



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
February 8-9, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Feb. 13	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Feb. 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Feb. 27	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
Mar. 1	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting (TBD)
Mar. 7	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership & Management Goal Implementation Team Meeting
Mar. 9	Management Board Meeting

Updates

CBP partnership to publish annual Bay Barometer

The Chesapeake Bay Program communication office is expected to publish its annual Bay Barometer on February 1. CBP Director Nick DiPasquale may take part in the media conference call as the chair of the partnership's Management Board. The Bay Barometer is a compilation of previously released (2015-2016) Bay watershed health and restoration indicators used to measure CBP partners' progress and work. Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

EPA Phase III WIP Interim Expectations Letter

EPA has issued its interim expectations for developing the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to continue reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The letter encourages states to actively engage with critical local stakeholders in the process of developing their final WIPs to restore water quality for the entire Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. By issuing the expectations at this time, Bay jurisdictions will be able to develop the phase III WIPs in a timely manner and keep on track with the December 2018 timeline for completion. After further discussion with the jurisdictions, EPA plans to finalize the expectations in the spring of 2017. Contact: Nick DiPasquale, (410) 267-5710, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

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 received resignations from two members Phillip Pannell (DC) and Malcolm Derk (PA). Additionally, two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in New York and Virginia.

LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, continues to work with Partners and the jurisdictions' technical leads on the Local Government Engagement Initiative. Work sessions have been held with Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia and the partners held an Initiative conference on January 18th. Topics discussed included EPA's draft Expectations document, land use data and open time for sharing and discussion within each jurisdiction. Initiative activities were also updated at the January 11th CBP Communications Workgroup Retreat. Any questions about the Initiative should be directed to Mary at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

The Streamlining Integrated Infrastructure Implementation report is being finalized. This report is based upon a June 9, 2016 “Dig Once” Strategy Development Workshop sponsored by the Alliance, LGAC and funded by NFWF.

LGAS’s next meeting is March 23-24, 2017 in King George, Virginia. TO be added to the LGAC’s Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC’s Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr at jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, atmgattis@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.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn; jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2016 on March 14-15, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Please direct any quarterly meeting inquiries to STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org.

To be added to STAC’s Interested Parties list, please contact STAC Staff.

Workshops:

Upcoming Workshops:

Planning is underway for the following four workshops to be held during spring 2017. For additional information, contact Renee Kelly at kellyr@chesapeake.org.

- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay’s Tidal Waters – **February 6-7, 2017 (Part I)**
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) – **March 29-30, 2017**
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize five reports from the following FY2015 workshops. The workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. Information regarding each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) - can be found on the STAC workshop webpage at:

http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System

- 3) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation
- 4) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- 5) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

For more information, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Reviews:

STAC distributed a review report entitled “Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Review of the Generalized Additive Model (GAM) Approach for Water Quality Trends in Tidal Waters” on January 24, 2017. The report can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/365_Ellis2017.pdf. STAC has four other review activities in progress:

1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The STAC Criteria Addendum review panel is still finalizing its review of the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum. The review panel suggested a clarifying re-write of the addendum and then requested additional revisions to the updated document. The CBP has provided a new and improved document that the panel aims to formally complete their review over the next couple months.

2) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

The panel have completed their review of the requested documentation and finalized a report of their recommendations. The panel is currently awaiting the remaining documentation on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill from the Modeling Workgroup to complete their review.

3) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

STAC received the official review request from STAR’s Modeling Workgroup on the Water Quality Sediment Transport Model in late November. STAC Staff are currently working with CBP staff to finalize the review questions and documentation while a panel is finalized. Once the request is final it will be put forth for formal STAC approval; if approved the review will take place over the next two months.

4) Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

STAC approved the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested STAC technical review of potential impacts of boat generated waves on shoreline stability and attendant ecosystem properties, and provide advice on available policy actions to minimize adverse effects. The panel completed their requested review in late October and have assembled a draft report of their recommendations. The panel is currently working to incorporate feedback from external reviewers and finalize the report.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for approximately three additional STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews between now and May 2017. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment.

- 1) Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations
- 2) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment
- 3) Phase 6 Land Use Hind Cast Methodology

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

The Workgroup will use the Indicators Framework to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

Indicators

The following indicators were updated since the December Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
SAV	In 2015, there were an estimated 92,315 acres of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay. This surpasses the Chesapeake Bay Program’s 2017 restoration target two years ahead of schedule and marks a 50% achievement of the 185,000-acre goal. Note: this indicator was updated with preliminary data in April 2016. Data were finalized in December 2016; this update reflects those changes.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/vital-habitats/sav
Oyster Restoration*	Six Chesapeake Bay tributaries have been selected for oyster restoration: Harris Creek and the Little Choptank and Tred Avon rivers in Maryland, and the Lafayette, Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers in Virginia. Each tributary is at a different level of progress in a process that involves developing a tributary restoration plan, constructing and seeding reefs, and monitoring and evaluating restored reefs. The last phase of this process—reef monitoring and evaluation—will determine success in meeting this outcome. Monitoring and evaluation will not be complete until after 2025, as a tributary must be monitored at three- and six-year intervals after reef construction and seeding are complete before it can be deemed restored.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sustainable-fisheries/oysters

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

- Fish Passage (February 2017)
- Toxic Contaminants (February 2017)
- Public Access (February 2017)
- Forest Cover (Winter 2017)

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: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, free.laura@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 Forage and Fish Habitat Action Teams will be hosting their quarterly meetings on February 16th to review progress towards their workplans, discuss recommendations and concerns that were noted at the December Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting, and begin planning for the Strategic Review System presentation and discussion.

