



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
January 12, 2017**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Jan TBD	Land Use Data available for local govt
Jan 17	Interim 2016-2017 programmatic Milestones submitted/posted
Jan 18	Integrated Monitoring Networks Meeting
Jan 20	Phase III Expectations document
Jan 25	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
Jan 26	Wetland WG Meeting
Jan 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Meeting
Feb 7	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting
Feb 8-9	Management Board Meeting (SRS Kickoff)
Jan TBD	Land Use Data available for local government
Jan (late)	Bay Barometer

**Updates**

**Briefing for President elect's EPA transition team**

On January 4, CBPO Director Nick DiPasquale took part in briefing the EPA transition team on the CBPO mission at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Nick briefed the team on the history of the CBP partnership, the role of EPA in facilitating the partnership's daily operations, the progress toward meeting the commitments in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load and the status of the ongoing efforts to restore the ecosystem through meeting the goals of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

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

**The Case for a Pennsylvania Dedicated Statewide Water Fund**

The Chesapeake Bay Commission issued a white paper in early January in support of creating a dedicated statewide water fund in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Citing that "almost one-quarter of the state's river and stream miles are not safe for either drinking, fishing, swimming, aquatic life or a combination of those uses," the paper, *Water Rich & Water Wise*, suggests that charging a water use fee to only large-scale commercial uses would help supplement current efforts to improve local water quality across the Commonwealth and help the state comply with its current federal mandate for the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, just one-hundredth of a cent per gallon for all withdrawals over 10,000 gallons per day (gpd) and one-tenth of a cent for all consumptive uses over 10,000 gpd would generate an estimated \$245 million per year. Such a fee was proposed during the 2015-16 legislative session in bills before the Pennsylvania House and Senate. For a copy of the report, contact Jen Donnelly via email at [jdonnelly@chesbay.us](mailto:jdonnelly@chesbay.us).

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation 2016 State of the Bay Report**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) reported a modest improvement in Chesapeake Bay health since 2014. CBF gave the estuary a grade of "C-" in its biennial *State of the Bay* report, noting reductions in water pollution and increased abundance of blue crabs, oysters and other fisheries. The score of 34 on a

1-to-100 scale marks an improvement of two points from the 2014 report, but remains well short of the Foundation's goal of 70, representing an "A+" or a "saved Bay."

According to the report, nine of the 13 indicators of Bay health showed signs of recovery, including dissolved oxygen, water clarity, underwater grass abundance and populations of blue crabs, striped bass, oysters and shad. Of those indicators, blue crabs showed the greatest improvement, with the number of adult crabs having roughly tripled since 2014. Three of the indicators—toxic contaminants, wetlands and resource lands—showed no change from the previous report, and one indicator, forest buffers, declined. The report attributed improvements in water quality in part to continued implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

For a copy of the report: <http://www.cbf.org/document.doc?id=2534>

### **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 welcomes new member H. Donovan Phillips, Jr., Councilmember with the Town of Laurel, Delaware. Councilmember Phillips was appointed by Governor Markell on November 29, 2016. Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in New York and Virginia.

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, continues to work with Partners and the jurisdictions' technical leads on the Local Government Engagement Initiative. The roadmap is taking shape and is being developed for each jurisdiction. There was an Initiative conference call on December 21 from 9:00 to 10:30 am. The group heard a presentation from Jimmy Webber with USGS about data/information needs to support Phase III WIP development and the recently released Small Watersheds Report. Also discussed was the December 19<sup>th</sup> final draft version of EPA's Final Expectations for Phase III WIP. Mary met with Pennsylvania leads January 4<sup>th</sup> for local engagement planning. She will also be discussing the Initiative at the January 11<sup>th</sup> CBP Communications Workgroup Retreat. Note: LGAC coordination of LGEI will be scaled back significantly in January unless additional resources are secured. Any questions about this Initiative should be directed to Mary at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org).

LGAC's next meeting is March 23-24, 2017 in King George, Virginia. To be added to the LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at [jjstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jjstarr@allianceforthebay.org). For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at [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's next Quarterly Meeting is Feb 22-23 in Baltimore and will focus on urban restoration.

