Management Board
Program Update
June 10, 2021

CBPO Calendar

June 10	**Management Board**
June 11	BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call
June 14	Maintain Healthy Watershed GIT Meeting
June 15	2021 Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit
June 15-16	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
June 16	GIT6 Summer Meeting
June 17	Bay Oxygen Research Group June Meeting
June 18	Hypoxia Collaborative
June 21	Climate Resiliency Workgroup June Meeting
June 22-23	Sustainable Fisheries Goal Team Summer Meeting
June 24	STAR Team Meeting
June 30	Quarterly GIT Chairs and Leadership Meeting

Program Updates

EPA Administrator Pledges Bay Restoration Support at PSC Meeting
EPA Administrator Michael Regan addressed the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) on Wednesday, June 2, saying "it's a new day at EPA" and pledging the Biden Administration's support for Bay restoration. The Administrator said the Bay watershed is "essential to the region's way of life, but it also requires endless care, especially in the face of new and emerging challenges like nutrient pollution, impacts from climate change and habitat destruction." In noting the Administration's budget increase for the Bay Program, he added that EPA will work with the Program's partnership to support the 2025 pollution reduction goals and "fulfill our shared vision of protecting the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come and the people and the economies that rely on the Bay."
Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

EPA, NFWF Announce Funding for 'Innovative' Restoration Projects – On Thursday, June 3, EPA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced $9.6 million in grants to support the restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The 11 grants will leverage more than $28 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of nearly $38 million. The Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grants will support innovative approaches to reduce pollution to local rivers and streams, restore habitats, and improve rural and urban communities in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. These projects will further emphasize partnerships and collaborative approaches as central to effective local and regional ecosystem restoration efforts. The funds will help partners engage farmers and agricultural producers, homeowners, churches, businesses

and municipalities to improve the quality of life in their communities, local water quality and, ultimately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay.
Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

Martha Shimkin Named CBPO Deputy Director – Martha Shimkin of EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW), was selected as Deputy Director for the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO). Martha replaces Bill Jenkins, who has served as CBPO Acting Deputy Director since the retirement of Jim Edward in December 2020. Martha brings a diverse and varied background to the CBPO through her roles at EPA. She has had several leadership roles within the Office of Water, including serving as an acting Deputy Office Director in OWOW, acting Director for the Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division, and the Deputy Office Director for the Office of Wastewater Management. Working in the OW Immediate Office, she led preparation for the Presidential transition last Fall and served as acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for two months during the transition.
Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

Sixth Annual Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week
The sixth annual Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week takes place June 5-13, 2021. While this week has been officially designated in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, events will take place throughout the entire watershed to raise awareness about this valuable economic and environmental resource—a national treasure that directly connects over 18 million residents. This year's activities—which can be found on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Attend an Events calendar—include educational webinars, socially-distanced events and volunteer opportunities that celebrate the nation's largest estuary.

Executive Council Meeting Planned for October 1
A fall Chesapeake Executive Council meeting is being planned for October 1, 2021 at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Executive Council – consisting of the governors of the six watershed states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – establishes the policy direction for the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay.
Contact: Greg Barranco, barranco.greg@epa.gov

EPA Provides $7.5 Million for Actions in 'Most Effective Basins'
On Thursday, May 27, EPA announced that six states and the District of Columbia will share $7.25 million for actions to improve local rivers and streams in locations most beneficial to the downstream Chesapeake Bay. The funds include a second-year appropriation of $6 million for cleanup actions in the most effective basins of the Bay watershed – areas where projects to reduce runoff from farm operations will yield the greatest progress toward achieving water quality standards in the Bay. The additional $1.25 million is being designated for environmental justice areas within those most effective basins.
Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

Addendum to Grants Guidance Shared with States, D.C.
Acting Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) Director Michelle Price-Fay on Tuesday, May 25, sent to the Bay states and the District of Columbia an addendum to the CBPO Grant and Cooperative Agreement Guidance, providing details on their new Most Effective Basins funding and other updates.
Contact: Michelle Price-Fay, 215-814-3397

2021 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey
On May 20, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, released the results of the 2021 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey. The results estimate that there are 282 million blue crabs in the bay, down from 405 million in 2020. And although the juvenile crab population is at its lowest level since the survey began in 1990, the spawning age female abundance increased from 141 million in 2020 to 158 million spawning age female crabs in 2021. This year's survey estimate is above the long-term average of 126 million spawning age female crabs.
For more information: https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/blue-crab/dredge.aspx

EPA Evaluation of Draft Conowingo WIP
On May 5, EPA released its evaluation of a draft plan to compensate for more than 6 million pounds of Chesapeake Bay pollutants no longer being trapped in a reservoir behind the Conowingo Dam. EPA's evaluation of the draft Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) is available on the Bay TMDL website, www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl. The evaluation commends the drafters of the CWIP, while raising concerns over distinguishing CWIP restoration actions from others already pledged, as well as the need for a dedicated funding mechanisms and public sector financial commitments for the additional work. The evaluation also recognizes that the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has not yet decided on the target end date for implementation of the CWIP.
Contact: Tom Damm, 215-814-5560

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.

