Addressing Management Board Request to Prioritize CBP Science Needs

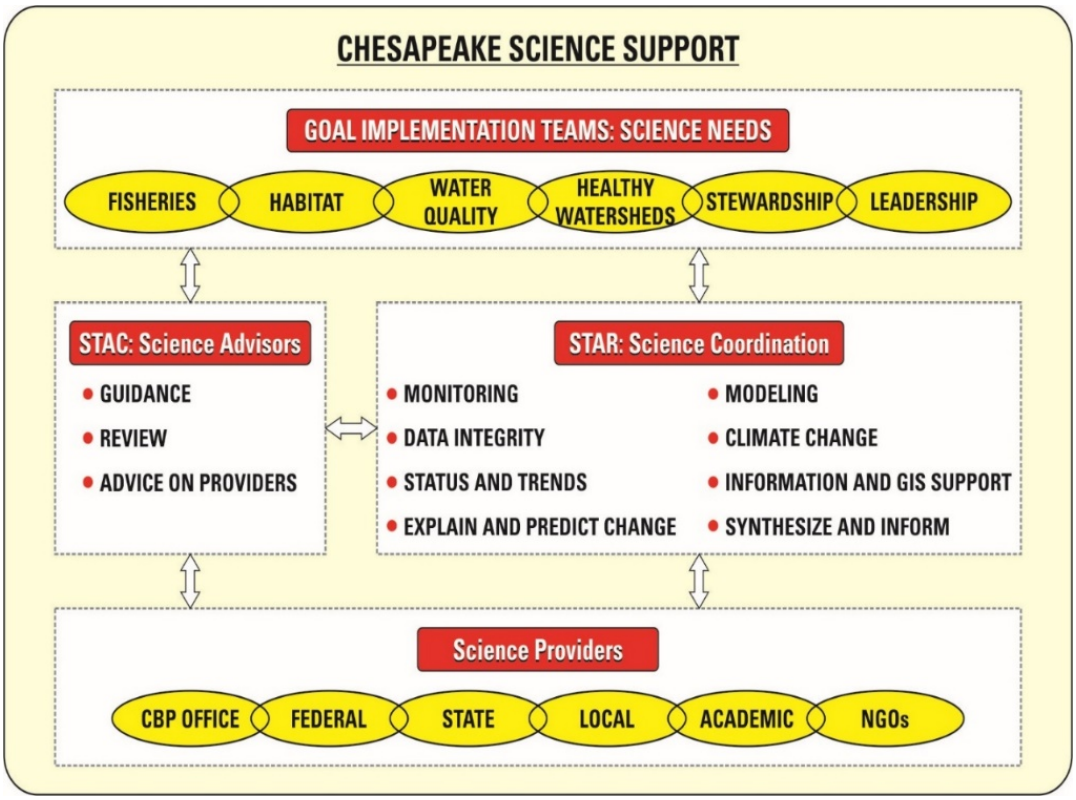
Updated Feb 7, 2019

Request from Management Board:

Consolidate and analyze sciences needs to recommend prioritization for those requiring resources. The request came up during the August 2018 with the Management Board (MB) wanting to better understand all the science needs that are being generated from the Strategy Review System (SRS), so they can help prioritize resources. The action from the August MB meeting was: *"The SRS small group will compile into a list the SRS data and science needs requests. This list will be shared with STAR and STAC leadership and the CBP associate directors for input. The Management Board will review the 2017-18 SRS requests to prioritize science and data needs. The Management Board will present their prioritization during the 2019 SRS Biennial meeting"*

Recommended approach:

The Goal Implementation Teams (GITs), STAR, and STAC (figure 1) have worked together, through an ad-hoc team, to develop an approach to address the MB request. The approach will result in a "strategic science and research framework" that supports the SRS process.



The four steps in the approach are:

- Update science needs. Combine science needs from these efforts: (1) science items identified for each CBP outcome through the decision framework used in the SRS process, (2) GIT input on science needs that have been given to STAR, and (3) previous recommendations from STAC workshops to address for operational and fundamental research needs.

- Conduct a resource assessment. Inventory how needs are being currently addressed directly by science providers (such as CBP office, agencies or academic institutions) or through grants (such as the GIT funding) and contracts.
- Prioritize science needs: identify operational and fundamental science needs that require additional resources. Operational needs examples are development of indicators, GIS support, while fundamental needs include monitoring and research.
- Develop a strategic science and research framework that supports the SRS process. The framework would use results of the science prioritization to recommend approaches for CBP and partner resources to address operational and fundamental science needs. The recommendations would be considered by the MB and CBP partnership on evolving resources (grants, contracts); and directions of science providers. The framework would be updated for each SRS biannual meeting based on results of the MB quarterly reviews of CBP outcomes

Applying the science recommendations by the MB and CBP partnership.

