



## Status and Trends Workgroup Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2020

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Join by Webinar

Meeting Number: 120 735 1829 Password: **STWG**

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Meeting Materials:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/status\\_and\\_trends\\_workgroup\\_november\\_2020\\_meeting](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/status_and_trends_workgroup_november_2020_meeting)

*This meeting will be recorded for internal use to assure the accuracy of meeting notes.*

### Action Items:

- ✓ Please send Katheryn Barnhart ([barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov)) any agenda items the workgroup would like to discuss at future meetings.
- ✓ Julianna Greenberg will send in Fish Passage data by November 13, 2020.
- ✓ Hilary Swartwood will try to send in Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention data by November 13, 2020.
- ✓ Need to consider if the piece from the NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program should still be utilized for tidal wetlands on Chesapeake Progress.
- ✓ Julianna Greenberg will check with Brook Trout Workgroup chairs on the update for the indicator.
- ✓ Kristin Saunders will send Greg Allen and Scott Phillips an email so they can update Katheryn on the status of the Toxic Contaminant Research indicator.
- ✓ Katheryn will reach out to Renee Thompson on updates for the Land Conservation and Healthy Watershed indicators.
- ✓ Katheryn will reach out to Jennifer Starr on an update for the Local Leadership indicator.
- ✓ Doreen Vetter and Katheryn will look through the workplan to see what is still viable for this workgroup and bring it forward at the next meeting.

### AGENDA

**1:00 Opening and Introductions - Katheryn Barnhart, Coordinator**

### **1:15 Review Workgroup Charter and Mission – Katheryn**

A re-introduction for new and returning members to the Status and Trends Workgroup. We will go over the workgroup charter, focusing on the mission of the workgroup.

Discussion:

At the next meeting we plan to go over the workplan for this workgroup which will be streamlined from the scope of work.

Katheryn welcomes everyone to send her agenda items they would like to bring forward to this workgroup.

Carin asked if there could be a presentation of the Indicators Framework. Katheryn said they have discussed doing this at a future meeting. She has also talked with Peter Tango to give an Indicators 101 presentation at the next meeting.

Rachel asked how often the workgroup would meet. Katheryn said she would like to discuss this at the end of the meeting, so that she can gather everyone's input.

### **1:30 Bay Barometer Updates – Rachel Felver, Communications Director**

A review of the Bay Barometer process, what indicators are currently on the list to be included in the 2019-2020 Bay Barometer, what is needed from outcomes with indicators and those without, as well as this year's theme.

Discussion:

Kristin asked if Rachel she could cover what the Bay Barometer is for those who are new to the Chesapeake Bay Program and how they cover outcomes that do not have an indicator. The Bay Barometer can serve as the Chesapeake Bay Program's annual report. It is a round up of all the progress the Bay Program has made towards the indicators addressed in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Rachel mentioned that for outcomes that do not have an indicator, they would like to gather a story or tip for that topic to include in the Bay Barometer.

Rachel had questions on the status for the following indicator updates in the 2019 – 20 Bay Barometer:

- Fish Passage: Julianna stated they are actively updating the data files and will make sure to provide them to Katheryn by November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Wetlands: Megan Ossmann said they currently working on updates. The workgroup has had issues with collecting data, and they are currently going through the Strategy Review System (SRS) to address with the Management Board about these challenges. The workgroup is also taking another look at the data available to get a better understanding of how urban and tidal wetland data is counted and not just agricultural wetlands. They will probably will not have this available by the November 13<sup>th</sup> deadline.

