Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting
10AM – 1PM September 27th, 2012

Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)
Annapolis, MD
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Annapolis, MD

Conference Line 1-866-299-3188 code 4102675731
Adobe Connect https://epa.connectsolutions.com/star2/
Event webpage http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/18390/

Agenda

10:00 AM **Welcome Introduction and Updates – Bill Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)**

STAR Leadership will give an introduction and request updates from the Goal Implementation Teams.

10:15 AM **Where we are – Updating Indicators and Indicator Framework – Nita Sylvester**

Progress addressing MB requests to STAR/GITs from the April 2012 MB meeting related to indicators and the indicators framework. Discuss options/recommendations.

10:30 AM **CBP Accountability and Communication to the Public – Nita Sylvester**

Status of where STAR/GITs/CWG are in implementing the 2012 plan for "How CBP Will Be Accountable and Communicate Assessment Information to the Public in 2012". Request STAR input regarding a plan to be developed for 2013 related to two how CBP will be accountable and communicate assessment information to the public in 2013 and how CBP will communicate information about the Bay that is not related to current GIT goals but of high public interest. Based on the input provided by the STAR the goal is to elevate to the MB at their Oct 10th conference call, with an ultimate goal of developing a plan for 2013 and presenting to the MB for their approval in November or December.

11:00 AM **Using a New USGS Groundwater-Regression Model to Forecast Nitrogen Loading from the Delmarva Peninsula – Ward Sanford (USGS)**

A Groundwater flow model has been constructed of the shallow flow system of the Delmarva Peninsula. Groundwater travel times from the model are used in conjunction with a nitrate-regression model in order to forecast nitrogen loading to the Chesapeake Bay from the Delmarva Peninsula. The model is used to quantify the effect of the lag time between changes in management practices at the land surface and responses in nitrogen loading to the bay via streams.

11:45 AM **Break for seminar and lunch set up**

12:00 PM **Seminar and discussion (Lunch provided) – Northern Australia and Chesapeake Bay: Worlds apart, similar challenges? – Professor Michael Douglas (Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Research Hub Charles Darwin University, Australia)**

Australia's wet-dry tropics cover an area about the size of California and Texas but are occupied by a population about the size of Hartford County. The region contains the world's largest area of good condition tropical savanna and the 55 river systems that flow through the region account for about half of Australia's total river flows. All but two of these rivers flow freely to the sea, unimpeded by dams. These rich and productive river systems are the lifeblood of the region, providing immense social, cultural and economic benefits. They are internationally recognized for their conservation values and most of the region's industries—grazing, mining, fishing and tourism–rely on clean water and healthy river systems. However, these river systems are under threat from increasing water resource development, land use intensification and sea-level rise. The Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Research Hub (TRaCK) was formed to improve the scientific knowledge to help managers respond to these threats. TRaCK is a consortium of more than 80 researchers from the ecological, economic and social sciences and over the past 5 years TRaCK's research has greatly increased our understanding of Australia's tropical rivers and the ecosystem processes that underpin them. TRaCK has forged new partnerships with government policy makers, Aboriginal land owners and natural resource management groups. This presentation will describe how TRaCK's research findings are helping managers to examine the tradeoffs among different and often competing values in catchment management and planning.

Michael Douglas is the Director of TRaCK and is based at Charles Darwin Univeristy in Darwin, Australia. He is currently on sabbatical at the University of Maryland hosted by the IAN until January 2013. He is supported by a Fulbright fellowship to collaborate with groups at UMD and Oregon State University while he develops a plan for the next phase of the TRaCK research program.

1:00 PM **Adjourn**

1:00 PM **STAR planning session (STAR Leadership, Staffer)**