CAC's former Chair, John Dawes Executive Director of the Foundation for Pennsylvania's Watersheds, received the Western PA Environmental Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 1994, John has supervised the distribution of over \$110 million in small grants to over 150 environmental and watershed

associations throughout the state, mostly in the area of abandoned mine reclamation. He is a longtime leader in the region's watershed repair and conservation efforts, was instrumental in securing more than \$1 billion in federal funding to address Pennsylvania's critical acid mine drainage problem and is a powerful voice in environmental protection and conservation throughout the Commonwealth. John has also been the recipient of the federal [Office of Surface Mining ECHO Award](#), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission [Watershed Protection Award](#), the PA Association of Environmental Professionals [Karl Mason Award](#), the PA Land Trust Association [Lifetime Conservation Leadership Award](#) and the Dawes' Farm was named a [Regional Environmental Stewardship Winner](#).

CAC Member, Joe Maroon Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) announced awards of more than \$180,000 to fourteen organizations dedicated to protecting and improving the commonwealth's natural resources and environment. Over \$100,000 of this amount is targeted to projects focusing on improving the James River, Hampton Roads and the Shenandoah Valley. When combined with matching funds, VEE has invested more than \$77 million in environmental improvements statewide since it was founded in 1977. VEE will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. <http://www.vee.org/>

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact CAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@allianceforthebay.org). For the coordinator 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 Meeting:

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2016 on March 14-15, 2017 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, MD. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to Elaine Hinrichs, [hinrichse@chesapeake.org](mailto:hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

#### Workshops:

**Special Announcement:** The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY2017 STAC workshops was distributed in December. The RFP can be found online at <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/assistance.php>. Proposals are due to STAC Staff by **January 25, 2017**.

#### Upcoming Workshops:

Planning is underway for the following four workshops to be held during spring 2017. For additional information, contact Renee Kelly at [kellyr@chesapeake.org](mailto:kellyr@chesapeake.org).

- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters – **February 6-7, 2017 (Part I)**
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change

#### 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](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](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

#### Reviews:

[http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac\\_rev.php%23](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php%23). STAC has five review activities currently in progress:

- 1) 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 review panel is in the process of working with the CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments.

- 2) 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.

- 3) General Additive Models (GAMs) Approach on Tidal Trends

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

- 4) 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 CBP staff to finalize the review questions and documentation while a panel is assembled. Once the request is finalized it will be put forth for formal STAC approval; if approved the review will take place over the next two months.

- 5) Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

STAC approved the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested STAC technical review of potential impacts of boat generated waves on shoreline stability and attendant ecosystem properties, and provide advice on available policy actions to minimize adverse effects. The panel completed their requested review in late October and have assembled a draft report of their recommendations. The report has been sent out for external review, and the panel aims to incorporate feedback and finalize the report over the next few months.

#### Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for approximately three 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. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations
2. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment
3. Phase 6 Land Use Hind Cast Methodology

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

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

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

*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 December Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Protected Lands	Data collected between 2015 and 2016 show that, since 2010, approximately one million acres have been permanently protected from development (50% achievement of outcome in Agreement). Protected land in the watershed totals 8.8 million acres. (Note: this information was updated a few months ago, but a new update became available in December.)	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-conservation/protected-lands">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-conservation/protected-lands</a>
Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands	Between 2010 and 2015, 7,623 acres of wetlands were created or reestablished on agricultural lands (9% of 83,000 acre goal).	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/wetlands">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/wetlands</a>
Diversity*	Almost 85% of profile respondents self-identified as white or Caucasian and about 13% self-identified as non-white or non-Caucasian.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/stewardship/diversity">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/stewardship/diversity</a>
Sustainable Schools*	In 2015, 12 percent of public and charter schools in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—a total of 502 schools—were certified sustainable.	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/environmental-literacy/sustainable-schools">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/environmental-literacy/sustainable-schools</a>

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

- Oyster Restoration\* (January 2017)
- SAV (final numbers will be available on ChesapeakeProgress in January 2017. Change from the preliminary numbers is minimal)

- Fish Passage (January 2017)
- Forest Cover (Winter 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](mailto:free.laura@epa.gov)

### **Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

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

The [Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team](#) (Fisheries GIT) hosted their [biannual full goal team meeting](#) on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Environmental Center and December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Fish Shack in Annapolis, MD. Meeting topics focused on oyster restoration, ecosystem services, and research in the Chesapeake Bay, as well as blue crabs, forage, and fish habitat. The team recently released the [December 2016 meeting summary](#), which captures highlights from presentations, takeaways and actions from discussions, and links to meeting materials.

