



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
April 12, 2018**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

April 17	Chesapeake Conservation Steering Committee meeting (Baltimore)
April 24	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting (Annapolis)
April 25-26	STAC Fish Habitat workshop (Richmond)
May 3-4	Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting (Washington, DC)
May 10	Management Board meeting (Annapolis)
May 22-23	Choose Clean Water Coalition meeting (Lancaster, Pa.)
May 23-24	Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting (Lancaster, Pa.)
May 23-24	STAC Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions workshop (Frederick, Md.)
May 24	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting (Annapolis)
June 1	Principals' Staff Committee meeting
June 7-8	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting

Updates

Phase III WIP Expectations Release Planned for Mid-April

EPA plans to issue an expectations document for the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs to maintain accountability in the work under the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL), encourage continued adaptive management to the new information generated during and after the Bay TMDL 2017 midpoint assessment, and lay the groundwork for implementation of the next generation of innovative practices. The document is expected to be issued the week of April 16.

Contact: Rich Batiuk, (410) 267-57731, batuik.rich@epa.gov

Senator Ben Cardin Holds Roundtable Discussion on Bay Restoration

On Thursday, April 5, Senator Ben Cardin (Md.) held a roundtable discussion in Grasonville, Md. About 25 people from various federal, state, NGO, University and industry groups attended the meeting. Senator Cardin discussed the need for a strong budget for Chesapeake Bay restoration and protection across all participating federal agencies. He also spoke about language in the FY2018 omnibus appropriations bill that highlights the "commitment made by [EPA] to locate the [Chesapeake Bay Program] office in, or immediately adjacent to, Annapolis, in compliance with the signed agreements and to also ensure that the future office space will continue to accommodate all of the current Chesapeake Bay Program Office participants." Senator Cardin publicly stated his intention to keep together the CBP agencies that are currently co-located in Eastport and told the group that EPA Administrator Pruitt assured him that EPA was going to open a process for finding space in Annapolis and that the current location would be considered in the process. The roundtable discussions also included oyster restoration and the need for a common agenda that includes restoration, aquaculture and commercial harvest.

Contact: Carin Bisland, (410) 267-5734, Bisland.carin@epa.gov

Small Watersheds Grants Program Evaluation

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently initiated an independent third-party evaluation of the Small Watershed Grants Program (SWG), whose focus is to advance community-based conservation efforts across the watershed in support of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. NFWF invited GIT Chairs and jurisdictions' MB leads to serve on a SWG Evaluation Advisory Committee to help guide the evaluation and ensure the questions, investigative approach, and evaluation outcomes and recommendations provide maximum value to the CBP partnership. Two initial gatherings of this group helped frame the draft evaluation questions for the project. NFWF selected a third-party partner to execute the evaluation and has conducted an initial kick off with EPA staff and the evaluation team.

NFWF is now seeking to reengage the SWG Evaluation Advisory Committee at an initial Milestone Meeting in early May to further refine the specific methods and approaches for the evaluation. The next meeting will provide an opportunity to influence the key questions and methodological approaches. It is NFWF's and EPA's intention that the outcomes and recommendations from the evaluation will frame not only NFWF's ongoing administration of the SWG program, but also complementary efforts of GITs and jurisdictions to advance community-based approaches to WIP and Watershed Agreement implementation. NFWF will send a scheduling email to solicit availability of Advisory Committee members in the next few days and asks that recipients respond quickly with availability to participate.

Contact: Jake Reilly, NFWF, (202) 595-2610 or jake.reilly@nfwf.org.

Potomac River Earns "B" on Potomac Conservancy Report Card

The health of the Potomac River continues to improve, as the Potomac Conservancy gave the waterway a grade of "B" in its latest report card, up from a "B-" in 2016 and a "D" less than a decade ago. Named the most endangered river in America in 2012, the Potomac River has seen a comeback due in part to declining pollution, returning wildlife and protected land. Pollutants such as nutrients and sediment continue to decline, while native wildlife like shad and bald eagles are returning. At the same time, more forest and farmland is being protected in the river's headwaters.

Improvements in wastewater treatment plants, reductions in non-point source pollution [runoff and sediment], and other upgrades are being credited with the improvements including the resurgence in bass and many other species in the Potomac. However, progress is fragile and problems continue to plague the Potomac. Polluted stormwater runoff continues to increase and is the fastest growing source of pollution in the river. Invasive species like blue and flathead catfish are invading local waters and pose a threat to native fish. And tree plantings have declined, slowing the recovery of the river.