- Megan Ossmann also mentioned that on the agenda it states the outcome is wetlands restored on agricultural lands, but that is more of an informal indicator. The outcome actually is wetland restoration throughout the entire watershed. Wetland enhancement is also part of the outcome. She is not sure if it has an indicator, but they do have a restoration number tied to that topic of the outcome.
- Carin Bisland mentioned there are three parts to the progress of wetlands, but they are separated out into different outcomes. The Enhancement update will not be ready by the November 13<sup>th</sup> deadline
- Kristin Saunders thought a lot of members had issues with the workgroup because of tracking the wetlands so there was going to be some effort of the CBP to look at ways to count the wetlands and not put the ownership on the workgroup. Kristin was mentioning this because she does not want to lose the wetland story even if there is not an updated indicator. Carin Bisland stated a group has met recently to discuss this topic. She thinks that the workgroup should be involved but the entire load should not be on them so hopefully they can use tools such as CAST to help. They need to get the states involved to get the data they need.
- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention: Hilary Swartwood has been working on synthesizing the data. She will try to get it in by November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Breck Sullivan commented the Climate Monitoring and Assessment indicators may need to be handled differently than other outcome indicators because to track climate change there needs to be multiple years of data. As a result, change may not be seen on an annual basis. Rachel will be reaching to the Climate Resiliency Workgroup leaders to get more information on how to address the Climate Monitoring and Assessment Indicators. These indicators will be updated after the November 13, 2020 deadline.

Julie Reichert-Nguyen asked how often the Bay Barometer is released. Rachel stated it is released once a year.

### **1:50 Indicator Status Updates and Round Robin – Katheryn and Outcome reps**

Summary of indicators status and upcoming updates as our team currently understands them. Round Robin with Outcome representatives for feedback and updates on other indicator development work. (Table of indicator status on following pages for review)

Katheryn stated she met with Chris Guy and Megan Ossmann to discuss the wetland indicator and originally Katheryn was setting apart agricultural and tidal wetlands. She now understands how it would be helpful to have one indicator for all wetland restoration. Carin does not know if they can get great data for tidal wetlands due to climate change, and this indicator may be something that the Climate Resiliency Workgroup would want to track. Julie mentioned they have a GIT Funding project to track marsh migration so hopefully by 2022 they will have information on how to track it and can build an indicator.

Doreen Vetter said now on Chesapeake Progress the wetland indicators provides a piece from the NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program. She asked if it is still a source of information to utilize for the tidal wetlands. Julie Reichert-Nguyen stated it may not be tracked any more that way because they are focused more on using the NOAA Sea Level Rise tool that incorporates marsh migration, but she will need to look into it to see if it is still being updated.

Megan gave updates for the Black Duck indicator. The original outcome was a population based goal of 100,000 black ducks over winter population in the watershed, but a few years ago the Fish and Wildlife Service stopped their annual winter survey so the workgroup could not get the data anymore. At the last SRS cycle, they changed the outcome to be habitat based. Now the goal is to have enough habitat available to support 150,000 black ducks over the winter in the watershed. They have been working with partners to develop a black duck decision support tool to know how much habitat was available in 2014, the baseline because it is when the Watershed Agreement was signed. They also figured out how much habitat they need for their restoration goal which is around 150,000 acres of restored wetland habitats. They don't know how much progress they have made over the years for those restored wetlands because there is some data challenges. Black duck is also going to the SRS meeting in November to discuss with the MB the challenges they are having with data collection. Hopefully over the next year they can get the data they need to develop the indicator.

Julianna Greenberg said they are continuing to work on their indicator for stream health of the Chessi BIBI. They have completed a draft of the baseline and working to develop the first incidence of progress made from that baseline. The workgroup is also working to develop additional metrics that may become different indicators in the future because they do not think Chessi BIBI is enough to get across stream health. Carin Bisland asked why the Chessi BIBI is not enough. Julianna said it says something about stream health, but a lot of the states are only able to survey the streams on a 5-year basis so it not capturing all the changes. Plus, it normally a point sample so it is not enough data. Doreen Vetter said the baseline is 2007 – 2011 for the Chessi BIBI so she asked Julianna if they are trying to do an update from that baseline. Julianna said they are not trying to change Chessi BIBI, but at least for their internal use, they would like more metrics. Julianna said they are doing updates on a three-year basis because they are not able to get the full sampling to do every year. Peter Tango said for the Water Quality Standards Attainment indicator they are able to get data out every year based on rolling out an estimate for each year. He suggested this method for this indicator due to the three-year update timeline. Julianna stated they are talking with Renee on what scales would be useful because they currently update it on a bay-wide scale but that is not what is needed from all stakeholders in the watershed.

Julianna gave an update for the Brook Trout indicator. Katheryn Barnhart said she is expecting updates in December 2020. Julianna said she doesn't know if it is on track because she hasn't seen any new data, but she will follow up with workgroup chairs.

