



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
June 16, 2016**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

June 15	Special Management Board meeting on Oyster BMP Panel policy issues
June 16	Ag Workgroup call
June 17	Release of EPA evaluations of 2014-2015 Milestones progress and 2016-2017 Milestones commitments
June 20	Climate Resiliency Workgroup call
June 21	Urban Stormwater Workgroup call
June 22	Budget and Finance Workgroup meeting
June 23	STAR meeting
June 23	Forestry Workgroup call
June 27	Water Quality GIT meeting
July TBD	White House Environmental Finance Conference for the Chesapeake Bay (CEQ)
July 5	Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT meeting
July 6	Land Use Workgroup call
July 14	Management Board meeting
August 11	Management Board conference call
Sept 27	Executive Council meeting

Updates

Wastewater Sector Meets Nutrient Goals a Decade Early

EPA announced on June 14 that upgrades in wastewater treatment over the last twenty years have significantly lowered the amount of nutrient pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay, effectively meeting the sector's 2025 goals under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a decade early.

Since 1985, nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from wastewater in the Bay watershed have decreased by 57 percent and 75 percent, respectively—despite an increase in both population and the volume of wastewater to be treated. Thirty years ago, wastewater accounted for 28 percent of nitrogen pollution and 39 percent of phosphorus pollution; the sector now accounts for just 16 percent of the overall loads of each pollutant. Over the last 30 years, improvements at the ten largest of these treatment plants have prevented 240 million pounds of nitrogen and 48 million pounds of phosphorus from flowing into the Bay. For more information:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/wastewater_sector_meets_nutrient_goals_of_pollution_diet_a_decade_early

Release of Bay TMDL Milestone Evaluations

Management Leads for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL sent drafts of the EPA evaluations to the 7 Bay Jurisdictions of their 2014-2015 Progress and 2016-2017 Milestones for fatal flaw review. EPA Region 3 will release the final evaluations on Friday, June 17, including Congressional notification, posting to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL website, distribution of a press release and associated fact sheets, and finally a media teleconference with Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin and the TMDL Management Leads.

Contact: Tom Wenz, (410) 295-1360, wenz.tom@epa.gov

Indicators

The following indicators were updated between May 19 and June 16, 2016:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Public Access	Between 2010 and 2015, 108 public access sites were opened--marking a 36 percent achievement of the goal to add 300 new sites (total sites in region now 1,247).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/public-access/public-access

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

- Blue Crab Management (week of July 4, 2016)
- Forest Buffer: annual miles planted (July 2016)
- Striped Bass Abundance and Management – coastwide (Summer 2016)
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads and River Flow (Summer 2016)

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, free.laura@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Through the leadership of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia legislatures designated the second week in June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Citizens and groups were encouraged to hold events that educate, inspire, and increase enthusiasm and support among all residents of the watershed for restoring the Bay with the goal of increasing the number and diversity of citizen stewards. The Chesapeake Bay Program office held a trash pick up throughout the Eastport section of Annapolis focusing on the waterfront street-end parks. CBPO staff, joined by CBP staff and others, collected bags of trash and noted uncontrolled pollution and run-off sources for reporting. The CBP website documents the list of events throughout the celebration at

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/Chesapeake_Bay_Awareness_Week_Events.pdf

Contact: Stephanie Smith (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay), (410) 267-9881, ssmith@chesapeakebay.net

Slightly smaller-than-average dead zone predicted for Chesapeake Bay

Scientists expect low river flow and reduced nutrient-rich runoff from the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers this spring to result in an average to slightly smaller-than-average dead zone in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay this summer. The latest forecast predicts a mid-summer hypoxic, or low-oxygen, zone of 1.58 cubic miles: close to the long-term average. The anoxic, or no-oxygen, zone is expected to reach 0.28 cubic miles in early summer and grow to 0.31 cubic miles by late-summer.

This forecast, funded by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is based on models developed at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the University of Michigan and relies on estimated nutrient loads from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). According to USGS, 66.2 million pounds of nitrogen entered the Chesapeake Bay in from January to May 2016, which is 17 percent lower than average nitrogen loadings. Over the next few months, researchers with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will monitor oxygen levels in the Bay, resulting in a final measurement of the Bay's dead zone later this year. For more information: <http://www.noaa.gov/chesapeake-bay-%E2%80%98dead-zone%E2%80%99-be-average-slightly-smaller>

Bernie Fowler Wade-in

Former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler saw his sneakers through 31 inches of water at the 29th annual Patuxent River Wade-In on June 12. High winds and rough waters meant this year's "sneaker index"—the deepest point at which Fowler can still see his shoes as he wades into the water—measured far lower than 2015's 44.5 inches. Since 1988, the now 92-year-old Fowler—clad in his signature white sneakers—has held the wade-in on the second Sunday in June, to bring attention to the polluted waters of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. The event moved to Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in 2010 after decades on Broomes Island.

