



Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting

1:00PM – 4:00PM September 19th, 2013

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/18843/>

NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday October 22nd, 2013 10AM – 1PM

Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) CBPO Annapolis, MD

Event Calendar: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/18859/>

MINUTES

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

STAR Leadership gave an introduction and update members on recent/near future STAR presentations to the STAC and Management Board. Goal Implementation Teams and STAR WGs provided updates.

Announcements:

- [Chesapeake Watershed Forum, September 27th – 29th, 2013](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System Annual Meeting October 3rd – 4th, 2013](#)
- [Coastal Estuarine Research Federation Conference, November 3rd – 7th, 2013](#)
- [Maryland Water Monitoring Council Conference, December 5th, 2013](#)
- [National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference, April 28th – May 2nd, 2014](#)

American Shad Indicator Update – Jim Cummins, Eric Brittle, and Nita Sylvester

[Attachment A](#)

Nita Sylvester updated STAR on the progress of the American Shad Indicator Action Team and request feedback related to the Action Team's plans for finalizing the revised American Shad Abundance Indicator.

Discussion and Questions

- Additional information can be found on the [American Shad Indicator Action Team](#)'s webpage.
- The American Shad Abundance dynamic map was demoed during the meeting.
- STAR is supportive of the revised indicator stating that there have been great improvements with the ability to improve even more in the future.

Communications Discussion – Nita Sylvester/All

[Attachment B](#)

[Attachment C](#)

Nita Sylvester presented the Bay Barometer timeline and provided indicator updates including information about the new water quality standards indicator. STAR members discussed communication ideas including upcoming reports, studies, and videos to recommend to the Communications Workgroup.

Discussion and Questions

Bay Barometer and Indicator Updates:

- STAR still has concerns about the timing of the Bay Barometer. If possible, the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership needs to push harder to get this report out sooner. Report trends and stories versus “good year/bad year”.
- Slide 14 – 19: For clarity, there should be a second chart that includes all related indicators (instead of just a link to the other pages at the bottom of the webpage).
- For the analysis and methods file, the questions could be reorganized for clarity. Suggested a FAQ, where the questions are listed and the user can click on the question for the answer.
- Although some indicators are up for removal the Chesapeake Bay Program will still have information about the status of the restoration by other means and will link to more information from partners.

Communications Updates:

- CEAP Report
 - Release: November 2013
- Lessons Learned Report
 - Release: October 2013
 - Contact: Liza Hernandez
- Mattawomen Creek Study
 - Release: September 2013
 - Contact: Scott Phillips (USGS)
- STAC Oyster Report
 - Release: Week of September 23rd
- Winter Waterfowl Survey
 - Contact: Jennifer Greiner
- Maryland Dissolved Oxygen Report
 - Release: Late October
- Forest Buffers Report
 - Contact: Forestry WG

Monitoring Budget Update and Next Steps – Mark Bennett and Peter Tango

[Attachment D](#)

Bill Dennison reviewed the need for an institutional monitoring program to produce high quality, timely, accessible data with long term continuity. Peter Tango gave an overview of the three phase approach; Phase I – (Completed) distribute funds to the monitoring networks with a shortfall of funding due to changed in funding priorities and the Government Sequestration, Phase II – (14 month process) Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks, and Phase III – Decision making and implementation.

Phase I Outcomes:

- Identified financial and operational thresholds of the CBP Monitoring Network
- Jurisdictions and EPA Bay Program contributed stop gap funding for FY13

Phase II BASIN:

- 1) Evaluate alternative business models
- 2) Evaluate customer expectations of Bay Program monitoring data
- 3) Optimizing monitoring strategies to support CBP Priorities
- 4) Develop options with the Tidal and Nontidal Networks
- 5) Partnership decision making and implementation of findings

Phase III: STAC led monitoring Assessment

Discussion and Questions

- Peter Tango will present Phase II BASIN to the Nontidal Water Quality Workgroup and the Tidal and Water Quality Analysis Workgroup before bringing to the Management Board.
- **ACTION:** Send Phase II briefing paper to inform the WQ GIT before the management board presentation. (P. Tango, L. Rubin)
- **ACTION:** Speak with Elgin Perry about optimization analysis being asked of him and invite him to speak at a STAR meeting to give input during the international monitoring programs case study panel discussions.
- **ACTION:** The schedule of Phase II will interfere with the Tidal monitoring schedule for FY15.

PARTICIPANTS

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