



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
February 13, 2020**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Feb. 18	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
Feb. 20-21	Citizens Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (Berkeley Springs, Wv.)
Feb. 27	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 2	Wetland Workgroup meeting
March 4	Land Use Workgroup in person meeting
March 11	Finance and Investment Forum (College Park, Md.)
March 12	Management Board meeting
March 16	Building Cultural Competency training
March 18	Enhance Partnership, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
March 19-20	Local Government Advisory Committee (Washington, DC)

Updates

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's next meeting is March 19-20 in Washington DC at the DC Water's Blue Plains Facility. This is the Annual meeting where elections take place for jurisdiction vice-chairs and chair. Members will discuss priorities for 2020 and consider recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. Additional topics on the agenda include innovative trading and offset efforts, BMP verification and exploring DC's Clean Water Initiative as a model to replicate.
- LGAC still seeks New York representative.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to 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.

- The Citizens Advisory Committee will hold their first 2020 quarterly meeting on February 20-21 in Berkeley Springs, WV. Members will discuss recent updates on topics of interest, learn about WV's approach to the Phase III WIPs, and from a regional council and a local NGO on how they engage on river recovery in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- 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 will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2019 on March 10-11, 2020 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Philip Merrill Center in Annapolis, MD. Members will continue to work on the STAC Scientific Gap Analysis effort (to be renamed). 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 policy-makers, the interested public, and scientific community about the state of the science surrounding the gaps associated with the Bay attaining WQS. The membership is split 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 will continue to refine the intent and content of this two-year effort.

During this meeting, the Estuarine workgroup will share the findings of their past discussions and outline their portion of the report. STAC members will also discuss a new title that will accurately capture the intended outcomes of the report and will continue to refine the

STAC will also hear from STAR for updates on the SRS process and received updates from recent STAC workshops. More information will be made available on the [March Meeting Page](#).

Workshops:

On January 23-24, 2020, STAC co-sponsored a workshop entitled "Linking Soil and Watershed Health to In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management" in Morgantown, West Virginia. This workshop was supported by STAC, The Nature Conservancy, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Transforming Drainage, and The West Virginia University Institute of Water Security and Science. Experts from across the country gathered to explore linkages among water management, crop yields, soil conditions, and field hydrology. Participants identified research and information gaps, as well as

opportunities to collaborate that would lead to innovative drainage management. More information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).

STAC has three upcoming workshops in FY2019, listed here in order of date. Planning is underway for all these activities. Information regarding recent workshops- including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

1. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program: Session 3, February 25-26, 2020; Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
2. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership: March 5-6, 2020; Chesapeake Bay Foundation Philip Merrill Center, Annapolis, MD

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following six 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)
6. Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management (FY2018)

STAC-Sponsored Climate Change 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

Contact: Doreen Vetter, 410-267-5780, vetter.doreen@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 Invasive Catfish Workgroup--part of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team--held a [workshop January 29-30](#) at Virginia Commonwealth University's Rice Rivers Center to bring stakeholders together to discuss the latest science on these fish and to explore options to manage them in a way that balances ecological and economic interests. Participants included representatives from recreational and commercial fisheries, seafood processors, marketers, U.S. Department of Agriculture (which manages inspection process), conservation groups, state resource managers, U.S. Geological Survey (starting research in the Patuxent River on blue catfish). They heard updates from scientists focusing on catfish featuring updates since the 2017 symposium and focused on coming up with collaborative strategies regarding these fish. While blue catfish are a valued recreational fishery, they make up a large portion of the biomass in many Bay rivers, where they eat everything from seagrasses to blue crabs. There is also a growing commercial fishery but no fishery management plans.
- New Logic and Action Plans were developed for Forage, Blue Crab and Oyster outcomes, and submitted for the public and signatory feedback process.
- The Sustainable Fisheries GIT is currently working to determine next steps for sharing maintenance and operations costs to stand up an acoustic telemetry receiver array at several critical locations for tracking species movements throughout the Chesapeake Bay. The need for a Chesapeake Bay telemetry receiver array is a science priority for the GIT.

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 Habitat GIT will have its Spring 2020 meeting at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, VA on May 6th with a field trip to follow on May 7th. The group currently has speakers from the Elizabeth River Project and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

- The next Wetland Workgroup meeting will take place on Monday, March 2nd from 1pm - 3pm. There will be a discussion about floodplain/headwater wetlands and the updated land use classification scheme, and a presentation on the Virginia Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT).
- The Next Stream Health Workgroup meeting will take place on Friday, February 21 from 10am-12pm. There will be discussion of the Stream Health indicator and concerns associated with stream restoration permitting.
- The wording of the Fish Passage Outcome was approved to be revised by the Principal Staff Committee on Friday, January 24. The associated change will be available for public comment for 20 days after posting on ChesapeakeProgress.
- The Mid Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species will have its Spring 2020 meeting in Annapolis at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office on April 29th and 30th.
- The Stream Health, Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Wetland, and Fish Habitat outcomes all received approval on their associated logic and action plans and management strategies by the Management Board at the January meeting.