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.

In conjunction with its June 9-10, 2016 quarterly meeting, LGAC hosted a forum to develop recommendations for streamlining implementation of capital and maintenance projects that include green stormwater infrastructure. Participants included representatives from the US EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities, US DOT, Maryland State Highway Administration, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, municipal administrators and elected officials, and consulting engineers and planners, and members of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. A report outlining recommendations developed by the group will be released in the Fall.

During their regular meeting, LGAC heard a presentation on the STAC workshop report on roadside ditch maintenance. Several issues were identified including lack of awareness of roadside ditch management best practices and need to secure access to private property for implementation and maintenance of out of right-of-way BMPs. Official comments were submitted to the Management Board Chair for the official response to the STAC Workshop Report. Finally, after hearing a report on the history of CBIG and CBRAP funding programs, LGAC charged staff with reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Program Office Grant and Cooperative Agreement Guidance for opportunities to increase the amount of funding directed to local implementation.

In response to concerns raised at the May 26 PSC meeting, LGAC will be convening internal and external partners for a strategic discussion about enhancing communication with local officials.

Mayor Bowser appointed Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, Daniel Chao, to LGAC. He joins Council member Brianne Nadeau and Philip Pannell of the Anacostia Coordinating Council in representing the District of Columbia's Executive Branch. Janine Burns, former Mathews County, VA Supervisor, submitted her resignation in May. Governor McAuliffe has been notified and is expected to fill the vacancy quickly. Two seats remain open in Maryland and there is one open seat in Delaware.

LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be held on September 29-30, 2016 in Shepherdstown, WV. Topics to be addressed include water quality trading and local area planning targets. To be added to LGAC's Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC's Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr, at jjstarr@allianceforthebay.org or 804-793-8786. For other issues, please contact LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, at mgattis@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.

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.

Quarterly Meeting:

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY2016 on September 13-14, 2016 at an undetermined location in Annapolis, Maryland. A draft agenda is being developed and will be distributed in the coming months. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY16 Results of the STAC Workshop Request for Proposals (RFPs)

STAC agreed to support the following five workshops in FY16:

- An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change
- Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop
- Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters

FY15 Workshops:

STAC hosted seven workshops so far in 2016. 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 the workshops including agendas, presentations, and reports can be found on the workshop [homepage](#).

1. Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality – January 13-14, 2016
2. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation – January 14, 2016
3. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System – February 1-2, 2016
4. Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation – February 17-18, 2016
5. The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments – March 7-8, 2016
6. Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement – April 12-13, 2016
7. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making – April 20-21, 2016

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

Reviews:

STAC is in the process of finalizing one review and planning for three others. Additionally, STAC is anticipating approximately four additional reviews between now and 2017. Details of those reviews are listed below.

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. Over the next few months, the review panel will work with CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments.
2. **Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder**
In late April, STAC leadership met with representative of the Bay Program's Scenario Builder team to discuss the details of the upcoming review request for a STAC-sponsored Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder review. A review panel has been formed and an initial call is scheduled for late June. At this time, STAC members have seen the draft review questions and documentation, but is waiting for the official review request from the CBP Modeling Workgroup.
3. **James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation**
On May 20th, STAC received the official review request from CBP for a review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation. STAC members discussed this request at its June quarterly meeting. On June 9th, STAC members were sent the full package of review materials for approval. STAC members have two weeks to review and approve this review. In the meantime, a review panel is being formed and a STAC lead is being decided.
4. **Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion**
In March, 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. A review panel has been formed and has its first call scheduled for June 16th. The review will take place over the next several months.

Upcoming Reviews:

STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC-sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The remaining review requests are expected in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment. The list of upcoming reviews are below.

1. Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
2. Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
3. Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
4. Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu or visit the STAC review webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

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 [Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team](#) hosted their biannual full goal team meeting on June 2nd – 3rd at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), both at their downtown Richmond campus and their Rice Rivers Center located along the James River. The meeting was structured around the team's 2-year workplans and included land use impacts on aquatic species health, ecosystem approaches to fishery management, the effect of climate change on blue crabs, and a summary of the latest science on Atlantic sturgeon. The agenda, presentations and additional meeting materials can be found [here](#).