Staff from the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team contributed to the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office compilation of fisheries-based climate research and tools. The contents of the [Climate and Fisheries Bibliography](#) includes both peer-reviewed and grey literature as related to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goal to "increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions."

The proposed Oyster indicator and dashboard were presented to the full team for input at the Sustainable Fisheries GIT biannual meeting in December. Following the meeting, Sustainable Fisheries GIT staff utilized the team input to develop the latest iteration of dashboard. The dashboard provides a centralized location to report oyster reef restoration progress occurring in Maryland and Virginia, giving access to tributary restoration plans, reporting the quantity of constructed and seeded reefs of the total targets, and indicating the stage of restoration activity. The Oyster Indicator and Dashboard will be available online at [Chesapeake Progress](#) in the near future.

Contact: Kara Skipper, [kara.skipper@noaa.gov](mailto: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 GIT plans to involve a local partner with the RCOA tool showcase project. A Steering Committee meeting to begin project scope and planning will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, location TBD.

- 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 Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) recently completed for the CBP a series of maps that identify high density forage availability for black ducks in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Expert opinions and observations on black duck populations and the potential loss of wetland habitat due to climate change were factored into their creation. They will be used to identify areas within the CBW best suited for restoration, enhancement, and management for wintering, breeding, and migrating black ducks. The Black Duck Action Team plans to use the maps to realize the amount of wetland by area (acres or hectares) necessary to accommodate 100,000 black ducks as identified by the Outcome for a more manageable approach to restoration.
- 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 Fish Passage Workgroup received a briefing from the United States Bureau of Reclamation on a set of federal Dam Removal Analysis Guidelines for Sediment. The workgroup has an open comment period until January 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact [runion.kyle@epa.gov](mailto:runion.kyle@epa.gov) for more information.
- Partners from the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV), the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV), Ducks Unlimited (DU), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and multiple state wildlife agencies recently completed the development of a decision support tool (DST) to estimate black duck habitat needs under current and future landscape conditions to guide strategic habitat conservation. The bio-energetics model used in the DST provides information to estimate the biological value of land parcels for black ducks. The Habitat GIT plans to use this DST to inform the protection, enhancement, and restoration of habitat within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to support the energy needs of a population of 100,000 non-breeding black ducks as defined in the Black Duck Outcome.

Contact: Kyle Runion, [runion.kyle@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Impervious Disconnection BMP Expert Panel's final draft report, with the understanding that the following edits to the report will be made: clarification that the stormwater conveyance system definition does not include combined sewer service systems; clarification of the application procedures for the default approach related to whether this approach will be applicable into the future; and a revision to the title of the report to more clearly emphasize the crediting of soil amendments. The WQGIT requested a briefing on the final changes that will be incorporated into the report.



**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the recommendations of the Local Planning Goals Task Force, with the understanding that there will be additional language added to the introduction referencing the appendix of dissenting comments and opinions.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Oyster BMP Expert Panel's first incremental report.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Wetlands BMP Expert Panel report.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Animal Waste Management Systems BMP Expert Panel report.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Phase 6 Conservation Tillage BMP Expert Panel report.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Phase 6 Cover Crops BMP Expert Panel report.

**Decision:** The WQGIT agreed that based on the WQGIT Chair's review of the final version of Appendix A to the cover crops BMP Expert Panel report, if he determines the Appendix has the potential to change the credited efficiencies the WQGIT has already approved in the Panel report, the WQGIT will be asked to review and separately approved the revised Appendix A.

**Decision:** The WQGIT approved the Manure Incorporation/Injection BMP Expert Panel report.

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.*

The Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Team is searching for an interim (6 month term) Goal Team Chair, while our current Chair, Mark Bryer serves as the Interim State Director for the MD/DC chapter of the Nature Conservancy. The Interim Healthy Watersheds GIT Chair is needed to assist the staff with guiding cross goal team coordination, tracking existing healthy watersheds, and engaging local governments and leaders on protecting pristine areas. Duties would include attending periodic quarterly meetings and GIT chair meetings, and working with support staff to shape the direction of the Healthy Watershed Goal Team. Please reach out to Renee Thompson, Coordinator of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT to nominate or recommend someone for this exciting opportunity.

