Black* on February 20, 2016. The press release that ANS sent out can be found at [http://anshome.org/images/specialevents/TNB\\_Press\\_Release\\_FINAL2.23.16.pdf](http://anshome.org/images/specialevents/TNB_Press_Release_FINAL2.23.16.pdf). Jim Edward provided a quote. The event also generated a lot of media mentions with 100 attendees.
- A message to CBP Partners: Advertise in Howard University's 2016-2017 Bison Career Guide. If you are looking for a targeted and affordable way to promote your organization, its programs and opportunities, please consider advertising in this important publication. Thousands of copies are distributed throughout the year across campus to all students participating in career education and training activities, during career fairs and to academic departments. If interested, please contact Ann Morley at College Recruitment Media, (949) 858-5593 or [ann@crmpubs.com](mailto:ann@crmpubs.com) for more information and to reserve your Ad space no later than Monday, March 21, 2016.
- Upcoming meeting: March 17, 2016 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. State and Federal Partner Meeting (conference call). Purpose: To flag key actions from the workplan that require state and federal participation and hear how partners are planning to implement these actions and to what extent. We will also discuss how the DAT can support or provide resources during workplan implementation.

### **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 CBP Communications Office is pleased to welcome its new Director, Rachel Felver. The office is currently reviewing responses to an RFP for a facilitator to assist them in creating a strategic communications plan that supports both the priorities of the partnership and the goals of the Agreement.
- In its March meeting, the Communications Workgroup defined concrete actions to take in order to achieve its 2016 priorities, which are to:
  1. Expand membership and improve participation
  2. Engage GITs in supporting their Agreement-related communications needs
  3. Pave the two-way street between individual partners and the broader partnership
  4. Promote communications best practices.

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

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

March 10 Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment (LSRWA) release  
March TBD 2015 Executive Order Progress Report release  
Feb 25 Diversity Action Team workplan webinar  
Feb 25-26 Riparian Forest Buffer Networking Forum  
Feb 29 Congressional Staffers Bay Brief  
Mar 7 End Public Input period on Watershed Agreement Workplans  
Mar 7-8 STAC workshop on Climate Change  
Mar 10 Management Board Meeting

# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
**TIME:** 9:30 a.m – 2:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Philip Merrill Environmental Center, 6 Herndon Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403

## PURPOSE

To explore how states can assist local education agencies in creating and sustaining high-quality environmental literacy programming as part of their ongoing education reforms and to meet commitments under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

To examine opportunities provided by the environmental education provisions of the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act to support state and local environmental literacy programming.

## AGENDA

**9:30 Welcome**

**9:50 Overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program Environmental Literacy Goal**

**10:00 Environmental Literacy Case Studies**

Leaders from school systems and schools from around the watershed will highlight their environmental literacy programs and what makes them successful and sustainable.

**11:00 Field Experience**

Participants will join students from Hammond High School to discuss what they are learning on their outdoor field experience.

**12:00 Lunch**

Participants will have lunch with their state delegations to discuss opportunities and priorities related to the morning's agenda.

**1:00 State Priorities for Environmental Literacy**

States will report out on the vision for environmental literacy in their state, what they see as the highest priority actions are to achieve that vision, and how they could envision using ESSA to help them get there.

**1:45 Environmental Literacy Listening Session**



The group will hear from US Department of Education officials about existing and planned programs that could be used to support environmental education. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion about the opportunities.

**2:30    Adjourn**