The results of the 2016 [blue crab winter dredge survey](#) were released in mid-April showing an overall crab abundance increase of 35% from the 2015 estimate. Spawning-age female crabs almost doubled in abundance, from 101 million in 2015 to 194 million this year, above the overfished threshold of 70 million and slightly below the target of 215 million. For additional information, please find the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and [Virginia Marine Resources Commission](#) press releases. The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee is developing the 2016 Blue Crab Advisory Report which utilizes blue crab survey data and harvest numbers to provide management recommendations for the Bay jurisdictions.

Last year, TetraTech developed a review and synthesis of habitat requirements for 13 lesser studied fish and shellfish species under a Chesapeake Bay Program contract to support the fish habitat management strategies. The project was expanded 2016 to include additional data on habitat threats and stressors throughout egg to larval life stages to the selected aquatic species. TetraTech will present and complete the project by June 30th.

The Fish Habitat and Forage Action Teams are organizing meetings to kick off implementation of the finalized workplans. Upcoming meetings will institute a schedule and plan for monitoring workplan actions and establish regular check-ins for the team to ensure workplan actions are accomplished.

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.

- With Stream Health Workgroup Chair Rich Starr's upcoming move from the federal to private sector, the Stream Health Workgroup has approved Mike Lovegreen, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, as a Co-Chair along with Starr.
- The Brook Trout Action Team has welcomed a new lead in Steve Faulkner, Chief of the Aquatic Ecology Branch at USGS Leetown Science Center in Kearneysville, WV. Faulkner will work with the group in developing key brook trout conservation and restoration areas.
- The Wetland Expert Panel is currently finalizing their draft report and preparing for a partnership review over summer of 2016. In September 2015, the panel received approval from the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership for the recommended Phase 6 wetland land use classes of Floodplain and Other. Recommendations for retention efficiency and acres treated for the wetland restoration BMP within separate physiographic subregions are soon to be completed. The panel will present recommendations to the Wetlands, Agricultural, and Watershed Technical Workgroups, as well as the Habitat and Water Quality GITs.

- The SAV Technical Synthesis III (TS3) is in progress by members of the SAV workgroup. The TS3 will compile the latest research regarding SAV in the Chesapeake Bay and highlight new information. The anticipated completion date is December 31st, 2016. Topics to be covered are likely to include SAV restoration, abundance patterns, genetics, land-use and fisheries effects, climate change, ecosystem services, and management implications.

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 May 9th and May 23rd.

- The WQGIT approved the proposal to not include an explicit extractive land use in the Phase 6 Watershed Model. Areas known to be extractive will be simulated as “mixed open” and will be excluded from areas classed as agriculture or turf grass. Extractive acres can be added to the partnership’s suite of decision support tools (e.g. MAST or VAST) at the discretion of the jurisdictions.
- The WQGIT endorsed a modified approach to addressing BMP panel policy issues, which was presented to the Management Board for their approval. The approach emphasized the need to separate the science and policy issues, and to provide the sector workgroup chair and GIT chair with options for resolving the policy issues before proceeding with a parallel policy panel.
- The WQGIT approved the proposed fractional land use methodology that will be used to help classify barren and herbaceous lands in the Phase 6 Model.

The WQGIT will hold a conference calls on June 27th. A subset of the planned topics include:

- The WQGIT will begin to discuss the status and next steps towards developing the Phase III planning target methodology

Contact: Lucinda Power, 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.

- The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT met on May 16th at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Participants discussed near term workplan priorities, including ideas and strategies toward accomplishing several workplan key actions with tangible results in 2016. The focus of the discussion was on shared goal team action items that led themselves to cooperation with all Goal Team members. They included assessment of the protected status of State-identified healthy waters and watersheds, a discussion related to approaches, methods and outreach strategies related to shared priorities, and how to better engage federal agencies that are not traditional CBP partners. Next steps for each action item were established at the meeting.
- With the new cycle of GIT Funding approaching, the GIT is in the process of brainstorming project ideas that support progress towards accomplishing the Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Methods and Metrics, and Land Use Options Evaluation Outcomes.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, Phillips.tuana@epa.gov

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.

Diversity

- The Diversity workgroup is working with John Wolf to develop eight specific Chesapeake Bay outcome layers to incorporate in conjunction with EJScreen.
- The Diversity workgroup is also working on GIT funded Public Health project to conduct a watershed wide screen of existing fish advisory methods and develop more effective targeted messaging for minorities.