Contact: Renee Thompson, [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@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: Amy Handen, [AHanden@chesapeakebay.net](mailto: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.*

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

The GIT is preparing for the Biennial Strategy Review System (SRS) “kickoff” meeting to be held February 8-9, 2017. The GIT has worked extensively with Goal Teams/Workgroups, STAR, Advisory Committees, the Management Board (MB), and the Principals’ Staff Committee during the development of this system. The Goal Team will present a “kickoff” meeting draft agenda to the MB in January 2017, and will continue developing key components of the Quarterly Progress meetings, set to begin in May 2017.

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

### **GIT Funding**

Members of the GIT leadership are working with the Communications Team to produce a GIT Funding Newsletter. The purpose is to highlight the value of this funding source in removing barriers to implementation of workplan actions to achieve Watershed Agreement outcomes. The newsletter may be a standalone product, be part of the monthly Communications newsletter, or some combination of the two. If you have suggestions for content, please contact Greg Allen ([allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)) or Emily Freeman ([freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@epa.gov)).

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

The Budget and Finance Workgroup is working with the Communications Team to develop a “Financing 101” educational primer, to be used at the February 9-9 Biennial SRS “kickoff” meeting. This primer will be used for education and training purposes, in an effort to foster a more complete understanding of the relationship between financing strategies and Bay Program operations. The Workgroup is also developing a set of financing questions to be included in the next round of Biennial workplan development, and will be meeting with GIT6 to ensure that financing considerations are fully integrated into workplans and the SRS process.

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

## **Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

### **STAR**

In its November and December 2016 meetings, STAR worked with its workgroups and the GITs to generate a matrix of actions and activities where STAR support has been anticipated in their work plans. This matrix is being used to track and account for STAR work that directs agendas and workshop proposals that fill gaps in 2017 towards supporting the GITs in meeting decision-support information needs outlined in their management plans.

### **Status and Trends**

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.

The December workgroup meeting was cancelled. Please look for an update in February regarding items from our January 10 workgroup meeting.

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

STAR's Climate Resiliency Workgroup has been working hard to support the ongoing process to consider climate effects in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment modeling and decision-making process. The CRWG developed a [briefing paper](#) outlining a range of options for incorporating climate considerations in Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans and provided [written guidance](#) on the climate data variables and scenarios for input into the Chesapeake Bay watershed and estuarine modeling efforts. Over the past few months, presentations on the climate modeling and policy options were given to the CBP's [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#), [Management Board](#), [Citizen Advisory Committee](#), [Local Government Advisory Committee](#) and [Principal Staff Committee](#).

The Climate Smart Habitat Restoration Structured Decision-Making Workshops for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Black Duck/Tidal Wetlands were held on Nov. 15 and 16, 2016 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. This two-day workshop was a hands-on event, focused on developing and applying the Climate Resiliency Analysis Matrix to Chesapeake Bay Program SAV and Tidal Wetlands/Black Duck Management Strategies. For more information about the workshop and to view workshop materials, [click here](#).

The [Climate Resiliency Workgroup](#) Steering Committee and full Workgroup met on Dec. 19, 2016 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Both meetings focused on reviewing the implementation status of the CRWG's 2016-2018 Work Plan and identifying Workgroup action priorities for 2017. The Committee selected the following thematic focus areas for 2017: Water Quality and the 2017 Midpoint Assessment; Green Infrastructure and Coastal Resiliency; Monitoring Needs and Long-Term Trend Assessments; and Climate Data, Information and Mapping.

Contact: Zoe Johnson, [zoe.johnson@noaa.gov](mailto:zoe.johnson@noaa.gov)

### **Communications Workgroup**

*The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.*

On January 11th, the Communications Workgroup met for its biannual in-person meeting/retreat at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD, where they participated in an advanced social media training, worked on group messaging around the Midpoint Assessment and voted in new leadership.

The Communications Office is finishing up the 2015-2016 Bay Barometer, for release in late January/early February. On January 4, the office also held an offsite work session with members of the CBP Web Team and Water Quality GIT to plan communications around the Midpoint Assessment.

Contact: Rachel Felver, [rfelver@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rfelver@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Recent Meetings and Events**

Dec 10-15     RAE New Orleans

Dec 12	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Dec 13	Principals' Staff Committee in-person meeting (Woodbridge, Va.)
Dec 19	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Dec 19	CB Oyster Panel findings
Jan 3	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting
Jan 5-6	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting