Modeling Workgroup, WQGIT & STAR: Roles and Responsibilities in Midpoint Assessment—11:30 Tuesday

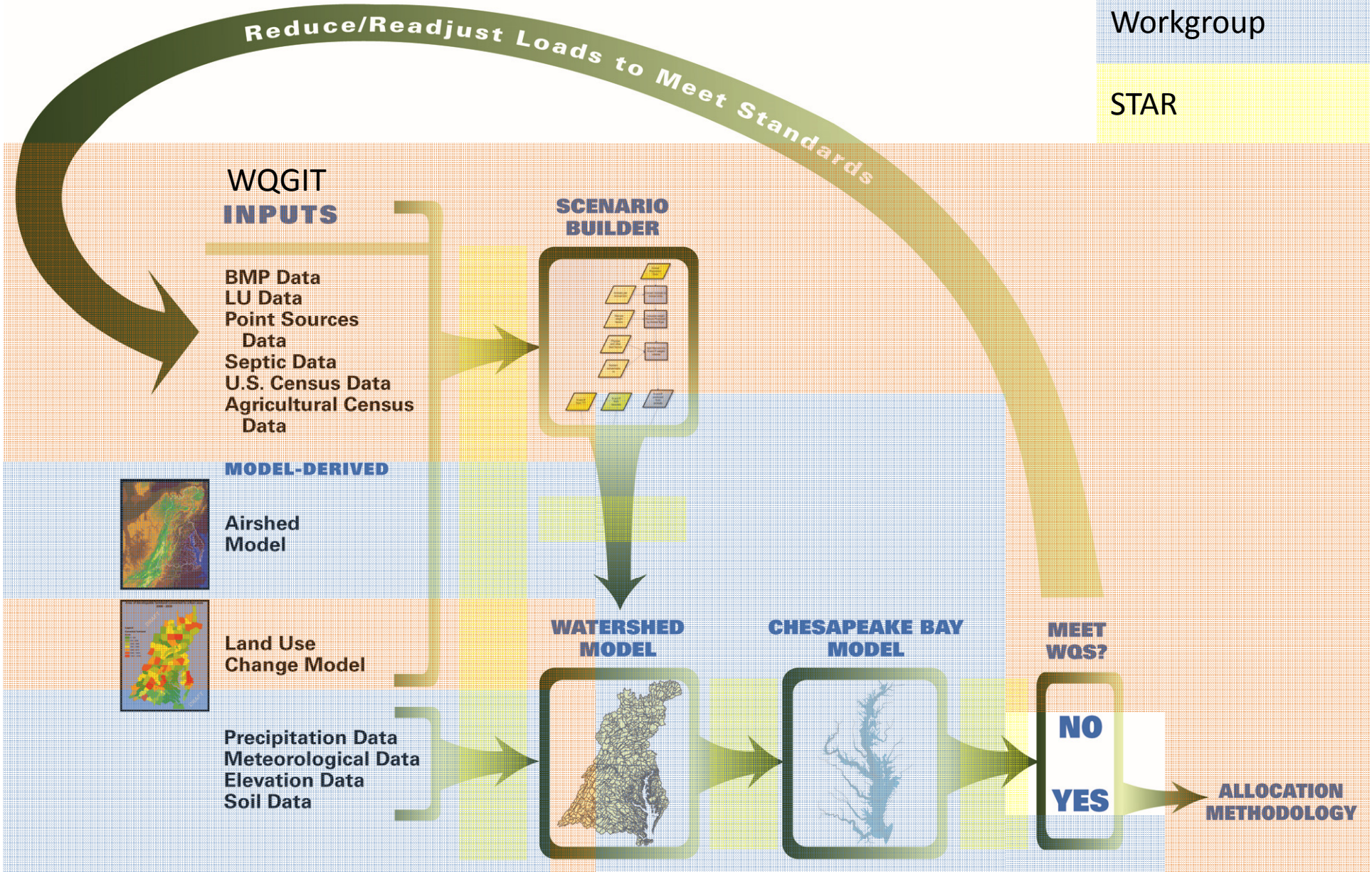
- A. Clarify role of WQGIT, Modeling Workgroup, and STAR in midpoint assessment decision-making process
- B. Understand what decisions will be decided by whom
- C. Articulate clear communication and coordination processes

Who has the lead?

