



Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM June 26th, 2014

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21549/>

NEXT MEETING

August 2014 STAR Meeting

Date: August 28th, 2014

Time: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fishshack) CBPO

Conference Line: 1-866-299-3188 code 410-267-5731

Adobe Connect: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/star2> (enter as guest)

Event webpage: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21551/>

MINUTES

Welcome, Introduction, Updates, and Announcements – William Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)

STAR Leadership gave an introduction and request updates from the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) and STAR Workgroups.

- [Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration – New Orleans, Louisiana July 28th – August 1st, 2014.](#)
- [IWA Specialized Conference on Watershed and River Basin Management – San Francisco, CA September 9th – September 12th, 2014.](#)
- [Chesapeake Watershed Forum – Shepherdstown, WV September 26th – 28th, 2014.](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Conference – Shepherdstown, WV September 24th – 25th, 2014.](#)
- [Restore America's Estuaries 7th National Summit – Washington, D.C. November 1st – 6th, 2014.](#)
- The GITs agreed to setting up one STAR Seminar speaker per year at the April STAR Meeting. STAR has completed a [guidance document for STAR Seminars](#) in order to help the GITs.
 - **ACTION:** Amanda Pruzinsky will contact the GITs for their seminar ideas.
- [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#) (EBTJV) annual three day meeting
 - Date: September 8th – 11th, 2014
 - Location: NCTC in Shepardstown, WV
 - Tentative topics include brook trout status at catchment level, management of brook trout data, workshop on the Riparian Restoration decision support tool, and an overview of brook trout research, modeling efforts, and decision support tools.
- What is happening in the Bay?
 - Bruce Michael (MDNR) – Results from the first June 2014 cruise are on the [Eyes on the Bay](#) website. The results are consistent with the forecasts of a slightly above average dead zone for the Chesapeake Bay.

- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science: [NOAA, partners predict slightly above average 'dead zone' in Chesapeake Bay](#).
- Chesapeake Bay Program: [Scientists predict above-average dead zone for Chesapeake Bay](#)
- [Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Meeting](#)
 - Date: July 23rd – 24th, 2014
 - Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) CBPO Annapolis, MD
 - The meeting will cover topics such as the update of the Prototype Phase 6 Model, land-use loading rates, phosphorus discussion, and at the June conference call the Modeling WG approved the study area Chester River for the shallow water multiple models study and an update will be given at the July meeting.
- LSRWA draft report for the Conowingo was released to the identified stake-holders group and STAC. The public comment period will begin at the end of the summer and the Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Workgroup has agreed to help promote the release.

Communications Discussion – All

STAR members discussed communication ideas including upcoming reports, studies, and videos to recommend to the Communications Workgroup.

- [USGS press release](#) on intersex condition in the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Ohio river basins in the Monitoring Assessment Journal. One of the next steps for this work is comparing occurrence and severity in the basins. Contact: Scott Phillips
- University press release on the James River Research Corridor. Partnership between USGS and three universities for enhanced monitoring in the James River including monitoring to improve calculation of loading from the James at the fall line and evaluating the tidal fresh to analyze the impacts of the loads. Also, partnering with universities to teach students data collection and monitoring techniques. Funding is all companies including Dominion Power, Dupont endowment fund and one more. Contact: Mark Bennett
- **ACTION:** Choptank River is also a heavy research area, including but not limited to the NOAA's [Choptank River Complex](#). STAR will be organizing a meeting between the Choptank River and James River researchers for a comparison and collaboration effort – Contacts: Thomas Fisher (UMCES), Bruce Vogt (NCBO), Bruce Michael (MDNR), Mark Bennett (USGS)
- Ocean acidification task force to review information and complete recommendations by December 2014 (MDNR, MDE, UMCES, NOAA, Aquaculture Industry, Watermen's Association)

Customer Expectations for the CBP Monitoring Networks – Peter Tango

The purpose of the Customer Expectations portion of BASIN Phase II is to gain feedback on the usefulness of the products derived from the CBP monitoring networks. The customer expectations survey was presented to STAR members and interested parties at the May Meeting and all comments/edits were incorporated from that meeting plus a STAR Leadership meeting. Peter Tango reviewed the updated draft questionnaire for feedback.

