



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
September 17, 2020**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

Sept. 16-17	Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) quarterly meeting
Sept. 17	Management Board meeting
Sept. 21	Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Sept. 21	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
Sept. 24	STAR meeting
Sept. 24-25	Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) meeting
Sept. 28	WQGIT conference call
Sept. 29	GIT Funding Project Review and Scoring meeting
Oct. 8	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting
Oct. 14	Communications Workgroup In-person meeting
Oct. 15	Agriculture Workgroup meeting
Oct. 15	Management Board meeting
Oct. 26	WQGIT conference call
Oct. 26-27	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership annual meeting
Oct. 27	Chesapeake Stock Assessment Committee meeting

**Updates**

**States, CBF Sue EPA on Bay Cleanup**

Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia filed suit against EPA in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on September 10 over the agency's role in the Chesapeake Bay cleanup. A separate suit was filed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others. EPA responded in news articles that it is "fully committed to working with our Bay Program partners to meet the 2025 goals. We have taken and will continue to take appropriate actions under our Clean Water Act authorities to improve Chesapeake Bay water quality."

**Nearly \$19 million Awarded Through Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund**

On September 2, the US EPA, working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the award of grants to fund on-the-ground restoration, conservation and community engagement projects through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, a partnership between EPA's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program (INSR Program) and Small Watershed Grants Program (SWG Program), and the NFWF. This year, almost \$19 million dollars will be awarded to organizations across every jurisdiction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; the largest amount in the history of the Stewardship Fund. In addition, the grants generated nearly \$19 million in matching contributions for a

total conservation impact of nearly \$37 million. Nearly \$7 million of those funds will go to seven projects through the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grant program, which supports projects that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. And, nearly 49 projects were awarded a total of over \$11.5 million under the Small Watershed Grant program, which funds on-the-ground restoration projects that help meet the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia were awarded the highest number of awards with 20, 18 and 19 respectively. Delaware received four, with the District of Columbia, New York and West Virginia receiving two each. For more information on all the awardees, please visit the [full list of projects](#).

#### **CBPO awarded Innovation Funding for SAV Online Platform**

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) was awarded funding through the Office of Research & Development's (ORD's) Regional/State/Tribal Innovation Competition. ORD and CBPO will partner with Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) workgroup to develop an online website platform to help coordinate the efforts of SAV monitoring program participants, integrate information amongst the Bay's different SAV monitoring programs, provide standardized protocols and training materials to monitoring groups, and allow access to data. Data from this platform will be used by state partners and EPA to assess restoration progress and support research on the impacts of water pollution and climate change on submerged aquatic vegetation.

Contact: Emily Trentacoste, 215-814-5797

#### **Advisory Committee Updates**

##### **Local Government Advisory Committee**

*The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.*

LGAC welcomes Pennsylvania delegation member Donna Iannone, Commissioner with Sullivan County. Commissioner Iannone fills the vacancy left when Bradford County Commissioner Ed Bustin passed away unexpectedly in May.

LGAC Chair Ann Simonetti presented recommendations and priorities to the Chesapeake Executive Council on August 18th during the virtual Annual Meeting. These recommendations included a request to draw on the experience of the three Advisory Committees to the Chesapeake Executive Council, replicate and expand on a workforce development program modeled on the Civilian Conservation Corps and American Conservation Experience programs, and develop, guide and support policies and programs that advance environmental justice

LGAC's next quarterly meeting is September 24-25 to be held virtually. On September 24th, during the Local Government Forum, Members will be working with subject matter experts and impacted community leaders to develop recommendations on building local community resilience against climate-

related flooding. This Forum is being jointly developed and implemented by LGAC and the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup.

LGAC is still seeking a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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 CAC will hold their quarterly meeting virtually on September 16-17. The agenda includes: discussion on the DEI Strategy, Statement, PSC Action Plan and the proposed creation of a Community Advisory Board; a panel with health experts on how to bridge the gaps between environmental quality and public health; a presentation on tracking COVID-19 in wastewater; and Chesapeake Bay Program updates. The CAC will hold officer elections during their December 3-4 quarterly meeting.