For more information: <http://potomacreportcard.org/>

GMU Potomac Science Center Dedication

On Thursday, April 12, George Mason University will hold a dedication ceremony and tour of its new Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, Virginia. Virginia Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax, Congressman Gerry Connelly (Va.) and GMU's President Ángel Cabrera will provide remarks. The new Science Center, is a 50,000 square foot environmental research and education complex, located at the Belmont Bay development near the mouth of the Occoquan River. The facility is the new home to the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC), which will occupy much of the space in the new waterfront building. The facility will provide wet labs for teaching and research; lecture rooms; offices

for faculty, graduate students, and other researchers; a spatial analysis laboratory; and a library/resource center.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

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.

- Open seats: Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York. Staff is working with a Board Member from the National Association of Counties to identify a nominee for appointment in New York.
- Communication tools: At their March quarterly meeting, LGAC members learned about communication tools and products being developed by Bay Program to support local engagement in Phase III WIP development and implementation. Members expressed concern over the large number of tools being prepared for the benefit of local government. They cautioned against creating new tools without assessing what's currently available, what's being used or not, and whether existing tools are being marketed adequately.
- CBPO staffing: Members also expressed concern about there being no staff within the CBPO specifically devoted to working on local government issues. Members agreed to send a letter to CBP leadership about the need for staff dedicated to local government efforts.
- Roundtables: In an effort to assist jurisdictions with better engaging local officials, LGAC members in PA, VA and DE will host roundtables for their peers during the Spring and Summer of 2018. For more information on roundtables, please contact LGAC staff at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

The next LGAC meeting will be held on June 7-8 in Harrisonburg, VA.

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org or 717-475-8390.

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.

- Priority issues: CAC's February quarterly meeting resulted in the members self-identifying the following topics as their priorities for the 2018: Continuing to follow the BMP verification process and the Phase III WIP development; Forest Buffers; Federal Funding; Environmental Education and opportunities in the Farm Bill.
- Next meeting: CAC will hold their spring meeting in Lancaster, PA on May 23-24 and will interact with the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference on the concurrent day.

- Leadership: CAC officers are Paula Jasinski (VA), CAC Chair and Matt Ehrhart (PA), Vice Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2018 via webinar on either June 19 or 20, 2018. Date to be confirmed in April. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Workshops:

Results of the FY18 Request for Proposals (RFPs)

At their March meeting, STAC agreed to support the following 6* workshops in FY18:

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0
- 2) Assessing the Environment in Outcome Units (AEIOU): Using Eutrophying Units for Management
- 3) Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings
- 4) Driving Factors Indicators for the Chesapeake Bay Program
- 5) Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed: State of the Knowledge, Data Gaps, and Relationship to Management Goals
- 6) Establishment of Multifunctional Riparian Barriers: How do we accelerate the path to 95,000+ acres with the greatest economic, social, and environmental impact?*

**Funding subject to follow-up vote by STAC's Executive Board*

STAC is planning for two workshops this spring. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision – **April 25-26, 2018**
- Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triplet' Connection – **May 23-24, 2018**

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following eight reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond

- 3) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 5) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 6) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 7) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 8) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup

The following indicators were updated since the March Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Public Access	Between 2010 and 2017, 153 boat ramps, fishing piers and other public access sites were opened on and around the Chesapeake Bay – 51% achievement of the goal to add 300 new sites by 2025.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/public-access
Environmental Literacy Planning	In 2017, 23% of the 127 local education agencies that responded to a Chesapeake Bay Program survey self-identified as “well-prepared” to put a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy in place (19% in 2015).	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/environmental-literacy-planning
SAV (2016 data were finalized)	In 2016, an estimated 99,619 acres of underwater grasses were observed in the Chesapeake Bay: 9,619 acres greater than the 2017 restoration target and 54 percent of the partnership's 185,000-acre goal.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sav

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

- SAV (preliminary data for 2017)
- Fish Passage
- Reducing Pollution Indicator (May/June 2018)

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

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

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 GIT is working to update management strategies so they are consistent with the 2018-19 workplans, the blue crab Winter Dredge Survey data are being analyzed this month, and the STAC Fish Habitat workshop will be held April 25-26 in Richmond. The Sustainable Fisheries GIT is also in the process of planning a joint meeting in June with the Habitat GIT to focus on some collaboration opportunities and cross goal team projects.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

The Habitat and Sustainable Fisheries GITs plan to hold a joint meeting this June. Themes will include synergy around focal areas for bay restoration (oysters, fish habitat, SAV, etc.), the groups' next steps following the Fish Habitat STAC Workshop and SAV Finance Dialogue recommendations, and the development of a potential joint GIT funding proposal. Location and date will be shared once finalized.

