

Status and Trends Workgroup Agenda

February 14, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 PM

CBPO 305

Conference Line: 866-299-3188, access code 410-267-5731

Adobe Connect: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/stwg/>

Website: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/24683>

1:00-1:05 pm Opening (Laura Free, 5 minutes)

- Welcome and introductions
- No Action Items to report, as December and January meetings were cancelled

1:05-1:20 pm Update: State of the Chesapeake at chesapeakebay.net (Catherine Krikstan, 15 minutes)

Description: Catherine will share an update on the process for releasing the new State of the Chesapeake website, which resulted in a shifting of current content on Chesapeakebay.net. Catherine will discuss how this change has affected indicators currently not on Chesapeake Progress.

This discussion flowed into discussion on the next agenda item; see full discussion that includes both agenda topics below.

1:20-2:00 pm Update: Transitioning Historic Indicators from chesapeakebay.net Indicator Pages (Laura Free, 40 minutes)

Description: The [workplan](#) calls for the workgroup to align existing CBP indicators to the Indicators Framework. With this goal in mind, and with the work being done to transform Chesapeakebay.net, there are two indicators that are not associated with an Agreement outcome on ChesapeakeProgress and had not been absorbed into planned content for the new State of the Chesapeake site. Laura will update the workgroup on discussions she has shared with data providers and users on these two indicators. These discussions have resulted in the tentative decisions to (1) discontinue calculation of the [dissolved oxygen volume assessment](#) and (2) incorporate of [benthic information](#) (available via Versar) into the [Life at the Bottom](#) page on chesapeakebay.net and discontinue the separate Bottom Habitat indicator page. Laura hopes to hear from members of the workgroup and interested parties on any concerns to these approaches, particularly from partners who currently use these data sets or plan to do so in the future, so that the CBP can continue to provide accurate and useful information via its web products.

Catherine reviewed how the launch of ChesapeakeProgress and the evolution of ChesapeakeBay.net has changed the way the CBP communicates indicators of environmental health, restoration and stewardship.

Traditionally, indicators have been published on the Track the Progress section of the main chesapeakebay.net website. These indicators were sorted into the categories of Health, Restoration, and Factors Impacting Bay Health.

When the first tool was launched in the CBP's suite of accountability products in February of 2016-- which is meant to help oversight groups track our progress toward the goals and outcomes of the

Watershed Agreement--we included those indicators that are directly linked to Watershed Agreement outcomes. Outcomes were arranged by goal, and goals were arranged by the five themes of Abundant Life, Clean Water, Conserved Lands, Engaged Communities and Climate Change.

As the Communications Creative Team developed ChesapeakeProgress, there was also preparation to redesign the main chesapeakebay.net website. The desire to avoid duplicative content presented an opportunity to improve the way stories were told of Chesapeake Bay health and restoration.

In response to user testing, new content was developed that will replace the Track the Progress section on the main CBP website. This section is called State of the Chesapeake. However, this meant a change in how some indicators were handled. Laura (in her role as Indicators Coordinator), Stephanie (in her role as Web Content Manager) and Catherine, worked with Chesapeake Bay Program experts to determine what should be done with those 13 indicators that didn't clearly "fit" on ChesapeakeBay.net or ChesapeakeProgress.

For each indicator, it was considered whether (a) it should no longer be tracked (if, for example, it was no longer relevant to our work); (b) place it in a "parent" indicator's data file (if, for example, the level of detail it offered was useful for a niche audience); or (c) incorporate it into an existing webpage.