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](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto: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@chesapeake.org](mailto:harveya@chesapeake.org))

Visit the STAC website at [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

### **Quarterly Meetings:**

STAC's next quarterly meeting will be on September 15-16 over Zoom conferencing. STAC will continue to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on CBP goals and connections with STAC's "Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Assessment of System Response and Science Needs" effort. STAC will also engage in a discussion on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice as it relates to STAC membership and STAC workshop participation. Materials and call-in information will be made available on the [September Quarterly Meeting Webpage](#).

### **STAC 2020 Remaining Quarterly Meeting Dates**

September 15-16, 2020

December 14-15, 2020

### ***FY2020 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals***

STAC will be hosting four workshops in FY2020, listed below. Planning is underway for all of these activities and details will be released as planning continues.

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*
4. *Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap*

Information regarding past workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

### ***STAC COVID- 19 Review and Potential Workshop***

A subcommittee of STAC members is in the process of planning a STAC-led effort to examine the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Chesapeake Bay. COVID-19 has created impacts and changed dynamics for the Bay and its watershed. The purpose of this review and workshop is to identify impacts, changing dynamics, and novel insights that may have come from COVID-19 to inform current and future efforts to reach management targets for the Chesapeake Bay.

This effort is focused on both short term and longer-term dynamics. For the short term (months), we are looking for whether there is scientific data to gather now while the impacts of COVID-19 are currently being felt across the watershed and estuary. In addition, there may be management actions that can be taken now. For the longer-term (years), we seek to better understand the impacts, changing dynamics, and novel insights that may come from COVID-19.

**STAC is seeking the following feedback from the Management Board to help guide the focus of this effort:**

**What COVID-19 risks, dynamics, and learning opportunities do you see (short term, longer term)? In what ways? In what locations and/or scale? What would be useful for a deeper focus/workshop?**

**Please send any feedback to STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey ([harveya@chesapeake.org](mailto:harveya@chesapeake.org))**

### ***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. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)

7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)
8. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program (FY2019)

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

#### **Indicators**

No indicators were updated since the August Management Board meeting.

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

- *Environmental Literacy Planning – update with 2019 data*
- *Student MWEE – update with 2019 data*
- *Forest Buffers – update with 2018 and 2019 data*

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: Katheryn Barnhart, [Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

#### **Oyster Restoration -**

- In Maryland, the University of Maryland's Horn Point oyster hatchery, with funding from the state of Maryland and NOAA, has produced 130 million juvenile oysters ('spat-on-shell') for planting onto sanctuary reefs in Harris Creek, Tred Avon River, and Little Choptank River. Partners recently completed the planned oyster restoration work in the Little Choptank River, resulting in more than 350 acres of restored reefs. This marks the second tributary completed in Maryland, and the third Bay-wide, toward the goal of restoring oysters in 10 Chesapeake tributaries by 20205.
- In Virginia, VMRC and NOAA funding completed 33 acres of reef construction in the Piankatank River. Oyster restoration partners in the Lynnhaven (CBF & Lynnhaven River Now) secured approximately \$1.1 million in grant funding (NFWF & NOAA) to support future oyster reef construction in this targeted tributary. VMRC also constructed 20 acres of oyster reef in the Elizabeth River - Eastern Branch
- Bay-wide, NOAA recently produced an [oyster story map](#) describing the large-scale restoration effort.

