



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
April 9, 2020**

DRAFT Program Update

CBPO Calendar

April 9	CAST webinar – Using CAST for local planning
April 15	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee
April 16	Agriculture Workgroup conference call
April 20	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
April 21	Wetlands Workgroup conference call
April 23	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) conference call (Next Generation Stewards SRS cohort practice presentations)
April 27	Water Quality GIT conference call
April 29	Budget and Finance Workgroup conference call
May 6	Forestry Workgroup conference call
May 6	Habitat Goal Team Spring 2020 virtual meeting
May 7-8	Chesapeake Bay Commission quarterly meeting
May 12	Local Leadership Workgroup conference call
May 14	Management Board meeting (Next Generation Stewards Quarterly Progress Meeting)
Aug. 18	Executive Council meeting (Maryland)

Updates

Bay Barometer Released

Each year, the Chesapeake Bay Program issues its annual Bay Barometer report that provides a snapshot of Bay health told through the 10 goals and 31 outcomes of the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#). Released on March 25, the publication offers a snapshot of the best available information from 2018 and 2019 on ecological health and efforts to protect and restore the nation's largest estuary. Extreme weather conditions in 2018 affected Bay health in 2019. [Record rainfall](#) led to the highest amount of freshwater flows entering the Bay since monitoring began in 1937, leading to lower salinity levels in parts of the Bay and contributing to the largest observed dead zone in the past five years. Despite these challenges, much of the Bay's underwater life continued to thrive.

This year, the report has a different look and feel. Instead of individual updates for each one of the 31 outcomes, the report touches upon the seven most recently updated indicators of progress and discusses the many ways in which Chesapeake Bay Program partners are moving the needle forward on Bay restoration.

More information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/bay_barometer_health_and_restoration_in_the_chesapeake_bay_watershed_2018_2

Contact: Rachel Felver, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Considers Restoration Scenarios

The Conowingo WIP (CWIP) Steering Committee held a call on Friday, April 3 to discuss an additional five numeric scenarios that were run to show achievement of the CWIP planning targets for nitrogen and phosphorus. These scenarios reflected an expanded use of BMPs (e.g., more agricultural practices) and geographies based on most effective areas for reducing nitrogen. Although the CWIP Steering Committee did not reach consensus on their preferred scenario(s), there was a decision to have another scenario run that will focus on most effective BMPs (both agricultural and urban practices) for reducing nitrogen within the original geography (Susquehanna, plus most effective basins for phosphorus). The CWIP Steering Committee will re-convene on April 15 to continue discussions.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Nutrient and Sediment Trends in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The US Geological Survey (USGS) recently updated their trends analysis for nutrient and sediment loads in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The results for the monitoring data collected through the CBP nontidal network (NTN) are summarized by USGS and are now available online. This is for water years 2009 through 2018. For nitrogen, 41 percent of the NTN stations are improving, whereas 40 percent are degrading, and the remaining 19 percent have no trend. For phosphorus loads: 44 percent of the NTN stations are improving, one-third are degrading, and the remainder are showing no trend. And, for suspended-sediment loads, 20 percent of the NTN stations are improving, whereas 42 percent are degrading, and the remainder are showing no trend. The update is for water years 2009 through 2018.

****Scott would like to come back and give a presentation during the May MB meeting.**

The Chesapeake Bay Program nontidal network (NTN) consists of more than 100 stations throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Monitoring of nutrients, sediment, and flow is conducted to provide estimates of loads and trends in the watershed. The CBP uses the results to focus restoration strategies and track progress towards meeting nutrients and suspended-sediment reduction goals.

More information: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/cba/science/usgs-updates-trends-nutrients-and-sediment-chesapeake-bay-watershed?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

Contact: Scott Phillips, swphilli@usgs.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 held its quarterly meeting via webinar on March 19th due to concerns over Covid-19. This was the Annual Meeting where elections took place for jurisdiction vice-chairs and chair. Ann Simonetti was reelected to the Chair position. Members discussed priorities for 2020 and considered annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. Additional topics on the agenda included best management practices verification and exploring local government consideration of environmental justice in local ordinances.
- LGAC still seeks New York representative.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jestarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@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.