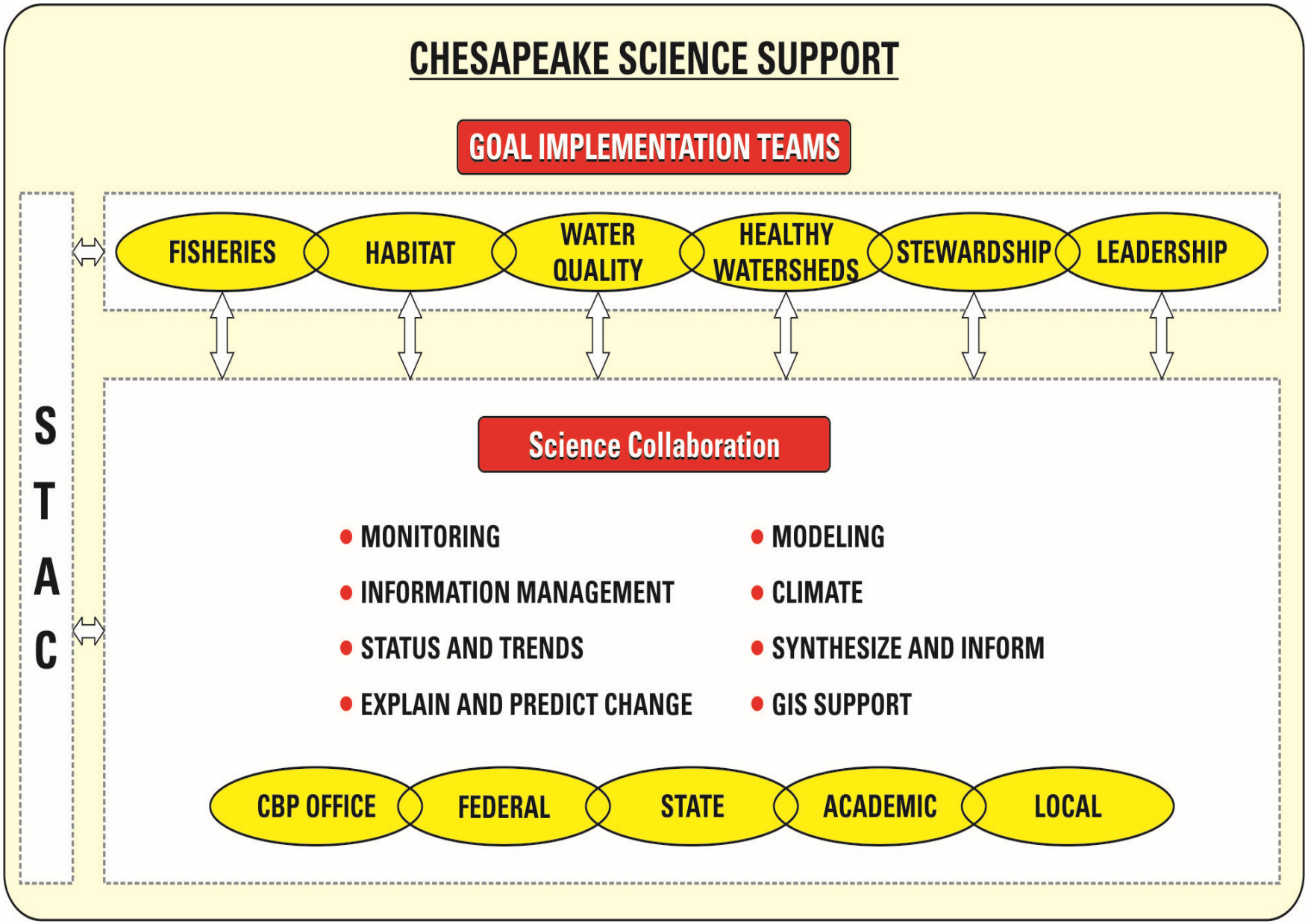
WQGIT

Modeling Workgroup

STAR



Science Collaboration



Discussion Questions

- 1. What's the relationship between the Modeling Workgroup and the Agriculture Workgroup's Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee in terms of decision making on simulation of agriculture and agricultural BMPs in the Phase 6 Watershed Model?

- a. There is no overlap of responsibility between the AMS and the MWG despite the similar names. The AMS is working purely on scenario builder, which determines the nutrient application rates, maximum uptake rates, and other variables that the watershed model needs to run. The MWG is working on the watershed model which determines the response of the watershed to those inputs. Neither is charged with BMPs which are the WQGIT's purview.

Discussion Questions

- 2. What's the relationship between the Modeling Workgroup and the Watershed Technical Workgroup in terms of decision making on Scenario Builder and its interrelationship with the Phase 6 Watershed Model?

- a. This is the same answer as 1. The MWG has weighed in with some discussion of modeling principles, but it not taking an active role in scenario builder. The communication of what types of inputs the watershed model needs from scenario builder is handled by CBPO staff.

Discussion Questions

- 3. What's the relationship between STAR and the Modeling Workgroup on key strategic issues under the midpoint assessment, such as Conowingo?

- The modeling WG is one part of STAR and we are working on both the WQGIT priorities and also directives from STAR.
- Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting charge is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.
  - Manage CBP-funded monitoring networks and coordinate with additional science providers to
  - utilize additional networks to address the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.
  - Ensure information quality, management, and access.
  - Update, and deliver, the status and trends (indicators) of ecosystem conditions.
  - Explain ecosystem condition and change.
  - Expand modeling to better understand and predict ecosystem response.
  - Coordinate climate change activities.
  - Synthesize and communicate results to improve decision making.
- STAR reviewed and commented on our work plan and added factors affecting trends.
  - Bay studies (e.g. Conowingo, climate change)
  - Mid point assessment
  - Ecosystem response
- Modeling WG provides STAR with information to assist with communication. We work to provide the tools and analysis to support STARs charge as well as the WQGIT.
- Modeling WG co-chairs regularly attend STAR meetings. Recent STAR meeting discussed communicating the impact of Conowingo and information from the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment as it relates to water quality attainment.
- Modeling WG is involved in Factors Affecting Trends, climate change

Discussion Questions

4. Are there ways we can strengthen coordination, information exchange, and separate/shared decision making responsibilities between our respective GITs and Workgroups in order to implement the priorities under the midpoint assessment and achieve our water quality goals and commitments?

- Identify key decision points and how that impact the process of model development and calibration. This is included in our slides that place a finer point on model refinement.
- Engagement in loading target development is important and in progress
- Understanding review timeframe and inputs