Julianna gave an update for the Fish Habitat indicator. They are still working on the Fish Habitat Assessment, and this information will be crucial for the indicator. Justin Shapiro is the lead staffer for this indicator.

Katheryn Barnhart stated for the tree canopy indicator they have some data available now, and they will have more ariel data available in June 2021. As a result, they will update the indicator with what is available at the end of the year and update it again in June 2021. Sally Claggett agreed with what Katheryn stated. Also, for Forest Buffers which they have been doing on a five-year basis, they can update it all once they get the new land use and land cover data.

Kristin Saunders will send Greg Allen and Scott Phillips an email so they can update Katheryn on the status of the Toxic Contaminant Research indicator.

On the update for the climate indicators, Julie Reichert-Nguyen said she would like to have a discussion on how to report these indicators and the management strategy for updating them because these indicators are looking at long-term change. Therefore, the data needs to look at 30-year blocks so there will probably not be much change on an annual basis. The workgroup is looking to develop Climate Adaptation and resiliency indicators and build this upon the work and interest of other workgroups. Julie also mentioned that the workgroup is going through the SRS process, and they are going to talk with the Management Board on the utility of the indicators. Breck Sullivan commented that the Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT) is interested in showcasing their annual tidal trends results to hopefully get it more integrated in the indicator efforts and the Bay Barometer. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup is interested in utilizing their trends on water temperature to build a Bay Water Temperature indicator. Katheryn noted this is data they are considering as a pilot indicator that they can look at how it affects multiple indicators they currently measure.

Peter Tango commented ideas for climate adaption: temperature modulation, adapting to increased precipitation, and adjusting to sea level rise. Adaptation indicators should then be directed at shading and reflectance to affect local and regional temperatures, modifying infiltration of so much impervious surface for precipitation/water cycle management, and marsh and community migration as water rises and continues to invade. It seems like a solid small set of metrics that can be effectively tracked to create a sense of adaptation progress. Possibly the addition of solar arrays, what is the carbon balance there for production of the materials and build out against the CO2 reduction from energy use in the solar arrays. Those would be items he would think fits nicely into the future adaptation metrics under key climate change themes.

Julie commented to Peter that those themes are what the workgroup have been narrowing their focus on. Solar is a new one. They haven't been looking at that item.

Breck commented that states are focused on CO2 reduction and mitigation efforts, but it is a little difficult for the Climate Resiliency Workgroup to get involved in those efforts since the outcome is on adaptation and not mitigation. They know mitigation is really important, but it is hard when the workplan is based on the outcomes. They are trying to get mitigation across through blue carbon with wetland restoration.

## **2:20 Next steps and Actions**

We will also discuss at what frequency this group may need to meet in order to accommodate needs.

Katheryn suggested scheduling the second meeting two months out from today.

Kristin Saunders was a part of the workgroup when the last coordinator was present at the CBP. She started the meetings were monthly, but participants didn't know what their role was for the workgroup. She suggested laying out the scope of work that is most important to get done and schedule meetings around it. Doreen agrees with letting the workload decide the schedule. She noted she looked at the previous workplan of the workgroup, and it did not fit showing it at this meeting because some of the information was old. She suggests having the meeting more frequently at the beginning since the workgroup is just starting again.

Carin said the scope of the workgroup should not be to help develop individual indicators but help collaborate indicators to show not only progress but also fill in the indicator framework. She suggested to develop a new workplan they may want to meet more frequently.

Katheryn stated the next meeting will be in either December or January.

Doreen asked if participants would like herself and Katheryn to look through the workplan to see what is still viable for this workgroup and bringing it up at the next meeting. Participants liked this idea.

## **Adjourn**

**Participants:** Megan Ossmann, Annabelle Harvey, Angie Wei, Katheryn Barnhart, Carin Bisland, Doreen Vetter, Julie Reichert-Nguyen, Garrett Stewart, Julianna Greenberg, Kaitlyn May, Kristin Saunders, Lee McDonnell, Lucinda Powers, Peter Tango, Rachel Felver, Hilary Swartwood, Emily Trentacoste, Sally Claggett, Qian Zhang