Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
April 2019

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

April 15	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
April 17	Integrated Monitoring Network Workgroup meeting
April 24-25	STAC Workshop: Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay (Woodbridge, Va.)
April 25	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
April 30	Expanded GIT Chairs and Leadership meeting* (Columbia, Pa.) *In person only
May 2-3	Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting (Washington, DC)
May 9	PSC meeting* (Richmond, Va.)
May 13	Water Quality GIT conference call
May 16 (tent.)	Management Board meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
May 20-22	Choose Clean Water Conference (Baltimore, Md.)
May 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Baltimore, Md.)
June 5-6	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting (Selinsgrove, Pa.)
June 11-12	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting (Blacksburg, Va.)
June 13	Management Board meeting (Annapolis, Md.)

Updates

Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans to Be Made Public
On or before Friday, April 12, the seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions are expected to post their draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) on their respective webpages for public review. The Phase III WIPs include the specific steps each jurisdiction intends to implement between 2019 and 2025 to meet Bay restoration goals. EPA will evaluate the plans based on the criteria that was communicated to the jurisdictions in a June 20, 2018 "expectations letter" and will provide formal comments to the jurisdictions on June 7. EPA will notify Congressional staff on Thursday, April 11 and post links to each of the jurisdictions' websites through the EPA TMDL site at: www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl on Monday, April 15.
Contact: Lucinda Power, (410) 267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

BMP Verification Letters Sent to Jurisdictions
On Tuesday, April 9, CBPO Director Dana Aunkst sent letters to each of the seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions advising them that EPA has completed its review of their BMP verification and progress data submitted for the 2018 assessment. In accordance with the Partnership's Best Management Practice (BMP) verification protocols, procedures, and schedule, jurisdictions are expected to submit verification information to EPA to demonstrate that BMPs were being implemented on the ground and functioning as intended. CBPO staff will be reaching out to the jurisdictions to schedule a discussion regarding potential enhancements that would need to be completed no later than September 30, 2019, so that the information can be reviewed prior to the final December 2, 2019 progress submission.

Contact: Dana Aunkst, (410) 267-5710, aunkst.dana@epa.gov

Bay Barometer Release
On Tuesday, April 2, the CBP Partnership announced of the release of the 2017-18 Bay Barometer, an annual report on restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. For the first time, the assessment also tracks the impact that a changing climate has on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Bay Barometer tells a story of resilience—the highest water quality score since monitoring began more than 30 years ago, a record-breaking abundance of underwater grasses and significant progress on oyster restoration, fish passage, and protected lands. Efforts on stream health, toxic contaminants, wetlands and forest buffers continue to lag behind, however, and require more focused attention.
For more information:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_latest_bay_barometer_tells_a_cautionary_success_story_about_bay_restora

CBP Released Water Quality Standards Attainment Indicator
On March 26, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) announced that water quality in the Chesapeake Bay met its highest standard for water quality since monitoring began in 1985, besting its previous record reported in 2017. An estimated 42 percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met clean water standards for clarity (measured by observing underwater grass abundance), dissolved oxygen, and chlorophyll-a between 2015 and 2017.
For more information: https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality

Magothy River sees slight rebound
The Magothy River Association recently announced that the Magothy River received a "D" grade in its latest health assessment. Located in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the river received a score of 30 percent, an improvement over its 2017 score of 22 percent. More significantly, this year's score saw an increase in the water quality of the river for the first time in more than three years. However, this remains far below the 80 percent threshold needed for an "A" grade. This year's score was due in large part to an increase in water clarity. Experts thanked an explosion of dark false mussels, which help to filter pollutants and sediment, allowing for a higher abundance of underwater grasses.
For more information, visit the Magothy River Association (http://www.magothyriver.org/).

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.

- March Quarterly meeting: Secretary Sean Garvin, DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, welcomed LGAC to its quarterly meeting March 20-21 in Laurel, Delaware. This was the first time LGAC met in Delaware and the meeting was well received by Members. LGAC toured the Laurel Ramble, an innovative downtown redevelopment effort along Broad Creek, and heard from Cambridge, MD Mayor Jackson-Stanley, Salisbury, MD Mayor Day and Laurel, DE Mayor Schwed on linking local priorities to watershed protection and restoration on the Delmarva peninsula.