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 conference call on January 13. A subset of topics is included below:

- The WQGIT approved the following new co- chairs, vice- chair, and at-large members for the 2020-2021 term:
 - Co-Chairs: Ed Dunne, District Department of Energy and Environment, and James Martin, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 - Vice- chair: Jason Keppler, Maryland Department of Agriculture
 - At-large Members: Rachelle Knight, Department of Defense, Denise Wardrop, Chesapeake Research Consortium, and John Bell, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
- The WQGIT approved changing their meeting schedule to the fourth Monday of every month, starting on March 23rd, 2020.
- The WQGIT approved the revised numeric 2-year milestones recommendation document and presented it to the Management Board for their approval.
- The WQGIT approved holding an in-person two-day climate change meeting on February 10-11 in Annapolis, Maryland to discuss the updated modeling results of climate change impacts and several policy issues that require Chesapeake Bay Program partnership discussion and resolution.

- The WQGIT postponed the approval of the Nontidal Wetland Rehabilitation, Creation, and Enhancement BMP Expert Panel report and the Wetland BMP memo until February or March, while compensatory mitigation will be added as an agenda item for the WQGIT meeting in March.
- The Prevented Sediment Stream Restoration Protocol leadership team will come before the WQGIT in February or March to give an update on their resolution with PA.

The WQGIT will hold an in-person, two-day climate change meeting February 10 through 11. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Updated Phase 6 modeling results for climate change impacts
- Approaches to allocating climate change risk in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Policy Issue I: Year on which to base climate targets (e.g., 2025/2035/2045/2055)
- Policy Issue II: Adoption of refined or original 2018 climate targets
- Policy Issue III: Options for allocating climate targets (pollutant loads) amongst the jurisdictions
- Policy Issue IV: Timing options for achieving the climate targets (By 2025? Post-2025? Date certain post-2025?)
- Policy Issue V: Deadline for final recommendations on policy issues for Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee consideration and decision (Prior to the 2020 EC meeting? By the end of 2020 so jurisdictions have one year to prepare for the 2022-2023 milestones?)

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.

- The Healthy Watersheds and Land Use Methods and Metrics management strategies and logic and action plans were approved at the January 16th management board meeting.
- The HWGIT met on January 30th and you can see the agenda and materials here.
- HWGIT staff submitted a proposal along with other CBP partners to present at the 2020 Land Conference and Symposium and are continuing work with related workgroups and goal teams on collaboration, local engagement, and shared priorities using the Chesapeake Watershed Assessment (CWA). The CWA is almost completed, and staff are working with a draft of the final product as well as continuing work on another GIT funded project developing a protected lands indicator.

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.

- **Chesapeake Conservation Partnership**
 - The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership hosted a Steering Committee meeting on Monday, January 27 at the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The Steering Committee welcomed new members and reviewed the most recent draft of the CCP Strategic Plan.
 - The CCP revised Logic & Action Plan is available on ChesapeakeDecisions for signatory and public feedback from February 10 – 28.
- **Citizen Stewardship Team**
 - The Stewardship workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
 - The Stewardship workgroup has been preparing materials for the Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board on February 13.
- **Education Workgroup**
 - The Education Workgroup hosted the 2020 Environmental Literacy Forum on January 22-23, 2020 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Forum welcomed 200 teachers and environmental education professionals. Participants developed skills in planning and delivering Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) at the classroom or school district level in order to better understand, advocate for, and deliver these important programs. Ensuring that all students participate in MWEEs in elementary, middle, and high school is a key piece of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
 - The Education Workgroup is preparing for its Quarterly Progress Meeting on May 14.
- **Public Access Planning Team**
 - The Public Access Team has been preparing materials for the Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board on February 13.

Diversity Workgroup

- The Diversity Workgroup is currently evaluating their work over the past 2 years in preparation for the Strategy Review System. The workgroup met in November to discuss progress made towards the Diversity Outcome thus far, and is now developing materials to share with the Management Board in February.
- Workgroup staff have been coordinating with the Habitat Goal Implementation Team on a GIT funded project, *Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure*. The early steps of this project involve using GIS to identify areas for outreach based on potential impact for the communities.