The recommendations from the strategic science and research framework can be used for multiple purposes by the CBP partnership:

Management Board and the agencies they represent: MB can suggest how the collective resources of CBP (grants, contracts by EPA) for monitoring and modeling should evolve. Agencies represented on the MB can identify their own resources to address science priorities (since many agencies have technical capabilities).

Goal Implementation Teams and Workgroups: Members can identify how the agencies they represent can evolve efforts to address science priorities of the GIT team or its workgroups. GITs can use the science priorities to identify topics for Goal Team RFPs.

CBP Office: Evolve EPA grants and contracts to address science needs. Evolve focus of CBPO modeling, monitoring, and GIS teams.

STAR: Update activities of STAR and its workgroups to address operational and fundamental science priorities to support Goal Teams. Help evolve directions for Citizens Monitoring Cooperative.

STAC: inform collective STAC research priorities to address operational and fundamental selection of responsive workshops. Individual members (or their institutions) can consider evolving their research directions or bring forward current findings to inform management decisions.

Current Team Members:

As requested by the MB, a team has been created to carry out the process. The team includes members from STAR, STAC, and the Goal Teams. During each monthly STAR meeting, the team will engage the user community on moving the process forward. The team includes:

STAR: Scott Phillips (STAR Co-chair); Emily Trentacoste (STAR Coordinator in waiting), Cuiyin Wi and Breck Sullivan (STAR staffers); Gary Shenk (CBP Modeling team), Peter Tango (CBP monitoring team).

STAC: Bill Ball - ballw@chesapeake.org, Mark Monaco - mark.monaco@noaa.gov, Tom Ihde - Thomas.Ihde@morgan.edu, Carl Hershner - carl@vims.edu, Kirk Havens - kirk@vims.edu, Kurt Stephenson - kurts@vt.edu

Goal Teams: Coordinators/staffers from each GIT.

SRS team: Kristin Saunders (Cross Program Coordinator and SRS representative) and Laurel Abowd (MB Staffer)

Target dates:

- **September:** MB request discussed with STAR and with SRS leaders.
- **October 31 Goal Team chairs meeting**: Chairs provided input on science prioritization.
- **Oct-Nov: Goal team updates of their science needs.**
- **Dec STAC meeting:** Presented MB request and got feedback from STAC. They suggested a more strategic process to identify both operational and fundamental science needs that is integrated with the SRS process. Identified STAC members to help with the effort.
- **Dec STAR meeting:** STAC presented their perspectives and discussed with Goal Teams and STAR. Collectively it was recommended to develop a strategic science and research framework that supports the SRS process.

2019:

- **During Jan:** Lack of progress due to partial shutdown of federal government.
- **Feb:** Refine Goal Team science needs and begin to integrate needs/recommendations from previous STAC workshops. Begin initial resource assessment to document how needs are being addressed by different science providers, which include CBPO staff resources, EPA contracts, federal and state partner programs, and academic research. Initial focus would be on CBPO staff resources and grants. Begin to identify science gaps.
- **Feb 14:** Introduce the concept of a "strategic science and research framework" to the MB and get feedback.
- **Feb 28 STAR meeting**. Refine concept of the "strategic science and research framework" based on feedback from MB. Prepare to present at the SRS March meeting. Update on science needs and initial assessment of CBPO resources, identify some major gaps that need to be addressed. .
- **March 13-14 SRS meeting:** Get feedback on initial science gaps.
- **March-May:** Finalize the process for "strategic science and research framework" based on SRS feedback. Complete primary science and research gaps and begin to develop recommendations to address. Monthly interaction at the STAR meetings.
- **June-July:** Present and discuss the draft "strategic science and research framework" with MB and other parties. The framework would include (1) science needs, (2) resource assessment of how needs are being addressed; (3) primary gaps that need to be addressed; (4) recommendations on addressing the gaps.
- **July 2019 and beyond:** Take actions to address primary gaps; update science needs based on 2019-2020 SRS process.

Prepared by Scott Phillips, Kristin Saunders, and Emily Trentacoste based on input from the action team.