#### **Invasive Catfish Workgroup -**

- In August, the Sustainable Fisheries GIT approved and published a Chesapeake Bay Invasive Catfish [Management Strategy](#). This management strategy outlines stakeholder interests and

management approaches for reducing invasive catfish abundance while building economic opportunities. The strategy is informing fishery management plans for invasive catfishes throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

#### Full GIT Meeting - January 2021 -

- The Sustainable Fisheries GIT is planning a fully-virtual meeting for January of 2021. Over three days, the team will present and discuss updates and emerging science from our oyster, forage, fish habitat, blue crab, and invasive catfish workgroups. Our staff will be working on a schedule and strategy for maximum engagement from our full membership. An official date should be released in the next week or two.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto: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 Goal Team chairs, coordinator, and staffers have been meeting with and reviewing candidates for a new co-chair for the HGIT, and will continue to do so until a candidate is selected.
- Both the Wetland Workgroup and Black Duck Action Team have their Quarterly Progress Meeting on November 12th. The chairs and staffer attended the check-in meeting with the SRS team on September 3rd in preparation for the SRS cycle.
- The Wetland Workgroup held their bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 18th. They discussed progress made on the Logic and Action plan items in the past year, as well as any anticipated changes to the L&A plan and Management Strategy in advance of the SRS process this fall. They also heard presentations about the West Virginia Wetland Condition Assessment Tool and new living shorelines regulations in Virginia.
- Todd Lutte from the Field Services Branch within the EPA Regional Office has joined the Wetland Workgroup as the new co-chair.
- The Stream Health Workgroup held their bi-monthly meeting on Friday, August 21st. They discussed updates to work being done on the Chessie BIBI and the research being done on stream health stressors. The group also participated in an active discussion around a presentation on the results of the STAC freshwater mussels workshop, presented by Joe Wood (Chesapeake Bay Foundation).
- The Stream Health Workgroup selected a new co-chair, Alison Santoro (Maryland DNR), and vice chair, Sara Weglein (Maryland DNR). The new co-chair will serve with current co-chair Neely Law until spring of 2021 at which point Neely plans to step down and have Sara Weglein take her place as a full co-chair.

- The Fish Passage Workgroup held their annual meeting on Wednesday, August 19. At the meeting, each state fish passage coordinator gave updates on fish passage work being conducted in their jurisdiction. Julie Devers (USFWS) provided an update on the 2018 GIT funded project *Fish Friendly Culvert Design* and the group discussed future directions for their culvert work. Chair Mary Andrews (NOAA), also gave an update on the Maryland Dam Removal Mitigation Calculator.
- Julie Devers (USFWS) has agreed to co-chair the Fish Passage Workgroup with Mary Andrews.
- The Brook Trout Workgroup rescheduled their annual meeting from August 17 to September 28 due to member availability.
- HGIT Coordinator Chris Guy met with Brooke Landry, SAV Workgroup chair, to discuss furthering the outcomes for this workgroup.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann  
(greenberg.julianna@epa.gov; ossman.megan@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 a meeting on August 24, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- The WQGIT conducted a fatal flaw review the BMP Verification Ad- Hoc Action Team's draft Task Statement. Approval will be asked for at the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- WQGIT leadership scheduled an SRS meeting for early September to discuss prioritization criteria and the revised logic and action plan for the 2025 WIP Outcome.
- The WQGIT did not reach consensus on whether to proportionally divide NY's Nitrogen load so they stay at 0.4 million pounds under the watershed loads first option (take out jurisdictional watershed climate-related increases in N and P loads first and then allocate the remainder). The votes were as follows:
  - NY: Agreement with reservations
  - PA: Hold
  - DE: Stand aside
  - MD: Agreement with reservations
  - VA: Agreement with reservations
  - WV: Endorsement
  - DC: Endorsement
  - CBC: Stand aside
  - EPA: Stand aside
  - John Bell, PA Farm Bureau: Hold
  - Denise Wardrop, CRC: Agreement with reservations
  - Lindsay Thompson, DE/MD Agribusiness Assoc.: Stand aside

- *Kevin Dubois, DoD*: Stand Aside
- *Beth McGee, CBF*: Stand Aside
- *Jenn Volk, UD*: Agreement with reservations
- The WQGIT leadership met with PA to discuss how consensus can be reached on the watershed loads first option with the additional special case for NY.
- Time was scheduled into September 10<sup>th</sup> SRS meeting to reach consensus on the NY special case and the remaining climate allocation options (1. NPS Only; 2. NPS+PS; 3. Set WWTP at 8 mg/l and 4 mg/l total nitrogen and adjust non-WWTP line for the remainder). These climate policy options are scheduled to be presented to the Management Board during its September 17<sup>th</sup> conference call.