- Local Leadership Workgroup joint meeting: On March 21 LGAC held a joint meeting with the CBP Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) to discuss approaches to engage local elected officials as well as projects for collaboration including peer-to-peer learning exchanges, panel discussions at State conferences and curriculum for a binder on the Watershed for newly elected officials. In additions, LGAC and LLWG staff are working with CBP staff to create a general strategy for those outcome workgroups that identified a need to engage with local leaders. An update will be provided at the May MB meeting.

- September 2018 Local Government Forum: A draft report summarizing the September 26, 2018 invitation-only Local Government Forum on "Filling Gaps to Advance WIP Implementation" has been circulated for comment and will be final by the end of April. To address both the insufficient staff capacity and technical assistance provider capacity limitations, LGAC and Forum participants recommend the establishment of a Circuit Rider Network, or set of networks, tailored to regional and/or state needs across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Furthermore, LGAC recommends additional analysis be conducted as to whether a formalized Technical Assistance Collaborative is feasible, realistic, and necessary.

- Roundtables: Virginia LGAC members are hosting two local elected official roundtables with their peers in Tappahannock and Lynchburg, April 10 and 12, respectively. These roundtables are being coordinated with VA DEQ and are intended to better engage local decision makers in watershed protection and restoration.

- PA draft Phase III WIP: Pennsylvania LGAC, along with PA CAC members, will be meeting April 18th with PA DEP to review and discuss PA's draft Phase 3 WIP. This meeting follows an April 15th Stormwater 101 session hosted by Members at the PA State Association of Township Supervisors Annual Conference.

- Next meeting: The next LGAC meeting will be held June 5-6, 2019 in Selinsgrove, PA. LGAC seats remain open in Maryland (2) and New York (1).

Questions about LGAC should be directed to interim LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at jstarr@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 next CAC quarterly meeting will be in Baltimore, MD on May 22-23 and will overlap the annual conference of the Choose Clean Water Coalition.

- 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 Rachel Dixon dixonr@chesapeake.org or STAC Staff Annabelle Harvey harveya@chesapeake.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2019 on June 11-12, 2019 at the Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. More information will be made available on the June meeting webpage.

STAC-Sponsored Science Synthesis:

STAC and the Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) are now accepting proposals to support a science synthesis project related to how climate change may impact on-going efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Appropriate topics for a STAC-sponsored science synthesis project are those where a thoughtful analysis and synthesis of available data and/or previously published results would identify, characterize, and suggest means of addressing important knowledge gaps, inform additional research, and place scientific information into a management-relevant context. The RFP is accessible here. All proposals are DUE by **Friday, May 10, 2019**.

Workshops:

Results of the FY19 Request for Proposals (RFPs)

At their March meeting, STAC agreed to support the following 4* workshops in FY2019:

1) Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership
2) Satellite Image Integration for the CB SAV Monitoring Program
3) Target Non-Point Source BMP Implementation
4) Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health*

**Funding subject to follow-up vote by STAC's Executive Board*

On March 20-21, STAC hosted a workshop titled "Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management". This workshop convened experts from around the globe to facilitate discussion on synthesizing the state of knowledge and organizing approaches for developing eutrophying units, reflecting spatial and temporal conditions of the Bay and its watershed. The goal was to explore whether the science is appropriate for calculating eutrophying units as a common currency that can be used to compare alternative restoration strategies. More information can be found here.

STAC is planning for two more workshops this spring, listed here in order of anticipated date. Information regarding recent workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the workshop homepage.

1) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals – **April 24-25, 2019 (Woodbridge, VA)**
2) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Urban Settings – **May 22-23, 2019 (Baltimore, MD)**

Upcoming Reports:
STAC is working to finalize the following reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the STAC archived workshop homepage.