For more information please contact Reggie Parrish at parrish.reginald@epa.gov

Public Access

- The public access team has recently published its 2015 site count. As of last year 108 public access sites have been opened towards the 300 site goal.
- The Public Access workgroup is working with partners to find new potential sites, with a focus of reaching diverse communities, as well as enhancing access to the Potomac by partnering with DoD to develop sites on DoD land.
- The Public Access workgroup continues to provide technical assistance in developing new public access sites.
- The Workgroup also is continuing to work on the visual interactive mapping project of public access site.

For more information please contact John Davy at John_Davy@nps.gov

Environmental Literacy

- The Environmental Literacy group is looking to develop indicators that can be developed from the ELIT survey tool. A current project of the group is a MWEE practitioners guide to help an environmental education provider plan and administer MWEEs.
- Another current project is School Grounds for Learning. This project is an online component to help educators by developing plans and training modules to develop projects on school grounds.
- The Workgroup is partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to help develop stronger school ground projects through grants programs.
- The Education workgroup leadership is meeting with states to develop how to incorporate outdoor learning into Next Generation Science Standards.

For more information please contact Shannon.sprague@noaa.gov

Land Conservation

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership meeting was held on June 6th.
- The Land Conservation Partnership is currently working on a federal land and water funding request for developing priority parcels for protection.
- The Partnership is also working on prioritization tools for identifying priority lands.
- The Land trust alliance is hiring a staff member to work with the land trusts to see how they can align work with the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

For more information contact Kate Baker kbaker@chesapeakeconservancy.org

Citizen Stewardship

- The Citizen Stewardship workgroup continues work on developing a comprehensive measurement tool and Stewardship Indicator framework that measure individual and collective citizen stewardship efforts in all communities across the watershed.
- The Workgroup is also working to develop a case study database to share successful examples of programs to change behaviors to maximize funding and to promote the effectiveness. The trust and NFWF will be importing data from their grants programs, and the database will be released next month.
- The Workgroup is also looking to develop a model program for recruiting and training citizen leaders based upon the WSA model.

For more information please contact Kacey Wetzel kwetzel@cbtrust.org

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.

Governance Document

Potential revisions to the Governance Document have been collected from GITs coordinators and staffers, workgroups, technical and advisory committees. Current topics that are to be considered include governance of workgroups; decision-making methods; membership requirements and alternate representation; voting member eligibility; and increased emphasis on collaboration and cross-jurisdictional communication. The goal is to review the proposed revisions with the Management Board, and produce a final update by July 2016. The current Governance document is always available online at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBP_Governance_Document_7-14-15.pdf

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

GIT Funding

The 2016 call for project proposals has been released and the GITs and STAR are working on up to three top priority project ideas. These funds are intended to assist with implementation of management strategies and workplans related to the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. Final selection of projects to be funded will take place in August/September 2016.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Budget & Finance Workgroup

The workgroup held its kickoff meeting on June 1, 2016. Dan Nees (UMD Finance Center) was elected as chair, and Jim Edward (EPA) was elected as Vice-Chair. The group will use members' backgrounds in finance and innovation, funding sources, economics, financial reporting, and knowledge of Federal, State, and Local government to work with the Management Board, Executive Council, and Bay Program partners to achieve the goals and outcomes established in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement and respond to the financial reporting requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act. The workgroup plans to construct a final Charge by the June 22 meeting, establishing a long-term purpose that addresses current and future priorities.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup will have a meeting on July 27, where the contractor Ecologix will present findings from GIT implementation discussions. The group has begun discussion of possible future project proposals, including creating a case-study database of best practices and areas of opportunity, and exploring both state- and locally-led efforts to engage communities.

Contact: Andy Fellows, afellows@umd.edu

ChesapeakeStat: ChesapeakeDecisions

Doreen Vetter and Regan Bosch (CSRA) presented findings and recommendations from the *ChesapeakeDecisions* Discovery Report at the June 7 GIT6 meeting. The goal team will work with the project management team to identify which issues and recommendations are both “inside” and “outside” the purview of the charge/purpose of *ChesapeakeDecisions*, and how to best address them.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@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.

INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORKS WORKGROUP

At a recent meeting of the IMN workgroup, Doug Moyer and Mindy Ehrich reviewed current storm sampling data within the nontidal network, as well as the implications of this sampling for WRTDS modeling. [See presentation](#). The IMN workgroup is also currently evaluating the monitoring communities’ needs to structure future meetings based on these priorities and concerns in tidal and nontidal monitoring.