The WQGIT held a meeting on September 10, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:

- The WQGIT reached consensus on proportionally dividing NY's Nitrogen load so they stay at 0.4 million pounds under the watershed loads first option (take out jurisdictional watershed climate-related increases in N and P loads first and then allocate the remainder). The votes were as follows:
  - *NY*: Agreement with reservations
  - *PA*: Stand aside
  - *DE*: Stand aside
  - *MD*: Agreement with reservations
  - *VA*: Agreement with reservations
  - *WV*: Endorsement
  - *DC*: Endorsement
  - *CBC*: Stand aside
  - *EPA*: Stand aside
  - *John Bell, PA Farm Bureau*: Stand aside with reservations
  - *Denice Wardrop, CRC*: Agreement with reservations
  - *Lindsay Thompson, DE/MD Agribusiness Assoc.*: Stand aside
  - *Kevin Dubois, DoD*: Stand Aside
  - *Beth McGee, CBF*: Stand Aside
  - *Jenn Volk, UD*: Agreement with reservations
- The WQGIT will seek consensus on the remaining Climate Allocation Policy Options ((1. NPS Only; 2. NPS+PS; 3. Set WWTP at 8 mg/l and 4 mg/l total nitrogen and adjust non-WWTP line for the remainder) at their September 28, 2020 meeting.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on September 28, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:

- Climate Allocation Options
- STAC AEIOU Report
- STAC Increasing Effectiveness and Reducing the Cost of Nonpoint Source Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation: Is Targeting the Answer?
- BMP Verification Ad- Hoc Action Team Task Statement
- SRS Prioritization Criteria



- CAST 2021 Workplan

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

### **Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

HWGIT Coordinator participated in a panel discussion on land use at the Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan Virtual Event. Hosted by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), the session focused on the implementation of the comprehensive [plan](#) and how to manage land use for sustainable water resources (more details [here](#)). With input from other workgroups, staff drafted a Land Use Resource [Guide](#) to share with local planners and partners. It is intended to be a working document that will be updated when new information is available. Working with John Clune and CRWG leadership, staff contributed to a presentation on the use of stream temperature data towards CBP outcomes at the August STAR meeting. Current ongoing projects include the development of communication and visualization products for the CHWA, implementation of the CHWA in Maryland, and improved methodology of data collection for the protected lands indicator.

Contact: Renee Thompson; [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.*

### **Chesapeake Conservation Partnership**

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership is planning the Annual Meeting. The 2020 Annual Meeting will consist of a series of virtual sessions spaced out over several weeks and organized around the theme of conserving land for public health, racial equity, and access to nature.
- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform [success.chesapeakeconservation.org](https://success.chesapeakeconservation.org). Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner ([wisnero@chesapeake.org](mailto:wisnero@chesapeake.org)) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed.

### **Citizen Stewardship Team**

- 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.
- 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.

## Education Workgroup

- In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in May, the Education workgroup is updating its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plans for the Student, Planning, and Sustainable Schools outcomes. An extension was requested for the near final materials to be due at the November Management Board meeting.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- The Education Workgroup is working to finalize the Stroud Tool. The tool is meant to bring environmental literacy and environmental protection/restoration priorities closer together while highlighting disparities and encouraging equity. It will provide data at both the school district and school building level.
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.

## Diversity Workgroup

The Diversity Workgroup met on September 10. Most meeting materials and presentations are now posted on our [meeting webpage](#).