LGAC held its Quarterly Meeting June 3-4 virtually. During this meeting LGAC hosted the annual Local Government Forum. The Forum is a problem-solving-strategic planning event hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in collaboration with LGAC and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Through facilitated group discussion, participants identify issues that hinder or help advance local implementation of watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Findings and recommendations, developed during the forum, are documented and next steps are identified. This year LGAC focused on developing collaborative regional partnerships and the day was lively with local officials and subject matter experts exploring barriers, opportunities, and developing recommendations.

During the LGAC meeting on June 4th, Members had the opportunity to share thoughts and priorities with Diana Esher and appreciated her time and open channel offer of communication. In addition, LGAC discussed increasing impacts of trash from quarantine-related disposable items. Julie Lawson, CAC Chair and DC Mayor's Office of the Clean City shared DC innovative efforts.

On May 24th LGAC and STAC co-sponsoring a workshop on COVID-19 Impacts to Local Government to discuss watershed-related impacts and propose lessons learned for future planning.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

Questions about LGAC activities should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at

jstarr@allianceforthebay.org. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at lgac@allianceforthebay.org.

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.

CAC held their spring quarterly meeting on May 19-20, 2021. The goal of the meeting was to explore ways the Committee can best advise on outreach and engagement. The members also heard updates on key issues for the PSC meeting, plans for the EC meeting, and meet and greet with Region 3 Acting Administrator Diana Esher.

There are 2 PA gubernatorial vacancies, 3 MD gubernatorial vacancies and 1 DC mayoral vacancy.

The CAC officers are Julie Lawson (DC), Chair and Ann Jurczyk (VA), 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.

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey (harveya@cheapeake.org)

Visit the STAC website at www.chesapeake.org/stac

STAC June Quarterly Meeting

STAC will host its second meeting of 2021 virtually on June 15-16, 2021. Zoom information, agenda, and materials can be found on the STAC June Meeting Page.

STAC will introduce background information on the development of the Conowingo WIP and Exelon agreement to prepare for a series of more detailed presentations and discussion at the September STAC meeting. Members will also receive an overview of the STAC COVID-impact sessions, which were focused on impacts to local government, fisheries, and nutrients in the Bay. Jeremy Testa (UMCES) will present an update on the STAC-sponsored Climate Synthesis entitled Quantifying the impacts of past and future climate and eutrophication on the dynamics of dissolved oxygen in the shallow waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

The CBP Local Action Cohort will present their science needs and receive feedback from STAC members. STAC Staff will outline updates to the STAC membership recruitment process, which aims to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion of the membership and their activities. The second day of the meeting will open with EPA, Acting Regional Director of Region 3, Diana Esher introducing herself and answering STAC's questions. The rest of the meeting will then be dedicated to continuing the STAC Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR).

Upcoming STAC 2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates

June 15-16, 2021

September 13-14, 2021

December 7-8, 2021

FY2021 STAC Workshop Approved Proposals

1. Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (State of the Science Workshop)
2. Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting (Programmatic Workshop)
3. Improving modeling and mitigation strategies for poultry ammonia emissions across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop)
4. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses (Programmatic Workshop)
5. Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll a Criteria (Programmatic)

STAC Mini-Workshop Series: COVID Impacts on Bay Restoration Efforts—One session remaining!

Monday, June 14th, 12-2pm: Nutrients

COVID-Impacts STAC Webpage

The impacts of COVID-19 have played out in many ways across the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. To better understand these impacts, STAC has brainstormed potential impacts during its meeting, then reached out to Bay Program committee and partners for what impacts they are seeing.

Based on the feedback from these discussions, STAC developed 3 “mini workshops” to more closely examine individual topics. The sessions on Local Government and Fisheries have already been held and recordings will be made available on the STAC website. The session on Nutrients is set for June 14th and a RSVP link can be found on the STAC website.