- **ACTION:** STAR, STAR WGs, and the GITs should provide feedback on the survey via track changes by COB Friday August 1st, 2014. Please send edits to Amanda Pruzinsky.
- **ACTION:** The Modeling WG will work to provide suggested questions and edits to help incorporate modeling into the survey questions. This will be presented to the Modeling WG at the Quarterly Meeting July 23rd – 24th, 2014. Please send edits to Amanda Pruzinsky by August 1st, 2014.
- **ACTION:** Amanda Pruzinsky will incorporate the survey questions into a web survey using Survey Monkey after edits from the GITs and Modeling WG are sent in.
- **ACTION:** Lea Rubin will develop the background materials and send them out for review the week of July 21st, 2014.
- **ACTION:** Bill Dennison will be working to determine what approval the survey will need to have before sent out to individuals: ICR information collection (through federal agencies)/IRB approval (through UMCES)/none (through Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)?

Envisioned Evolution of STAR – Peter Tango

At the April STAR Meeting, STAR discussed answers to the role of STAR survey provided to all of the GITs. STAR Leadership used these responses to edit the “Evolution of STAR” document and provided an overview of the changes made and requested feedback at the May STAR Meeting. The final document was presented at the June STAR Meeting for approval.

- **ACTION:** STAR Leadership will work to devise a charter document with the use of the Communications WG and Fisheries GIT examples of their charters.
- **ACTION:** STAR Leadership will review and send comments for the governance document that GIT 6 is working on.
- **ACTION:** STAR Leadership will revise the “Envisioned Evolution of STAR” document to include in known deliverables (with timelines/deadlines) to the individual workgroup.
 - With the New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement there are natural requirements that STAR can work on with them. The GIT could request that STAR help them understand the science behind a particular outcome. The GITs may need help determining how/what/how often to measure the outcome, what partnerships are available or what partners are already working on the issues, and/or what the funding needs are for management. STAR could also work with the GITs to create management strategies and revise them every two years.
 - The Chesapeake Bay Agreement will require new indicators.
- Communication WG is working to produce a deliverable schedule for the entire Chesapeake Bay Program and will need input from the GITs, STAR, and others.
- The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Climate Change outcome was suggested to be housed in STAR because it is a cross-cutting scientific and technical issue.
- **ACTION:** STAR Leadership is working to contact partners to identify chairs, coordinators, and members for the reorganized STAR WGs.

- **ACTION:** STAR, STAR WGs, and the GITs should provide feedback on the document (via track changes) and suggest chairs, coordinators, and members of the reorganized STAR WGs by COB Friday July 21st, 2014.

Overview of new Chesapeake Bay Agreement and highlights for STAR – Scott Phillips (USGS)

The Executive Council signed the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement on June 16th, 2014. Please see the Chesapeake Bay Program website for the [Watershed Agreement](#) for more information. During the meeting, Scott Phillips will review the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement and highlight goals and outcomes where STAR science support will be critical to help the Goal Teams. We have an initial discussion with the Goal Teams on their priorities for the coming year.

- One of the reasons why the New Insights Report was successful was because it hit on public relevance because it covered the issues and showed them geographically. The Chesapeake Bay Program should work on collaborating geographically across the GITs, partners, and issues.
- **ACTION:** Amanda Pruzinsky will reorganize the GITs survey answers by Bay Agreement outcomes.
- **ACTION:** STAR and STAC will have a conference call to coordinate actions to determine Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement needs. Kevin Sellner will contact STAC (Carl Hershner, Denice Wardrop, and Kirk Havens) to set up this meeting.
 - Carl, Denice, and Kirk are assigning individual STAC members to GITs and WGs to assist with outcomes and adaptive management and determining what is the science that would be needed (BASIN Phase III).
 - The monitoring needs clearly fit into STAR (BASIN Phase III), but STAC can (1) generate workshops that bring in the expertise and generates new ideas and (2) express the interest to the research community to write proposals for some of the research needs.
 - Over the past several years, STAC interest on embedding social sciences into the Chesapeake Bay Program processes and STAR would like to know what will be STAC's emphasis in the near future as the Watershed Agreement is enacted through the Management Strategies.
- The questionnaire answers from the GITs about what their current data and data needs may be put on the Chesapeake Stat website along with the New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement management strategies. Contact: Doreen Vetter

PARTICIPANTS

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