1) Assessing the Environmental in Outcome Units (AEIOU)
2) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Buffers
3) CBP Climate Change Modeling 2.0
4) Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triblet' Connection (FY2017)
5) An Analytical Framework for Aligning CBP Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
6) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
7) Linking Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
8) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
9) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the review homepage or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup

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

Indicator	*Statement of Status/Progress*	*Link*
Diversity	The partnership has set a target to increase the percentage of people of color in its program to 25 percent by 2025. The partnership has set a target to increase the percentage of people of color in its leadership to 15 percent by 2025.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/diversity
Toxic Contaminants Policy	In 2016, 82 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal segments are partially or fully impaired by toxic contaminants. Chesapeake Bay Program partners have set a goal to observe no such impairments.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/toxic-contaminants-policy-and-prevention
Stream Health	In 2018, researchers and resource managers established the six years between 2006 and	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/stream-health

	2011 as the baseline period for our indicator of stream health.	
Forest Buffers	Between 2016 and 2017, about 56 miles of forest buffers were planted along rivers and streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. While this marks progress toward the outcome, it is 844 miles below the 900-mile-per-year target and the lowest restoration total of the last 22 years.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/forest-buffers
Protected Lands	According to preliminary data collected in 2018, approximately 1,364,301 acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been permanently protected from development since 2010.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/protected-lands
Wetlands	Between 2010 and 2017, 9,103 acres of wetlands were established, rehabilitated or reestablished on agricultural lands. While this outcome includes a target to restore 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands in the watershed, 83,000 of these restored acres should take place on agricultural lands. The wetlands restored on agricultural lands between 2010 and 2017 mark an 11 percent achievement of the 83,000-acre goal.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/wetlands
Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Sediment Loads and River Flow	Between October 2016 and September 2017, river flow to the Bay measured a below-average 47.7 billion gallons per day. During this same time period, approximately 240 million pounds of nitrogen, 12.7 million pounds of phosphorus and 4.3 billion pounds of sediment reached the Bay: a 0.4 percent, seven percent and 14 percent decrease from the previous year, respectively.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring	According to preliminary data (without water clarity acres assessment), an estimated 42 percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met water quality standards during the 2015 to 2017 assessment period: the highest estimate of water quality standards attainment since 1985.	https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality

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

- SAV – final 2017 & preliminary 2018 data
- Protected Lands – update to 2018 data

- Public access
- Reducing Pollution Indicator – modelled nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment loads

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: Daniel Giddings, giddings.daniel@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.

- Executive Committee: The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee has recently focused on redefining the role of Invasive Catfish Task Force, updates to the blue crab stock assessment model, comments on the draft Maryland Oyster Management Plan, and striped bass stock assessment results from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

- CBSAC Winter Meeting: The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) held its Winter Meeting at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission office. CBSAC members discussed updates to the blue crab stock assessment model, which indicates that a benchmark stock assessment is not urgently needed because the current management framework is effective and reference points are appropriate to manage the blue crab stock. The Winter Dredge Survey is on track to finish up in March and jurisdictions will discuss results in April.

- Striped bass overfishing: Striped bass are managed as a coast-wide stock and the recent ASMFC stock assessment update concluded the stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. Environmental factors could be driving the declines.

- Fish Habitat communications strategy: The Fish Habitat Action Team (FHAT) biannual conference call discussed outstanding actions in the 2-year workplan, including the need to develop a communications strategy aimed at better engaging local government planners. FHAT will continue working with the Communications team to draft a communications plan and develop effective messaging.

- Forage indicator: The Forage Action Team also held a conference call, focused on progress toward developing a forage indicator, which would be used to track abundances of key predator, prey, and invertebrate species combining multiple surveys bay-wide.

- The 2018 Virginia Oyster Restoration Update is available, and 2018 Maryland Oyster Restoration Update is currently going through internal review before release.

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.

- Spring meeting: The Habitat GIT is planning its annual spring meeting for this May in Maryland. The meeting will feature updates on GIT Funded projects and discussion about tidal habitats (SAV, living shorelines, etc.). Meeting materials will be shared as they become available. Please contact Hobaugh.paige@epa.gov with any questions.

- Wetland Workgroup revitalization: The Habitat GIT leadership and new Wetland Workgroup chair (Pam Mason, VIMS) led the workgroup revitalization meeting on March 6th. A core group of representatives from each jurisdiction and agency were invited, and participation was good. We will be bringing the discussions and ideas to the full workgroup in May. The main approach moving forward will be to focus on 4 areas: data and reporting; accelerating implementation opportunities and finance; technical information transfer; and outreach and education.