- The Workgroup Chairs and Coordinator will meet with the Management Board to talk about the *PSC Action Statement* commitments.

## Training Opportunities

The CBP is offering *Building Cultural Humility* trainings for members of the CBP partnership. The first training, which is being offered on Sep 21-22 from 12-5 PM on both days, has not yet filled up. If you are available and interested, please contact Tuana Phillips.

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training Opportunity – Organizational Leadership and Leadership Culture**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, through the Capacity Building Initiative, will offer two **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Trainings**, facilitated by Francisco "Paco" Ollervides, for non-profit organizations working on natural resource topics within the Chesapeake region. The purpose of these trainings is to assist non-profit leaders with their commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). Through structured engagement, including small break-out groups, participants will have the opportunity to discuss organizational leadership and culture regarding DEIJ, specifically focused on:

1. how organizations can and should diversify their boards and leadership,

2. how to overcome common (real or perceived) obstacles to doing so, and
3. how to develop and maintain a leadership culture that ensures leaders and/or board members of color not only stay with the organization but feel they have agency and power to make change where necessary.

It is recognized that each individual and organization will be at a different stage in their DEIJ journey; regardless of starting point, participants will come away with tools to lead a DEIJ Task Force within their organization and conduct a future Executive Director Equity Evaluation. **Space is limited to a maximum of 13 organizations per training.** Registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

Two dates for the training will be offered:

Option 1: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 11:00am – 1:00pm

Option 2: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 4:15pm - 6:15pm

**Register using the following link:** <https://forms.gle/7xg31odqCzWywykPA>

Contact Bre'Anna Brooks with the Chesapeake Bay Trust with questions at [bbrooks@cbtrust.org](mailto:bbrooks@cbtrust.org).

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; [phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:phillips.tuana@epa.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.*

### **Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Summer 2020**

The GIT 6 Fall Quarterly Meeting will take place on September 15, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included:

An update on the draft Organizational Analysis Data Collection and refined survey questions and format; GIT funding update; Biennial Strategy Review System (SRS) meeting planning update; SRS Facilitation; GIT6 Leadership in DEI Action; Updating Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes; Governance Document Log of Revision updates, and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **FY 2020 GIT Funding**

The GIT Funding Advisory Team (GIT FAT) met with the GIT Chairs on August 5, 2020 to address concerns raised about the process and decide on a path forward. Updates on the path forward and the annual Project Scoring/Ranking event are forthcoming. Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov) or Chantal Madray (Staffer), [madray.chantal@epa.gov](mailto:madray.chantal@epa.gov)

### **Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting took place on July 29, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts as a result of COVID-19, Finance Forum consulting hours progress/updates, and Conowingo Finance Report updates. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov) or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), [guck.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:guck.michelle@epa.gov)

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, [madray.chantal@epa.gov](mailto: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.*

#### **STAR**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup focused their [June 15](#) and [July 20, 2020](#) meetings on exploring financing strategies that could potentially support future climate adaptation projects related to flood mitigation, marsh migration on agricultural lands, and wetland and SAV restoration. Of particular interest is increasing the understanding of what is needed for investors to pursue these types of climate resilience projects in relation to carbon markets. Finance coaches presented a “finance 101” presentation and assisted the workgroup in identifying potential pathways to consider. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup also organized a joint presentation with the USGS Pennsylvania Water Science Center and the Healthy Watersheds GIT during the [STAR August 27, 2020](#) meeting to explore the use of the USGS stream temperature compilation database to update the stream water temperature indicator and connect it with impacts to habitats and living resources, such as brook trout habitat, to help inform climate resilience strategies.

#### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling WG continues to develop potential approaches to allocate climate change risk nutrient loads in support of WQGIT decision making. In addition, the Virginia DEQ led James Chlorophyll Assessment is being supported through the provision of watershed, airshed, and tidal Bay model inputs under 2025 climate conditions for a number of scenarios. Good guidance on fine scale watershed model development (CBP Regional Hydrology Model) was provided at the July 7-8 Quarterly Review meeting. The next Modeling WG Quarterly Review will be held on October 6-7.