Contact: Paige Hobough, hobough.paige@epa.gov

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 a conference call on March 12. A subset of topics discussed included:

- The WQGIT reviewed preliminary communication products to assist jurisdictions in local watershed planning and Phase III WIP development.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the latest results from the jurisdictions' 2017 progress data.
- The WQGIT discussed data needs from STAR for 2018. STAR has requested that all 2017 data needs be updated and 2018 data needs be submitted in early April.
- The WQGIT continued preparation for the SRS presentation to the Management Board in May 2018, including review of a detailed timeline for SRS tasks to prepare for the May 10 Management Board presentation, review of management strategies and workplans, identification of future management strategy and workplan priorities, and coordination with other outcomes under the WQGIT (Toxic Contaminants and Forestry outcomes).

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on April 9 and April 23. A subset of planned topics includes:

- The WQGIT will be briefed on the latest results from the jurisdictions' 2017 progress data.
- The WQGIT will continue to discuss data needs for STAR support, and finalize requests for up to three priority needs for STAR support in 2018. STAR has requested that all 2017 data needs be updated and 2018 data needs be submitted in early April.
- The WQGIT will continue preparation for the SRS presentation to the Management Board in May 2018, including review of a detailed timeline for SRS tasks to prepare for the May 10

Management Board presentation, review of management strategies and workplans, identification of future management strategy and workplan priorities, and coordination with other outcomes under the WQGIT (Toxic Contaminants and Forestry outcomes).

- The WQGIT will provide feedback on the draft CBP response to the STAC report, "Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation."
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Watershed Resources Registry (WRR) and applications for developers, and planners. The WRR is an interactive online mapping tool that prioritizes areas for preservation and restoration of wetlands, riparian zones, terrestrial areas, and stormwater management control across an entire state.
- The WQGIT will review the recommendations from the Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panel Establishment Group for approval to include agricultural stormwater practices in CAST and NEIEN.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the urban Stormwater Workgroup's technical memo, "The Phase 3 WIP Challenge: The extent of unregulated urban land and small MS4s in the Chesapeake Bay watershed makes urban load reduction problematic."
- The WQGIT will be briefed on new land conservation scenarios available in CAST.

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 HWGIT is working to finalize the 2018-2019 Logic Table / Work plan. The SRS Planning Team has looked at the Healthy Watersheds Work Plan and can report that our updated documents (1) reflect decisions made and direction given at the Quarterly Progress Meeting and (2) follow the logic of the Decision Framework. It will be uploaded to the HW Goal Team webpage in early April. The team will continue to work and improve the workplan as additional input is received from Virginia and West Virginia. Pursuant to the May 2017 MB SRS review, Pennsylvania is no longer contributing the the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT work plan. The team is also working with Tetra Tech to identify and collect geospatial data that can be used to customize watershed health and watershed vulnerability indicators as part of the 2016 GIT Funding project, [Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay](#). Members of the project team will be participating in the upcoming STAC workshop on Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the CBW to foster cross GIT collaboration and cooperation.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@chesapeakebay.net

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.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov

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.

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@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.

STAR

Updating and support science needs. STAR work groups and leadership are focused on updating the science needs of the Goal Teams for 2018-19. The results will help focus science resources and identify gaps that could be addressed by collaborating with additional partners or targeting Goal Team funding. Discussions have been held with Fisheries and Habitat Teams. Discussion will be held with WQ Goal Team and Modeling WG week of April 9.

SRS support: STAR continues to provide SRS support in 2018 through pre-management board meeting reviews of presentations and their content. During April there will be SRS Preparation for these outcomes: Toxics Policy, Toxics Research, WIPS, Standards Attainment, Forest Buffers

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

Implementation plans for the suite of 21 climate change indicators are under development and were circulated to technical reviewers in mid-March.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net

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.

- Last meeting: The April Communications Workgroup meeting focused on creating a cohesive theme for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, the media plan to message the Mid-Point Assessment and understanding the designation process for Wild and Scenic Rivers. The workgroup heard about successes and lessons learned from Choose Clean Water Coalition's lobby day. They also committed to sharing social media posts and working to promote events related to Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Lastly, they heard the concerns and goals for the workgroup that Rachel Felver and Deb Klenotic will take to the April 12 meeting of the Management Board.
- Communication tools:
 - The CBP Communications team has created two new communications packets for the Phase III WIP communications effort, focused on Conowingo Dam and Planning Targets. These packets will be delivered to the Management Board by the end of April. Similar packets on best

management practices, local planning goals, climate resiliency and a general overview of the WIPs are in various levels of completion.

- The CBP Communications Office has a new video available on oyster restoration, highlighting a restored oyster reef in Harris Creek. Watch the video on our [website](#).
- Last month, the CBP Communications Office attended the Pennsylvania Environmental Educators Conference. We also presented on the Bay Program and our websites at an elementary school's first Green Night in Ellicott City, Maryland, which will likely be an annual event.

Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

March 12	WQGIT conference call
March 13-14	STAC quarterly meeting
March 21-22	Local Government Advisory Committee
March 22	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 26	Fisheries GIT Executive Committee meeting