- Next meeting: The CAC will hold their next meeting on May 21st using a virtual format in lieu of their scheduled day and half meeting planned in Richmond, VA on May 21-22 following the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), Vice-Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

Quarterly Meetings:

STAC held its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2019 on March 10-11, 2020 over Zoom webinar service. Members continued to work on Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Assessment of System Response and Science Needs (STAC Scientific Gap Analysis, often referred to as SGA). This effort brings together the varied expertise from STAC membership to assess important system limits, knowledge gaps, and research needs to facilitate future dialogue related to the feasibility and consequences of post-2025 policy choices. STAC aims to inform policymakers, the interested public, and scientific community about the state of the science associated with the Chesapeake Bay attaining Water Quality Standards (WQS). The membership is divided into three workgroups to closely examine these issues; Watershed, Estuarine and Living Resources. Beyond the science, STAC members are examining the most effective delivery and communication for this body of information. STAC members continued to refine the intent and content of this two-year effort, with an expected final report release date of June 2021.

During this meeting, the Estuarine workgroup shared findings of their past discussions and outline their portion of the report. STAC members also discussed an updated timeline for deliverables, effective communication and language in the report, as well as the possibility of using STAC funding to bring in a professional facilitator and/or a communications professional to assist in the development of products.

STAC Executive Secretary, Denice Wardrop and the STAC-CBP Liaison, Gary Shenk, presented a new procedure and strategy for STAC workshops and reports. They brought forth new communication strategies, policies for increased coordination with CBP workgroups and Management Board, and guidelines for stronger and more actionable recommendations. STAC members were supportive and we will be moving forward in incorporating this new process for FY2020 workshops and STAC products.

STAC also heard from STAR for updates on the CBP Strategic Review System and science needs from the Stewardship cohort. and received updates from recent STAC workshops.

Presentations and more information will be made available on the [March Meeting Page](#).

STAC 2020 Quarterly Meeting Dates

STAC has approved the following dates for their 2020 quarterly meetings. All dates are subject to change in response to COVID-19 and time needed to complete the SGA effort.

June 11, 2020

September 15-16, 2020

December 14-15, 2020

Workshops:

STAC has one remaining workshop for FY2019. Information regarding upcoming workshops can be found on the [future workshops homepage](#).

1. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program: Final Session—
Postponed until further notice due to COVID-19

FY2020 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals

STAC released an RFP for FY2020 workshops in December 2019 and received 3 proposals. During the March quarterly meeting STAC members reviewed the initial scores and comments, and voted to approve the 3 proposals. Proposals #2 and #3 were conditionally approved, with the expectation that the workshop proposers will differentiate and coordinate between the two, with assistance from STAC Staff and Gary Shenk. Planning for FY2020 workshops will begin June 1, 2020.

1. *Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations*
2. *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption*
3. *Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens*

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following five reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)

STAC Science Synthesis Update

STAC released an RFP for a Climate Change Science Synthesis (SS) in March of last year. In May 2019, STAC received 10 proposals and a subcommittee of STAC members approved funding for one proposal under the STAC/CRC budget (\$125,000). The STAC SS subcommittee selected the proposal entitled “Quantifying the impacts of past and future climate and eutrophication on the dynamics of dissolved oxygen in the shallow waters of the Chesapeake Bay” (Testa, UMCES). The proposal addresses DO, a key

issue/water quality criteria, living resources habitat, and the simulated distribution, timing and severity of hypoxia, which was highlighted as a priority by the STAC 2018 Climate Change 2.0 workshop.

Testa and his synthesis team have started work in analyzing shallow water monitoring data and have assembled all available continuous monitoring data at 129 stations in the Maryland and 55 stations in Virginia. They are performing the following analyses: (a) computing the power spectral density at diurnal and tidal frequencies; (b) computing the hours of oxygen depletion at each station and relating hypoxia duration to temperature, salinity, and chlorophyll-a; and (c) analyses of water level data in order to decompose the relative contribution of lunar tidal forcing, solar tidal forcing, and their interactions. This will allow the team to quantify which shallow-water stations are more vulnerable to eutrophication, warming, and sea level rise in the future.