#### **Integrated Monitoring Network**

IMN will be convening in September to discuss potential action items for the 2020 - 2021 Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (WQSTAM) Logic & Action Plan, which illustrates the link between the factors that could impact the partnership's ability to achieve the WQSTAM outcome. At the August 13th Management Board (MB) meeting, the outcome will present its findings from the 2018 - 2019 Logic & Action Plan to highlight successes, challenges, and requests for action from MB members.

#### **Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT)**

ITAT members continued their ongoing research to better identify major drivers of water quality change and recently presented work on clustering and classification of nutrient export patterns at the Chesapeake nontidal network stations (Joel Bostic, UMCES), open water DO analysis using shallow water data in comparison to long-term monitoring data (Breck Sullivan, CRC), and water quality analysis for the

South River (Cuiyin Wu, CRC). ITAT also gave a demonstration of the updated shinyapp in R for Baytrendsmap which maps the results computed from Generalized Additive Models using the Baytrends package. The workgroup plans to give additional demonstrations of the tool so if interested, please contact Jennifer Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov).

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; [cwu@chesapeakebay.net](mailto: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 September 2. We coordinated shared messaging around National Estuaries Week (September 19-26) and National Public Lands Day (September 26). Laura Cattell Noll provided an update on the Local Leadership Workgroup's GIT funding project on watershed education modules for local elected officials. The Communications Workgroup will provide feedback on the draft modules by Wednesday, September 16. We also heard from Mary Gattis, who gave an overview of the Bay Journal Local Government Edition and solicited future story ideas. Our next meeting will be our bi-annual retreat on October 14.

Rebecca Chillrud, our Communications Workgroup Staffer, left the Chesapeake Research Consortium on August 27 to start a position with the Architect of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The job posting for a new Communications Workgroup Staffer closed on September 8.

#### Communications Office:

The Communications Office said good-bye to their two summer interns, Myra McAdory (communications) and Carlin Stiehl (multimedia). Rachel Felver, CBP's Communications Director, had an article published in the August edition of the Bay Journal: [Sites for outdoor activities are more important than ever](#). Two members of the Communications Office, Will Parson and Caitlyn Johnstone, will present at the upcoming Restoring America's Estuaries conference on September 29.

The following blogs were published in August:

- [Meet a small but tough native fish of the Chesapeake Bay](#): The white catfish is the smallest catfish in North America.
- [Sites for outdoor activities more important than ever](#): In 2019, the Chesapeake Bay Program opened an additional 18 public access sites.
- [Pennsylvania makes strides to protect its pollinators](#): Protecting pollinators through science, landscape design and public engagement.
- [Wastewater treatment plant upgrades help reduce nitrogen pollution entering the Bay](#): Sediment pollution also declines, thanks in part to the efforts of our farmers.
- [Teaching environmental justice across the Chesapeake Bay watershed](#): Teachers and parents can address issues of racism, public health and climate change by teaching environmental justice.

- [Maryland's watermen navigate challenges old and new during the COVID-19 pandemic](#): A photo essay explores the communities that work the Bay.
- [The Chesapeake Executive Council tackles the issues of 2020 in a virtual way](#): Virginia Governor Ralph Northam takes over as chair as Council adopts DEIJ statement.
- [Clues of a growing blue crab](#): How to tell when blue crabs shed their shells.
- [Tropical Storm Isaias reminds us what's at stake](#): How the Chesapeake Bay Program is building climate resiliency in the watershed.
- [An indigenous tribe conserves its ancestral landscapes](#): The Piscataway Conoy preserve their culture identity through environmental protection
- [Relief from the heat: In rapidly warming cities, trees can save lives](#): Research links increased heat vulnerability to unjust urban planning.

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