The Citizen-Based and Nontraditional monitoring group (aka Chesapeake Monitoring Consortium) is currently forming a [rubric](#) for classification of nontraditional data providers within the [3 Tier Framework](#). This rubric will also help prioritize groups’ data based on the Chesapeake Bay Program’s needs. Input from the Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup is currently being incorporated regarding criteria for prioritization, as well as identifying any monitoring gaps that these groups might be able to fill.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

May’s Climate Resiliency In-Person meeting focused on the key recommendations that came from the [March 7 and 8th, 2016 STAC workshop](#). Presentations and discussion focused on the selection of 2050 sea level rise estimates and the best approach to simulating effects of SLR on tidal wetlands in the modeling effort supporting the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment. Progress was made with partners in selecting appropriate SLR estimates for the 2017 Midpoint assessment. The June 20th Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call will continue the discussion of modeling SLR for tidal wetlands with a focus on the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM). The Climate Resiliency workgroup has also kicked off an EPA GIT-funded project to develop a cross goal climate resiliency analysis matrix and decision-making methodology. The project is being conducted by Tetra Tech and will focus on the wetlands and protected lands outcomes in the Bay Agreement.

STATUS AND TRENDS WORKGROUP

During May’s Status and Trends Workgroup meeting, members provided [feedback](#) on [indicators](#) in support of the Outcomes under the Environmental Literacy Goal in the 2014 agreement. Workgroup members committed to supporting the Education Leadership Team in the development of these indicators using data from the [ELIT survey](#). The next meeting on June 14, 2016 will focus on continuing to assist GIT coordinators and outcome leads who have started developing indicators to complete that process by providing feedback on monitoring, communications, visualization, and analysis issues. In addition, the workgroup will begin to consider how and where indicators should be used to hold

ourselves accountable to the outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed 2014 Agreement. Members will review the results of a sorting activity conducted at a recent Coordinators/Staffers meeting done to help prioritize work in acquiring indicators.

INTEGRATED TRENDS ANALYSIS TEAM

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team held a meeting on May 11 that discussed shoreline hardening trends and impacts on water quality, living resources and associated habitats, as well as a discussion of linking research of the shoreline group with ITAT efforts. Presentations included:

- **Land use and shoreline hardening effects on SAV Abundance**- Don Weller, Chris Patrick, Lee Karrh
- **Relating *Phragmites* invasion to characteristics of shorelines and watersheds**- Dennis Whigham and Melissa McCormick
- **Effects of land use and shoreline modification on nearshore fish and crab assemblages**- Denise Breitburg and Matt Komis
- **Egg deposition of intertidal spawning fish among different shoreline types**- Tim Targett
- **Abundance and density of waterbird populations**- Diann Prosser

For more information on these presentations, contact Jeni Keisman.

DATA INTEGRITY WORKGROUP (Previously AMQAW)

The DI workgroup met on March 30th. Field audits of the CBP Nontidal WQ field collection agencies were planned for 2016. A standard checklist was developed. Two audits were completed on April 26-27 and covered sampling done by the Pennsylvania USGS Water Science Center and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Nontidal water quality monitoring field audits may be scheduled in July and August for Delaware (DNREC) and West Virginia (USGS). Training in the Nontidal network water quality sampling protocols is being planned for September 2016.

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.

The Communications Workgroup met on June 2, 2016 with representatives from the Bay Program, DoD, NOAA, EPA, UMCES, MD DNR, The Hatcher Group, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, DNREC, and USFWS in attendance. The CBP Communications Director gave an overview of the initial findings gathered by The Hatcher Group to inform the ongoing strategic communications planning process. The Communications Workgroup Coordinator led a bi-annual discussion on the partnership's editorial calendar and solicited input on upcoming reports and events. The Communications Workgroup Vice-Chair asked for feedback from the Workgroup on the challenge of communicating water quality standards attainment in a way that would be understandable with folks outside the partnership. The Communications Workgroup plans to hold an in-person retreat in lieu of its July meeting.

The CBP Communications Team, in conjunction with the National Park Service, released information on the [new Public Access sites opened in 2015](#). They've also planned a robust social media campaign in regard to the first annual Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Follow stories about 'Humans of the

Chesapeake' and highlighted events around the watershed on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and our [blog](#).

Contact: Rachel Felver, rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

June 2-3	Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
June 7	STAC Quarterly Meeting
June 9-10	LGAC Meeting