Their next steps for winter 2020 include (a) statistical analysis (CART, GAM) to determine climate and biogeochemical controls on daily oxygen depletion metrics, (b) computing metrics of ecosystem metabolism (e.g. primary production, respiration) from each station's oxygen time series, and (b) analysis of the oxygen predictions from a fine scale (70 m), 3D hydrodynamic-biogeochemical model in the Chester River estuary.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Indicators

No indicators were updated since the March Management Board meeting.

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

- Water Quality Standards Attainment
- Water Quality Pollution Loads and River Flow

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, Barnhart.Katheryn@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.

- New oyster tributary: The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee voted on March 23 to approve the selection of Eastern Branch Elizabeth River as the 6th tributary for restoration in Virginia, and the eleventh overall under the oyster outcome. The addition is reflected in the new [oyster workplan and management strategy](#).
- Oyster ecosystem services: The Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services (ORES) suite of nine research projects funded by NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is ending, resulting in a Technical Memorandum that will be published and made available to an audience of resource managers and policy makers. The research focused on themes of nutrient cycling, macrofauna, fish communities, and economics, demonstrating the multiple benefits of restored oyster reefs. Researchers will come together on April 14 and 15 virtually to discuss final research conclusions and messaging for a public audience.
- Catfish: An Invasive Catfish Management Strategy is expected to be reviewed and accepted by the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee in April. The Management Strategy document is the result of

feedback from the January Invasive Catfish Workshop, which was designed to identify high priority needs and brainstorm opportunities for action to address scientific, policy, communications and financial challenges. Although not linked to an outcome, the Invasive Catfish Workgroup developed the cross-jurisdictional Management Strategy following a template based on the Chesapeake Bay Program SRS process.

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

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

- The Wetland Workgroup is having a virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 21st from 2-4. The meeting will focus on reviewing updated data on progress toward the outcome and a presentation on the 2018 GIT-funded project on behavior change and the implementation of living shorelines.
- The Black Duck Action Team has acquired the necessary energy supply data to move forward with the establishment of a baseline and the development of a progress indicator. The BDAT will review potential options for ways to track progress toward the Outcome in April and will present a recommendation at the HGIT meeting on May 6th.
- The SAV Workgroup is on track to submit their updated Management Strategy and Workplan to the Management Board by the May 12th deadline.
- Quarterly meeting: The Habitat Goal Team will now be holding its spring meeting virtually on May 6, 2020 rather than over two days at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, Virginia.
- Stream Health co-chair: The Habitat GIT is seeking nominations for the Stream Health Workgroup Co-chair through May 1st.
- The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species closed its small grant request for proposals on April 3, 2020 at 5pm. Volunteer members of the group will review proposals and funding will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species will meet via Zoom conference call on April 29, 2020.

Habitat GIT Contact: Jennifer Greiner, jennifer_greiner@fws.gov

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held a meeting on March 23, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- The WQGIT approved Gary Felton from UMD as the new Agriculture Workgroup Chair.
- The WQGIT approved the Wetland BMP Panel and Memo via email on March 18, 2020.
- The WQGIT approved the Agricultural Ditch Expert Panel Report and Recommendations.
- The WQGIT approved the new land use classification for elevation to the Management Board for final approval.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on April 27, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Modeling Analysis of Climate Allocation Options
- STAC CEC Report
- Overview of SRS Review and timeline for 2020
- BMP Cost Estimates in CAST
- CAST 2019

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.

- Financing: HWGIT Coordinator and Staffer attended the Finance and Investment Forum in early March, working with finance professionals to identify collaboration opportunities and how to develop finance strategies to achieve restoration and conservation goals. HWGIT leadership and staff joined with land conservation focused partners and will be continuing to work towards a more robust approach to private conservation investment in the Chesapeake.
- Next meeting: The HWGIT is planning a meeting for Wednesday, May 27 and the meeting information can be found on the calendar page. We will be focusing on the recently completed Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment and spending some time on how we can make the CHWA more applicable for jurisdictional decision making
- CHWA: The final report for the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment is now available to view [here](#). HWGIT leadership also received the final geodatabase, and metadata for the project and are working with the GIS and web teams on developing the next steps, including different web-based visualization, functionality and analysis tools. A contractor has been identified to carry out our 2020 GIT funding project Implementation of Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment in Maryland's Tier II watersheds. Work will commence on this contract in May.
- HWGIT coordinator is finalizing abstracts for a session at the [Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#), where she is leading a session on approaches for improving and maintaining stream and watershed health. Due to COVID-19 the symposium will be moved to a webinar format.