Staff from the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team contributed to the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office compilation of fisheries-based climate research and tools. The contents of the [Climate and Fisheries Bibliography](#) includes both peer-reviewed and grey literature as related to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goal to “increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.”

The Oyster indicator and dashboard were approved by the full Sustainable Fisheries GIT and have been added to [Chesapeake Progress](#) to further inform the public on the progress made towards the Oyster Restoration Outcome. The dashboard provides a graphic which reports oyster reef restoration progress occurring in Maryland and Virginia, shares access to tributary restoration plans, reports the quantity of constructed and seeded reefs of the total targets, and indicates the stage of restoration activity.

The Fish Habitat Action Team met with members of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup staff to identify and evaluate existing monitoring data and parameters that can inform fish habitat health in the Chesapeake Bay. The teams will continue working together to identify monitoring gaps for the Fish Habitat Outcome and will evaluate gap-filling solutions to add to the resiliency of the Fish Habitat efforts under the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Contact: Kara Skipper; kara.skipper@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

- The Habitat GIT plans to involve a local partner with the RCOA tool showcase project. A [Steering Committee meeting](#) to begin project scope and planning will be held on February 10th at CBP.
- The Wetland Workgroup is collaborating with the CBP Web and Communications Teams to refine the project scope of a GIT Funded project “Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs – information access and program cross-training,” with plans for CBT to re-release the RFP in the coming months.

- The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has completed an update of the Chesapeake stream macroinvertebrate database with data provided by federal, state, county, and local monitoring programs. A draft report is currently under internal review; a larger release is expected in February 2017.
- The 73rd Annual **Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference**, *Relevancy and Agility: The Rising Tide of Conservation*, will be held April 9-11, 2017 in Norfolk, Virginia at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. Visit <http://www.neafwa.org/conference.html> for more information.
- The Habitat Goal Implementation Team plans to hold their Spring 2017 meeting over two days in early May in Pennsylvania. The meeting will focus on updating members and partners on our application of regional tools for habitat demonstration projects and presenting on progress towards workplan actions.

Contact: Kyle Runion; runion.kyle@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 conference calls on January 9th and January 27th.

- The WQGIT was briefed on the recently released draft Phase III WIP Expectations.
- The WQGIT held an informational session covering topics related to the Bay TMDL Mid-Point Assessment.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the proposed process and structure for conducting the fatal flaw review of the Phase 6 Watershed Model, and will be asked to formally approve the process in February.
- The WQGIT discussed options for establishing a base year on which to develop the Phase III WIP planning targets, and will make a formal recommendation later this year.
- The WQGIT approved the CBP drafted responses to the STAC report on climate change, conditional that WQGIT members may still submit suggested edits on the document to Zoe Johnson by no later than COB Monday January 30th.

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on February 13th and February 27th. A subset of the planned topics includes:

- Presentation on STAC Review of 2016 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum and draft CBP responses to comments.
- Presentation on regional scale explanations of observed trends to support the development of the Phase III WIPs.
- Presentation on proposed process and structure for conducting fatal flaw review of the Phase 6 Watershed Model.

Contact: Lindsey Gordon; Gordon.lindsey@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.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@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.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.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.

Contact: Emily Freeman; freeman.emily@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.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@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.

On January 11, the Communications Workgroup held its biannual in-person meeting at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Md. Members participated in an advanced social media training with Water Words that Work. Afterwards, they heard presentations from Rich Batiuk (EPA, CBP) on the Midpoint Assessment, and Mary Gattis (LGAC Coordinator) on the Local Government Engagement Initiative (LGEI). They also completed a social media messaging activity focused on Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP communications. Lastly, the workgroup voted in new leadership for two-year terms. Catherine Krikstan (UMCES, CBP) will now serve as chair and Krista Parra (DoD) will serve as vice chair.

At its February meeting, the workgroup discussed applying what they worked on in the social media training to the group's activities. They looked at draft documents coming out of LGEI, and Mary solicited input on how jurisdictions measure engagement with local governments. Rachel Felver (ACB, CBP Communications Director) talked about the press CBP received from the [Bay Barometer release](#) as well as the "messaging package" of links, photos and example social media posts for members to use to promote the Barometer.

In March, the workgroup will discuss upcoming events, expected releases and messaging priorities for the Bay Program and workgroup members over the next six months.

On February 1, the Bay Program Communications Office released the [2015-2016 Bay Barometer](#). They held a joint press call with Nick DiPasquale (CBP), Don Boesch (UMCES) and Will Baker (CBF). The office also finalized and posted its [Strategic Communications Plan](#). They plan to issue a press release in February promoting diversity in the environmental field, focusing on CBP's Diversity indicator.
Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Jan 17	Interim 2016-2017 programmatic Milestones submitted/posted
Jan 18	Integrated Monitoring Networks Meeting
Jan 20	Phase III Expectations document
Jan 25	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
Jan 26	Wetland WG Meeting
Jan 26	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Meeting
Jan TBD	Land Use Data available for local government
Jan (late)	Bay Barometer
Feb 7	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT Meeting