- Award-winning paper: *Long-term nutrient reductions lead to the unprecedented recovery of a temperate coastal ecosystem*, a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2018 by several CBP researchers and members of the SAV Workgroup as a product of the SAV Synthesis effort led by Bill Dennison and JJ Orth, was recently named one of six winners of the Academy's Cozzarelli Prize. Journal editor Heather Leslie provided commentary on the value of this research and the ecosystem-based management done in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that can be found here. Congratulations to the team for this well-deserved recognition!

- Mid-Atlantic Lake Forum: The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species sponsored Mid-Atlantic Lake Forum took place April 9th at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Center. Professionals from Maryland and surrounding states gathered to discuss aquatic invasive species issues. Presentations focused on control methods used in each state, regulations and innovations for minimizing introductions, herbicide use, and technology for cleaning vessels. Please contact cumming.margot@epa.gov for more information.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, hobaugh.paige@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.

The WQGIT held conference calls on February 11, March 11 and March 25. A subset of topics is included below:

- Announcements to the WQGIT on updated deadlines and schedules for several priorities, including the Conowingo WIP RFP, deadlines for final 2018 BMP implementation progress submission and verification, deadline for STAC workshop funding, Science Prioritization, and review and approval of the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel Recommendations.
- Development of a targeted focus for research on climate resilient BMPs, following the 2018 PSC direction to "… *develop a better understanding of the BMP responses, including new or other emerging BMPs, to climate change conditions*" so that in "*2021, the Partnership will consider*

results of updated methods, techniques, and studies and revisit existing estimated loads due to climate change."

- The WQGIT requested an additional extension on the biennial 2018 revisions to the Water Quality workplan and management strategy. The final workplan, logic table and management strategy were posted online for public input on March 25, and final materials will be submitted to the Management Board April 26.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on April 8, 2019. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Updates to the beta tool for cost optimization of CAST BMP implementation scenarios.
- Finalization of targeted research focus on BMP responses to climate change and climate-resilient implementation.

Contact: Jason Bernagros, bernagros.jason@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.

- Next meeting: The Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team will host a quarterly meeting in Annapolis on June 6.

Contact: Renee Thompson; 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.

- C-StREAM Program Summer Internship: Applications are open for the Chesapeake Student Recruitment, Early Advisement and Mentoring (C-StREAM) program. C-StREAM is a program focused on Recruiting, Advising, and Mentoring college students from typically under-represented groups to prepare them for careers in environmental protection and restoration. Application deadline is March 1, 2019. More information and application available here: http://chesapeake.org/c-stream/

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The SRS Planning Team hosted the 2019 Biennial SRS meeting. This meeting was March 13-14 2019.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found under the "Project and Resources" section of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.
Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@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.

CAP Workgroup

The most recent CAP WG meeting was held on 3/8/2019. Topics were:

- **James River chlorophyll *a* criteria updates**. The proposed updates to the James River chlorophyll-a criteria summarizing work from a seven year study have been published to the Virginia register of regulations http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss11/v35i11.pdf . Tish Robertson (VADEQ) reviewed the proposal highlighting the remaining time for input as the public review and comment period was closing on 3/22/19.
- **Status of restoration variances – dissolved oxyge**n. Gary Shenk (USGS) provides a summary of the process underway documenting the most recent variances that will be needed for 303d listing assessments and therefore also updating in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards Indicator score assessments.
- **K_d Regression Updates –** In 2018, the CAP WG highlighted a desire to revisit the K_d regressions used for water clarity acres assessments. The workgroup action item is documenting the updated technique on local calibration over regional calibration.
- for producing water quality acres assessments. **Assessing possible advances in SAV acreage assessment: a STAC workshop proposal –** Brooke Landry (MD DNR, Chair of SAV Workgroup) highlighted directions for advancing new protocols and procedures through workshop support. We anticipate some members on the workgroup will be participating in those workshop meetings if the proposal is funded.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on March 19, 2019 at the Fish and Wildlife Services in Annapolis. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found here. The meeting was presided by the co-chairs; Bruce Michael, DNR and Cindy Johnson, VADEQ. Bruce provided an update on new funding and leadership changes at DNR, and renewed commitment for working towards WIP goals and the Conowingo RFP. Monitoring updates were provided by all jurisdictions. A greener approach being implemented by VADEQ for field sheets was discussed and approved by the workgroup. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager). The final audit report for SRBC was submitted and important study highlights were presented by Durga Ghosh (CBP QA Coordinator). A discussion on guidelines for incorporating non-traditional labs as a part of Citizen Monitoring was initiated by Durga with all members providing input. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The CRWG held an in-person meeting on Feb 25th with a focused discussion on Sea Level Rise (SLR) aimed at providing the Bay Program with updated SLR projections. The WG are working with the modeling WG on the SLR projections for 2025, 2035, and 2045 and will provide an update at a future meeting. The CRWG's March 18 teleconference focused on finalizing the CRWG's 2 year workplan as part of the SRS process. The CRWG are meeting with the Water Quality GIT and Modeling team on March 25 to discuss next steps on the PSC request and subsequent Management Board request for providing insight to the Bay Program on the impacts to BMPs from climate change and will provide an update to Management Board at the April 11 meeting. The next CRWG meeting will be held on April 15th, 2019.