FY2020 STAC-Sponsored Workshops

STAC has held one workshop thus far in FY2020, which runs from June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021

1. Advancing Outreach Effectiveness to Improve Conservation Practice Adoption

January 26-28. 2021, Virtual

This workshop fostered interactive discussions among farmers, outreach practitioners, and experts in behavioral economics to improve outreach capacity and address farmer concerns about conservation practice adoption. Along with funding partners from the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research

(FFAR), The Nature Conservancy, and the Walton Family Foundation, this STAC virtual workshop utilized facilitation and online survey software to best understand barriers to implementation of agricultural practices and to provide guidance to overcome these barriers to reach restoration targets. The findings and recommendations from this workshop will be released in a report to the Partnership.

The following workshops are in the process of planning.

1. Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations (Received extension due to COVID. Plan to hold workshop in the fall)

2. Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens—July 13, 14, and 20

The agricultural sector is an important part of the solution for achieving long-term water quality (WQ) goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (CBW), but we still have a long way to go in BMP implementation to reduce pollutant loads to levels that will achieve established WQ standards. Current on-farm BMP adoption demonstrates the agronomic, economic, and environmental benefits of conservation practices, but the current rate of adoption is not sufficient to meet Bay pollutant reduction goals. Thoughtful distribution of limited resources through creative and flexible approaches is essential. In this workshop, ag service providers from across the public and private sector are invited to propose and discuss ideas garnered from their own experience. The expected outcome of this exercise is a set of practical recommendations to broaden and deepen farmers' efforts to reduce field-level nutrient and sediment losses.

Days 1 and 2 (July 13 and 14) will be dedicated to listening to service providers. Day 3 (July 20) will focus on developing recommendations, but service providers' participation is encouraged.

3. Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap (Received extension due to COVID. Plan to hold workshop in the fall)

STAC Reports

STAC recently released the following report:

1. Exploring Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program: This report summarizes the proceedings, findings, and recommendations of a FY2019 workshop. The workshop convened technical and management personnel to consider pathways to achieve the aforementioned goals. Acquiring CSI at no cost is an option under the NextView License agreement between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and Maxar (previously DigitalGlobe, Inc). The NextView License was developed by the NGA to accommodate United States Government (USG) agencies, contractors, partners, and other entities that require CSI to support USG interests. The basic premise of the agreement is that any federal agency that requires satellite imagery from contracted commercial sources can request and obtain said imagery at no cost to the local agency. As 2017 updates to the Water Resource Development

Act, which amends Section 117 of the Clean Water Act, called for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out an annual SAV survey in Chesapeake Bay. This makes it theoretically feasible for the EPA to now request and obtain the high-resolution CSI necessary for the annual SAV assessment.

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following six reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the STAC archived workshop homepage. STAC Staff and the Executive Board are working with leads of reports from prior to FY2018 to potentially produce fact sheets or other products that would quicken the process of getting recommendations out to the Partnership.

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
6. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)
7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)

Several workshop steering committees are in the process of drafting activity reports and other workshop outcomes that will be distributed to the Partnership over the next few months. More information on recent workshop reports can be found on the STAC past workshop webpage.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Sustainable 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.

- **Summer Biannual Meeting** - The Fish GIT is planning a two-day membership meeting to take place in late June. Details on the date and topics will be distributed soon.
- **Fish Habitat Action Team** - The FHAT recently convened to discuss progress on a variety of projects and to review the team's current Logic and Action plan. In preparation for the next round of SRS, the FHAT will reconvene for a follow-up discussion in early June.
- **Forage Action Team** - After developing and prioritizing a list of outcome indicators, the team is now actively working on three of the listed seven options. These ongoing indicators are

abundance/biomass estimates of polychaetes in the bay, a GIT-funded study exploring the impact of springtime warming on the bay's forage base, and a recently-completed habitat suitability index connecting habitat quality/quantity to abundance (specifically with a focus on juvenile spot and bay anchovy).

- **Shoreline Hardening Layers** - Thank you to the Chesapeake Bay Program GIS team for their great work developing shoreline hardening maps for Virginia and Maryland (four important coastal counties). These layers were developed in response to a GIT-funded study from VIMS establishing threshold effects of shoreline hardening on species decline. This was an important action under the Forage and Fish Habitat work plans.

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 GIT has a nomination for a Co-Chair to replace Christine Conn when she steps down from her role this month. The HGIT workgroup chairs unanimously approved, and the current GIT chairs will bring this nomination forward for approval at the June Management Board meeting.
- A new Habitat GIT staffer has been hired to fill the vacant position. Their start date will be June 21st.
- The Stream Health Workgroup is having a meeting on June 11th.
- The Wetland Workgroup is having a meeting on June 15th.
- The Stream Health WG, Fish Passage WG, and Brook Trout WG are a part of the Healthy Watersheds cohort and will be participating in the SRS check-in meeting on June 14th.
- Julie Devers has stepped down as co-chair of the Fish Passage WG. The workgroup is searching for a new co-chair to take her place.
- The Fish Passage WG put out a document called “Recommendation for Aquatic Organism Passage at Maryland Road Stream Crossing.”