- Chesapeake-Student Recruitment, Early Advisement, and Mentoring (C-StREAM), an internship for underrepresented university students interested in careers in environmental research and management, is now open to applicants for its third year.
- A contractor, ERG, has been working to update the Diversity Indicator based on demographic information collected in the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2019 Diversity Profile.
- Building Cultural Competence training (Monday, March 16) – This training is part of the DEI Strategy GIT Funded project and will be conducted by Michael J. Lythcott of Skeo Solutions. Management Board members are encouraged to attend.

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

Contact: Amy Handen; amy_handen@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 cohort to go through the SRS process is the Stewardship Cohort. Their “dry run” presentations will take place on January 23, 2020 and their Quarterly Progress Meeting will take place on February 13, 2020.

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

Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Spring 2020

The GIT 6 Spring 2020 Quarterly Meeting will take place on March 18, 2020 at the CBPO in Annapolis, MD. Agenda topics will include: Organizational Analysis updates, Strategy Review System (SRS) process and facilitation updates and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY 2019 GIT Funding

The process of reviewing GIT Funding proposals, to select the most qualified contractor to perform each project, is currently underway. Reviewers submitted their online feedback to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) on January 22, 2020.

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 in the CBPO's 305 Conference Room. 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 in Prince George's County, MD. Agenda topics will include processes for vetting shareable content, GIT Funding project updates, and workplan updates. This year, the workgroup plans to create cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a new 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.

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.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly meeting on July 18 at the Chesapeake Bay Laboratories in Solomons. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by the co-chair Bruce Michael, DNR. A summary of the Summer Hypoxia results was presented to the group by Bruce with specific details from the June monitoring cruise results. Also discussed was the Mid-Bay Hypoxia study. A brief update on the status of Tier III water quality monitoring program was provided by Caroline Donovan (UMCES). Two new groups, Arundel Rivers Federation and MDE are already collecting Tier III data, with Shore Rivers being targeted as a likely candidate in the near future.

An assessment of Data Quality Indicators as a performance measuring tool for watershed-wide data was presented by Durga Ghosh, Chesapeake Bay Program QA Coordinator. Rebecca Murphy (UMCES) presented data from historical pH trends and posed the question of method/lab changes affecting these trends. Jerry Frank (CBL) discussed the Spring 2019 Blind Audit Results. Results for the Coordinated Split Sample Program were presented by Mike Mallonee (CBP Water Quality Data Manager), and USGS Reference Sample results Breck Sullivan (STAR staffer). The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2019.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) hosted a full-day cross GIT/workgroup meeting on January 27, 2020 with Healthy Watersheds, Sustainable Fisheries (Fish Habitat and Fish Forage Action Teams), and Vital Habitats (SAV, Wetlands, and Forestry Workgroups) to learn about their indicator efforts and how to connect future climate indicator work to track resiliency progress related to the goals and outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Interest in water temperatures, wetland extent, buffering, and migration, shoreline conditions, and coastal flooding ranked high among participants at the meeting. Additional topics of interest included changes in seasonal temperatures, salinity levels, and invasive species distribution and spread. The CRWG will continue discussions around future climate indicator work during their February 18, 2020 meeting.

Two internship opportunities are available with the Climate Resiliency Workgroup this summer. Please share these announcements with your networks:

- NOAA Chesapeake Bay Summer Internship Program in partnership with the Chesapeake Research Consortium (applications due February 20, 2020): [Climate Change Indicator Development Support](#)
- C-STREAM (applications due February 15, 2020): [GIS Analysis of Flooding and Sea Level Rise Impacts on Land Use and Communities](#)

STAR

At the [January STAR meeting](#), STAR discussed the MB-directed formation of an action team to address specific recommendations from the STAC Microplastics workshop. STAR discussed a draft charge and appropriate membership representation. STAR is soliciting recommendations for membership until Tuesday, February 11. Additionally, a representative from the Citizen Stewardship, Diversity, and Public Access outcomes provided their SRS Quarterly Progress presentation planned for the February Management Board meeting. Participants at the STAR meeting provided constructive feedback on each presentation. STAR has also been working with these outcomes to review and update their associated science needs as part of the SRS process and Strategic Science and Research Framework. The next STAR meeting is February 27.

Modeling Workgroup

Modeling WG held a conference call on Feb 4th to brief the workgroup members regarding the open water analysis scenarios and the potential approaches to allocate climate change risk in the Chesapeake Bay partnership to prepare for the discussions by the WQGIT face to face meeting on February 10th and 11th. Next Modeling WG Quarterly Review will be held on April 7th and 8th.