Contact: Renee Thompson; rtompson@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.

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and GIT 5 Leadership have been working with partners to revise the 2020-2021 Logic & Action Plan.

Citizen Stewardship Team

- In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in February, the Citizen Stewardship Team has been working to draft its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plan. Workgroup Chairs Kacey Wetzel and Suzanne Etgen have been working closely with Amy Handen (EPA) to brainstorm ways to integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September, 2019 to increase sustained and systematic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks include (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals. This effort continues during the current health crisis.
- The Education Workgroup is analyzing data from the biennial ELIT survey. This data is crucial for assessing the needs and directing resources for planning student environmental literacy activities and sustainable schools.
- The Education Workgroup has been reviewing its 2018-2019 Logic and Action Plans and drafting Narrative Analyses to prepare for the Quarterly Progress Meeting on May 14th.

Public Access Planning Team

- In response to the feedback received during the workgroups Quarterly Progress Meeting in February, the Public Access Team is drafting the 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plan. The updated Logic and Action plan will be available for public comment on Chesapeake Decisions starting May 13th.
- The workgroup shared Science Needs with STAC on March 10th and STAR on March 26th.

Diversity Workgroup

- The Diversity Workgroup held a meeting on March 18th. During this meeting, the workgroup heard from Arundel Rivers Federation about their partnership with other organizations that engaged underrepresented stakeholder groups in watershed restoration activities. The workgroup also reviewed the actions that came out of February's Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board, including reviewing the diversity indicator target. Priorities and goals to inform the next two years of work and the Logic & Action plan were also discussed. The workgroup is continuing to develop the 2020-2021 Logic & Action Table, which will be finalized next month.

- The contractor for the FY2019 GIT Funding project has been selected. Skeo Solutions will plan and conduct two additional Building Cultural Competency trainings. The first Building Cultural Competency training, scheduled for March 16 and also hosted by Skeo Solutions, was rescheduled due to Covid-19. The dates for the three trainings will be selected and announced in the next few months.
- C-StREAM, the internship program hosted by Chesapeake Research Consortium and funded in part by the partnership, made selections for the 2020 cohort of interns. CRC and its partners are currently planning for changes to the structure of the internship and the possibility it may have to be virtual due to Covid-19.

Diversity workgroup contact: Francesca King; king.francesca@epa.gov

Contact: Olivia Wisner; olivia_wisner@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.

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS).

[ChesapeakeDecisions](#) is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Goal Implementation Teams \(GITs\) and Management Board members](#) through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The Next-Generation Stewards Cohort is currently going through the SRS process. Their Quarterly Progress Meeting will take place on May 14, 2020. Clean Water cohort will be the next cohort to undergo the process, starting in June 2020.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Spring 2020

The GIT 6 Spring 2020 Quarterly Meeting took place on March 18, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System (SRS) process and facilitation updates, PSC-approved Governance Document language revisions, next steps toward documenting PSC-approved Outcome language revisions, and workgroup updates. The CBP Governance Document has been revised to include the PSC-approved language for the E.C. Directives Process and is posted online.

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

FY 2019 GIT Funding

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) has announced FY19 contract winners. GIT 6 is working with CBT on the FY20 Call for Ideas, collecting and responding to GIT Funding Program feedback, and exploring opportunities for training and cross-GIT collaboration in the near future. The Call for Ideas will go out at the end of April. Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov or Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@epa.gov

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The next Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Quarterly Meeting will take place on April 29, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include Finance Forum feedback and GIT Funding updates. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), edward.james@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The next Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Quarterly Meeting will take place on May 12, 2020 as a conference call and joint meeting with the Communications Workgroup. Agenda topics will include Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, GIT Funding project updates, and workplan updates. The workgroup is working toward developing cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a FY19 GIT-funded project and is excited to start sharing these, and other vetted resources, via workshops, panels and roundtable discussions in collaboration with trusted sources.

Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Matt Pennington (Chair), MPennington@region9wv.com

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, madray.chantal@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.