Here were the decisions for each orphaned indicator:

- SAV Density and SAV Abundance in Four Salinity Zones: Archive indicator, but include information in Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Abundance data file.
- Water Quality Standards Attainment component indicators of Chlorophyll *a*, Dissolved Oxygen and Water Clarity: Archive indicator, but include information in Water Quality Standards Attainment data file.
- Atlantic Menhaden Abundance and Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management: Archive indicators. Reference and link to the latest available ASMFC data and information on relevant Learn the Issues and Field Guide pages.
- Bottom Habitat: Archive indicator. Reference and link to the latest available Versar (via MDNR and VDEQ) data and information on Life at the Bottom page.
- Dissolved Oxygen: Volume Assessment: Archive indicator. Note partnership focus on tracking dissolved oxygen through surface area assessment (included in Water Quality Standards Attainment data file).
- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Yields Measured in Streams and Rivers: Include a Summary Trends Table (improving, degrading or showing no trend at X percent of sites) and Trends Map on Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring page. Link to the latest available USGS data and information.
- River Flow: Link to the latest available USGS data and information on Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring page until chart functionality is improved this year.

DISCUSSION

There was some discussion about the graphs and user research that will be used for State of the Chesapeake website.

Currently maps are under the "Resource Library" on the website. This will change into an "Our Work" section.

Kristin asked what initiated the redesign of the main CBP website and the launch of ChesapeakeProgress. Stephanie responded that, for the main CBP website, the redesign came about from an analysis of the primary users (students and teachers) of the website, and what their needs are, which included educational, basic information regarding the Chesapeake Bay. Doreen added that the purpose of ChesapeakeProgress is to specifically track progress of the CBP towards the Agreement. ChesapeakeProgress has a different audience that is more interested in the question of how the data is answering the goals/outcomes.

Laura pointed out that data will be utilized differently for Bottom Habitat and Dissolved Oxygen Volume Assessment indicators. These two indicators will still have data collected, but will not be calculated/produced here. Bruce Vogt added that some of these indicators may come back, such as the Bottom Habitat indicator, which can provide information for Fish Habitat.

Zoe added that river flow trends indicator might be helpful to have in the Climate Resiliency section, since a few workgroups have mentioned needing this information for their climate-related monitoring.

Zoe discussed the meeting that occurred to start the Climate Change Indicators project with the consulting firm, and how this information will be presented within that project might lend itself well to this website.

Peter asked about Archived information and where the information of these orphaned indicators shall be stored. Catherine responded that some indicators will still be housed on Progress—not on their own webpage, but within the data files of other indicators—, while others will continue to be housed on the main CBP website not through an indicator page but on another relevant page, such as Learn the Issues or Field Guide pages. Dissolved Oxygen Volume Assessment is the only archived indicator that will not be housed on bay.net or Progress because it is no longer being calculated at this time.

This new website is scheduled to be released by Spring 2017.

Will there be any Factors Influencing Indicators on Progress? Catherine said that currently, this is a different subject entirely. Right now each outcome page on ChesapeakeProgress has its own factors influencing page. Catherine discussed that there is not an answer to this question right now.

Laura confirmed consensus that this group has been made aware of the transition between the websites, and has no issues with this transition as presented. Catherine and Laura will follow up with Stephanie to ensure these changes take place.

2:00-2:45 pm Discussion: Debrief from Kickoff of Biennial Strategy Review System

(Kristin Saunders, 45 minutes)

Description: Kristin will lead a discussion and debrief regarding the kickoff meeting of the SRS. The discussion will focus on any action items for Status & Trends workgroup members and possible ways the workgroup can support this 2-year process.

Objective: Action items are recorded and the workgroup can decide whether and how it could be involved in supporting the SRS.

Kristen reviewed the SRS meeting. This meeting's main topics included discussions about indicators, progress, finance, policy, and recent developments in the scientific arena. One overarching focus included being able to tell the story with the data and information to communicate our work.

Kristen then discussed how the Status and Trends workgroup might be able to help the GITs through this SRS Biennial Review process, particularly in terms of clarification of how indicators fit together. This included how indicators are "packaged" together, as well as including the needed indicators, such as factors-influencing indicators. Some GITs may need guidance to really hone what these indicators are.

There was discussion on the reports for the Management Board SRS groupings that GITs will provide. Using the presentation by Laura and Catherine from the SRS Kickoff meeting as a guide, who will be providing these reports, and how will they be done? There is a place for this group to help determine this question.