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 February 5. We coordinated shared messaging around Black History Month and Valentine's Day (February 14). We reviewed the results of our member survey and used those results to update our workplan. Rachel Felver, Communications Workgroup coordinator, presented the WIP Engagement Action Team's "Beyond Environmental Benefits" toolkit to the Citizen's Advisory Committee at their November meeting.

The January meeting was the last with Deb Klenotic (PA DEP) as our chair. After over a year serving as workgroup chair, Deb has decided to step down from the leadership team. We all want to extend our thanks to Deb for her commitment to the workgroup. Gregg Bortz (MD DNR), our vice-chair, will be serving as interim chair while we decide on a longer-term course of action. If anyone is interested in joining the workgroup leadership team, please contact Rebecca Chillrud (rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net).

As a follow-up to the day-long Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) training that was held on October 31, 2019, the Communications and Citizen Stewardship workgroups, in conjunction with Action Research, will hold four follow-up webinars beginning January 22. Each webinar will be one-hour long and focus on different aspects of the CBSM process. The webinars will be recorded and made available on the Chesapeake Bay Program website. The webinars will be shown in the Fish Shack, or you may join remotely via Zoom:

Wednesday, January 22; 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. : Behavior Selection
(<https://zoom.us/j/6255063330> or Phone: (929) 205-6099; Code: 625 506 3330)

Wednesday, February 26; 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.: Barrier and Benefit Research
(<https://zoom.us/j/6255063330> or Phone: (929) 205-6099; Code: 625 506 3330)

Wednesday, March 25; 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.: Strategy Development
(<https://zoom.us/j/6255063330> or Phone: (929) 205-6099; Code: 625 506 3330)

Wednesday, April 22; 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.: Pilot Testing
(<https://zoom.us/j/6255063330> or Phone: (929) 205-6099; Code: 625 506 3330)

In addition, Action Research provided consultation sessions with four outcomes: Fish Habitat, Forest Buffers, Tree Canopy and Wetlands on January 17 and 21. These sessions were intended to help these outcomes think about how social marketing can help them achieve their goals, and how it can be built into their logic and action plan. A debrief meeting will be held on February 18 with all participants to discuss lessons learned.

Communications Office and Web Team:

The Bay Barometer release is tentatively scheduled for mid-March. The draft text has been sent to the Management Board and Communications Workgroup. Please provide any comments to Rachel Felver (rfelver@chesapeakebay.net) by February 14.

February 7 was the last day for Joan Smedinghoff, our Web Content Specialist. She is moving on to a new opportunity in her hometown of Chicago. We wish her all the best! Applications for the position will be accepted through February 14—application instructions are on the Bay Program [website](#).

The Communications Office published the following blogs in January:

- [Decking the halls of history](#): The American holly provides habitat as well as holiday cheer
- [Appearances can be deceiving](#): Wolf spiders provide valuable services to their young and to us
- [Increasing temperatures threaten Chesapeake wildlife](#): Warmer air and water impact habitat and wildlife, causing species to shift their range
- [Boardwalk-ing on the wild side](#): Walkways open up opportunities to enjoy the water

- [A look back at 30 years of water clarity](#): Our Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee reviews three decades of data
- [Remembering that 'all life is interrelated'](#): MLK Day of Service is a time to make a positive impact on your community
- [A community reclaims its waterfront heritage](#): Stream restoration project benefits residents and environment
- [A scientist's decades-long portrait of a vanishing Chesapeake island](#): James Island has shrunk dramatically, but will soon be restored
- [Keeping microplastics out of the Bay](#): Learn how you can help reduce plastic pollution
- [Big appreciation for the little brown bat](#): Increasing habitat gives bats a chance to withstand deadly white-nose syndrome

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Jan. 22	Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup meeting (Colonial Beach, Va.)
Jan. 23	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
Jan. 24	Principals' Staff Committee meeting (Woodbridge, Va.)
Jan. 27	Climate Resiliency Workgroup in-person meeting
Jan. 29	Budget and Finance Workgroup quarterly meeting
Jan. 29-30	Invasive Catfish Workshop (Charles City, Va.)
Jan. 30	Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT meeting
Jan. 31	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting
Feb. 5	Communications Workgroup meeting
Feb. 5	Land Use Workgroup conference call
Feb. 10	WQGIT conference call
Feb. 11	Local Leadership Workgroup quarterly meeting (Washington, DC)
Feb. 13	Management Board meeting (Stewardship Cohort SRS QPM)