Monitoring update

April 2020. The Chesapeake Bay long-term water quality monitoring program operations are experiencing near and long term impacts due to 1) reduced sampling efforts related to Stay at Home orders across the watershed jurisdictions and 2) the impact of mostly level funding by Federal and State programs. First, as a function safety measures keeping staff at home during of the COVID-19 response, tidal water monitoring cruises are on hold for Maryland and Virginia. Reduced monitoring started in March and continues into April. Nontidal water quality monitoring conducted by state employees around the watershed is on hold, however, federal employees adhering to social distance safety framework to protect workers has continued operations in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. The PADEP lab shut down in March and without a lab to send samples to, PA water quality sampling is on hold at least until April 6. Second, larger and extended impacts to monitoring program operations are occurring due to level funding for FY21. Level funding impacts have lead to decisions targeting a reduction of nontidal stations in our 115 station network and reduced cruises in the Bay below historical minimum thresholds needed for effective assessments in order to adjust to the available funding resources. Final changes to the monitoring program elements are necessary starting July 1, 2020. Options are being proposed for review from Maryland and Virginia. SAV monitoring is however on track for a normal year supported by some additional Virginia-specific funding support while a STAC workshop on the application of satellite imagery to bolster the work and cost-effectiveness of future assessments approaches its completion.

CAP Workgroup

The CAP WG met at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission in Colonial Beach, VA on January 22nd, 2020. Key topics included 1) a review of the updated James River chlorophyll a criteria that were

recently approved by EPA and adopted by VA in their water quality standards, 2) the application of continuous monitoring data for assessing short duration dissolved oxygen criteria that have been part of tidal bay water quality standards but assessment methods had not been adopted. Method adoption was supported by the publishing of the EPA 2017 Ambient Water Quality Criteria technical addendum, 3) considerations for updating kd regressions used to produce water clarity maps and assess water clarity standards in tidal waters, 4) discuss the growing diversity of cross-GIT meaning tagged to the words “shallow water monitoring” where historically it mean water quality monitoring but is now referencing more varied habitat information needs associated with physical, chemical and biological data, and 5) a review of findings to date regarding an in-progress STAC-workshop for exploring the use of new, high spatial resolution satellite imagery for improving the SAV survey. Two of four workgroup sessions are complete. The summary workshop and report out is expected in mid-Spring 2020.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) met on [February 18, 2020](#) to review the ideas presented by the Healthy Watersheds, Sustainable Fisheries (Fish Habitat and Fish Forage), and Vital Habitats (SAV, Wetlands, and Forestry Workgroups) Goal Implementation Teams on potential future climate change indicators to develop. The CRWG agreed on a framework that tracks climate resilience progress by linking physical indicators (signals of change) to impact indicators (ecological and community threats) to eventual climate resilience indicators (preparedness) to monitor actions to withstand/adapt to changing climate conditions that minimize negative impacts to living resources, habitats, and communities. The CRWG reviewed existing climate change indicators on Chesapeake Progress during their [March 16, 2020](#) meeting to discuss connections with the above framework.

STAR

During the March STAR meeting, STAR had a discussion on the updated science needs of the Stewardship Cohort, planned actions moving forward, and potential opportunities to address needs. Additionally, the Branch Chief of EPA Region 3 Field Services Branch discussed their resources and capacity, which may potentially help accomplish some of the GITs’ science needs. STAR had a Cross-GIT discussion on utilizing these resources and collaborating with the branch. The next STAR meeting will be held on April 23rd with a focus on SRS dry run for next generation stewards.

Modeling Workgroup

Modeling WG continues to develop a climate risk assessment of the Open-Water DO water quality standard and to develop potential approaches to allocate climate change risk nutrient loads as directed by the WQGIT. Next Modeling WG Quarterly Review will be held on April 7th and 8th and the agenda can be found [here](#).