Kristen discussed the benefit of the CBP to work with jurisdictions on outreach and engagement. Local government and citizen cohorts need to understand the urgency of what they do and what they can do.

Could Status and Trends help to link the social science dialogue? The Behavioral Index is coming out, and it would be interesting to investigate how to expand this work to other outcomes in the Agreement.

One other possible role of the Status and Trends workgroup could be to help strengthen the ties between STAC and STAR. Could this group look at more of a systems approach to achieving this goals and outcomes? More understanding is needed to grasp Factors Influencing indicators, as well as connecting those factors to the current work that's happening.

In supporting the SRS process, Status and Trends need to remain a part of that planning process for the quarterly meetings. This may require some additional people from the workgroup to participate.

Finally, there also needs to be a stronger push for the messaging (ie Bay Barometer) to the Partnership.

DISCUSSION

There was discussion on STAC's presentation about emerging issues at the SRS Kickoff meeting. This research was preliminary, but Doreen added that it might be helpful for this group to help determine the process for solidifying these emerging issues into factors that need to be taken into account for future work. Factors influencing indicators were a large piece of this discussion. The first step to tackling the factors-influencing indicators might need to be simply taking inventory of what factors have already been identified.

Peter discussed STAR and utilizing STAR meetings for preparation for this review process. Kristen added that the small group is discussing this idea, to possibly have a template or document ready for groups to use to prepare, although it is unclear whether it will be ready by the February STAR meeting. Bruce added that this would be helpful and asked if there would be something due for STAR? The SRS small group will help to determine how STAR fits in to help these groups prepare. The next STAR meeting will be a focus on refinement of guidance.

ACTION- Laura recapped that for the Status and Trends workgroup, we need to involve STAC in the discussion of factors that involve outcomes, as well as coordinating with coordinators, staffers, and STAR

for the quarterly meetings. The group agreed that factors influencing would be an important topic to tackle early in the SRS process.

1:20-1:30 pm Indicators in Development: Oysters and 3 Environmental Literacy indicators

(Laura Free, 10 minutes)

Description: Laura will share the timeframe for publishing the oyster indicator and 3 environmental literacy indicators. These indicators were discussed at previous Status & Trends meetings this year.

Laura reviewed the recent progress on indicators. The Oyster Restoration, Sustainable Schools, and Diversity Indicators were published in the Bay Barometer. Two other Environmental Literacy indicators that still have some work include Environmental Literacy Planning, and Student Meaningful Watershed Experiences (MWEEs). There needs to be some clarification of the results of the survey the Environmental Literacy group gave last year for their indicators. Updated Indicators coming out within the next month include the fish passage indicator, and adding public access data (around 20 sites in 2016).

2:45-2:55pm Timeline Review (Laura Free, 10 minutes)

Description: This standing agenda item will confirm data updates completed in the last month and list data updates occurring within the next month.

See description above.

2:55-3:00 pm Report Out of Action Items (Melissa Merritt, 5 minutes)

ACTION	LEAD
Laura recapped that for the Status and Trends workgroup, we need to involve STAC in the discussion of factors that involve outcomes, as well as coordinating with coordinators, staffers, and STAR for the quarterly meetings.	Laura Free

Additional Announcements:

Zoe announced the Logic Model that includes Factors- Influencing that STAC is currently working on. This model will help answer the question of, where is there a decision point within the management structure to factor this in to goal/outcome attainment? There may be common monitoring needs that come from this model.

Lea added that the Citizen Monitoring Cooperative's Prioritization Report is out for review. This report summarizes the findings of spatial gaps and data gaps and needs, and avenues for non-traditional data to meet some of those needs. Individual states and users of the data should review their section (DE, PA, VA, DC) to make sure this information accurately reflects what was stated originally. All comments are to be provided by March 8, 2017.

Adjourn (Next meeting scheduled for April 18, 2017 1:00pm-3:00pm, CBPO Fishshack)

Participants

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Chesapeake Bay Program

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