STAR

STAR has been working on with the Goal Teams and STAC on a Strategic Science and Research Framework. The concept of the framework was presented to the Management Board (Feb) and at the SRS meeting (March). Feedback from the MB and SRS was that the Framework is needed and should move forward. Next steps include: (1) integrating STAC workshop recommendations into GIT science needs, and (2) conducting a resource assessment of ongoing science activities to meet the needs.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling WG successfully held three-day Technology Transfer Workshop on CE-QUAL-ICM Code for Water Quality Modeling between March 12 to 14 in Annapolis, MD. The workshop was sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), the Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC), and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). The materials can be found here. Next Modeling WG Quarterly Review will be on April 2 and 3 at the Fish Shack.

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.

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:

Monthly meeting: The Communications Workgroup held our monthly meeting on April 3. We coordinated shared messaging around Earth Day and Arbor Day. We heard updates on our three action teams: fish consumption advisory, Phase III WIP engagement and Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. The Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week team recently had its first planning meeting and plans to focus on the different groups that are all part of restoring the Chesapeake (farmers, businesses, volunteers, watermen, etc.). This year, the dates are June 1-9. We also participated in a branding activity to understand common perceptions of the Chesapeake Bay Program by asking Workgroup members for their thoughts on how to define Chesapeake Bay Program, partnership and partners.

Communications Office and Web Team:

Press releases: The Communications Office issued two press releases in the past month. The Water Quality Standards press release announced preliminary data showing that from 2015-2017, 42 percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met clean water standards—a record high. The Bay Barometer, our annual science-based snapshot of the health of the watershed, was released on April 2 and received a significant amount of media coverage. The Barometer highlighted success stories, like oyster restoration, fish passage, underwater grasses and protected lands, as well as areas for improvement, including stream health, toxic contaminants, wetlands and forest buffers. It also included climate change indicators for the first time.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in March:

- Ringing in spring with bluebells: Native plants are a beautiful way to protect the Chesapeake
- The vacation of a lifetime: Ida Hall first learned the ways of the watermen while visiting her cousin. She's still there, working the water.
- Nominations open for Chesapeake Stormwater Network award: Best Urban BMP in the Bay Awards recognize innovative local projects, share knowledge
- Making education meaningful: New online course helps teachers provide their students with Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
- Chanté Coleman chooses clean water: "Working on an issue that I'm passionate about in organization I care about is a complete dream come true."
- Rising seas lead to rising costs: Study finds nuisance flooding creates significant impacts for Annapolis, Md. businesses
- The health of the Magothy River sees slight rebound: Annual report card notes improvement in water quality for the first time in three years
- Equity grows on trees: Sarah Lillie Anderson works at the intersection of trees and equity to increase opportunity
- Chesapeake Bay water quality inches toward a new record: While Bay waters are the healthiest they've been since 1985, restoration challenges remain

- Benefits of oyster restoration go beyond the Bay: Restored reefs support the local economy and water quality for a healthy Chesapeake Bay
- Convening a watershed to save a national treasure: Before the existence of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Fran Flanigan helped bring folks together to restore the Bay

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Feb. 20-21	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Williamsburg, Va.)
Feb. 20-21	STAC Workshop: Microplastics (Woodbridge, Va.)
Feb. 25	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
Feb. 26	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
Feb. 28	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 6	Land Use Workgroup face-to-face meeting
March 11	Water Quality GIT call
March 13-14	Biennial SRS meeting (Richmond, Va.)