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

- Between April and June 2019, ITAT organizers will work with STAR to establish future priorities and activities based on outcomes from the SRS process.
- Monthly ITAT jurisdiction webinars on research findings relevant to Chesapeake Bay management continue. The purpose of these webinars is to communicate management-relevant research findings to the CBP Partnership’s natural resource managers. December 2018 – March 2019 presentation topics included:

- Agricultural Conservation Practice Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Dean Hively, USGS)
- A pilot implementation of high frequency nutrient monitoring to assess effects of large storms (Lora Harris, UMCES)
- Assessing urban BMP function, performance, and delivery of co-benefits to stream ecosystems (Rosemary Fanelli, USGS)

Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

Integrated Monitoring Network

The NTN WG held a conference call on January 29, 2020. Budget priorities were discussed for sustaining the long-term network operations, at-risk station support for Conococheague Creek, MD – a site with over 100 years of monitoring information in our watershed that could be discontinued without funding beyond the present FY, and multi-agency interest in siting a water quality monitoring site on Chiques Creek, Lancaster County PA where NRCS is setting plans in motion for significant stream BMP implementation. Assessment of water quality change from high density BMP implementation activity is of interest across the CBP partnership making the location an important potential monitoring site to add to the NTN if long-term funding can be identified. Susquehanna River sampling report, NTN audit plans and plans for a summer face-to-face NTN meeting rounded out meeting discussions. Tentative agenda items for the summer face-to-face meeting include 1) an update on status and trends across the watershed – explaining linkages between the watershed and bay, 2) remote sensing advances in water quality assessments, 3) NGWOS – the Delaware basin and possibilities for the Chesapeake, and 4) opportunities for integration into citizen science/nontraditional partner data collection on macroinvertebrates at long-term water quality monitoring sites.

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; cwu@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.

Communications Workgroup:

The Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting on April 1. We coordinated shared messaging around Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 24). We also discussed how each of our member organizations are dealing with communicating around/during the COVID-19 crisis and how the crisis is affecting Earth Day celebrations.

An offer has been extended for the Web Content Specialist position and we hope to have the position filled soon. We are also hiring for two summer interns. Applications for the intern positions are now closed and candidate review will be beginning soon.

Our May 12 meeting, which was scheduled to be a joint in-person meeting with the Local Leadership Workgroup, will now be a shorter, virtual meeting. We will discuss progress on a GIT-funded project the LLWG is leading, the local engagement strategy and Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

Communications Office and Web Team:

The [2018-19 Bay Barometer](#) was released on March 25. The release was highlighted by the Capital Gazette and the Baltimore Sun, among others. Please contact Rachel Felver if you would like hard copies.

An offer has been extended for the Web Content Specialist position and we hope to have the position filled soon. We are also hiring for two summer interns. Applications for the intern positions are now closed and candidate review will be beginning soon.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in March:

- [A touching mural of Harriet Tubman goes viral](#): The artwork is part of a historic trail celebrating the abolitionist's life on the Eastern Shore
- [Tiny crustaceans in their transient ponds](#): Fairy shrimp thrive in short-lived woodland wetlands
- [What's in a tree? Oxygen, food, clean water and money](#): A new study shows riparian buffers offer social, environmental and economic benefits
- [Fencing out manure pollution](#): Virginia passes legislation with the goal of keeping cattle out of streams
- [Bringing new hunters to the field](#): Youth hunting days put the focus on the next generation
- [Who lives here? Tracking species by the DNA they leave behind](#): Environmental DNA, or eDNA, is a new tool for nature scientists
- [Distance yourself in nature](#): The Chesapeake Bay watershed offers several respites during these uncertain times
- [About a buoy](#): The Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System delivers data online in real-time
- [Is the Chesapeake Bay fresh or salty?](#): Salinity makes a big difference to underwater life
- [This year's Bay Barometer sets a different type of foundation for Bay restoration](#): Annual report provides most up-to-date information, data on Bay health
- [Researchers give mussels new power](#): Transplanted mussels suggest more reintroduction efforts are possible in the Anacostia
- [Female birds show their colors](#): Though the females are often drab, there are exceptions to every rule
- [Chair, second time running!](#): An interview with LGAC Chair, Ann Simonetti

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Recent Meetings and Events

March 16	Building Cultural Competency training
March 16	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
March 18	Diversity Workgroup in-person meeting (Annapolis)
March 18	Enhance Partnership, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
March 19-20	Local Government Advisory Committee (Washington, DC)
March 23	Water Quality GIT conference call
March 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 31	Data Integrity Workgroup meeting (Glen Allen, Va.)
April 1	Communications Workgroup meeting
April 1	Forestry Workgroup in-person meeting
April 1	Land Use Workgroup conference calls