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann
(ossman.megan@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.

A presentation regarding the monitoring review and approved 2021-22 STAC Workshop on advanced monitoring approaches was provided by Peter Tango USGS on Monday, May 24, 2021. Future updates regarding recommendations developed during the review process will be provided over the upcoming 7 months.

The WQGIT held a meeting on April 26, 2021. A summary of topics discussed is below.

- The WQGIT approved Cassandra Davis (NYSDEC) as the new WTWG chair.
- Mark Lambert provided an overview of the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund (SWOF).
- The WQGIT reached concurrence on the Tree Canopy Outcome Logic and Action Plan.

- Peter Claggett presented WQGIT members with information on the 2013-2017 land use change product and how it can be incorporated into CAST.
- Jeff Sweeney provided an update on the CAST 2021 Workplan.

The WQGIT held its most recent conference call on May 24, 2021 to discuss the following issues:

- Updates to CBP TMDL Models
- Updated Land Use and Land Cover Data
- Climate Narrative Document
- EPA Expectations for Addressing 2025 Climate Loads
- Monitoring / Assessment Package for WQGIT

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 next HWGIT meeting is planned for Monday, June 14. We are still requesting nominations for a new Chair to join the leadership team (please send to njackson@chesapeakebay.net and rthompso@chesapeakebay.net). Healthy Watersheds staff are leading a synthesis element related to identifying watershed characteristics that may signify vulnerability or resiliency to stream temperature changes as part of the STAC Rising Water Temperatures workshop preparatory work, and will be presenting at the June 21 Climate Resiliency cross-workgroup meeting. In addition to participating in the process updates for GIT funding and continuing metric and analysis development for the MDHWA, coordinator will be presenting on the Land Use outcomes science needs at the June 15th STAC meeting.

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: rthompso@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.

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership / Protected Lands Workgroup

- The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform success.chesapeakeconservation.org. Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner (wisnero@chesapeake.org) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed.
- The CCP is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled "Developing Standards and Metrics to Target the Conservation of 'Green Spaces' in Diverse and Low – Income Urban Communities."

The Steering Committee of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership will meet virtually on Friday June 11th to discuss upcoming initiatives and review next steps from the 2020 annual meeting. The Steering Committee of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership also serves as the Protected Lands Workgroup.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The Stewardship Workgroup is currently seeking a chair to lead the workgroup alongside current chair Suzanne Etgen, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. Details for the voluntary position can be found on the Stewardship Workgroup webpage Please distribute this opportunity to appropriate candidates.
- The workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled "Chesapeake Bay Program Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map Development" which will determine ways to strategically integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Education Workgroup

- The Education Workgroup is preparing for the biennial Environmental Literacy Leadership Summit which provides federal, state, and regional partners with a forum for policy-level discussions and strategic planning to support efforts to ensure that students in the region graduate environmentally literate. The Summit will be held virtually on June 15th.
- The Education Workgroup continues to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- In cooperation with the Education Workgroup and NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, the Stroud Water Research Center created the CBW Public School Stream BMP Evaluation Tool. This map tool provides information to help identify and prioritize public schools within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that have the greatest need for Best Management Practice installations taking into consideration stream health, environmental literacy, and equity considerations. A Stakeholder Interview Report is currently available on the Education Workgroup webpage.
- The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.
- In partnership with the National Park Service, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Education Workgroup are working to host an inaugural Chesapeake Bay Program Youth Initiative. Brittany Hall and Monserrat Pizarro of the NPS Office are on the agenda for the June 10th Management Board meeting to ask the Management Board about their willingness to hear from Youth Ambassadors in the fall.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup is consolidating data from the jurisdictions to track public access site development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to update Chesapeake Progress.
- The Public Access Workgroup hosted its Spring meeting on May 19. There, a subset of workgroup members agreed to meet on a regular basis with OpinionWorks to give input on the FY20 GIT Funding Project (described below).
- The Public Access Workgroup is proceeding with the FY20 GIT Funded Project titled "Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Watershed" which will determine how

residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed utilize public access sites and what barriers prevent traditionally underserved populations from utilizing public access sites.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Olivia Wisner; wisnero@chesapeake.org

Diversity Workgroup
The Diversity Workgroup's GIT funded project "Cultivating and Strengthening Relationships with Underrepresented Stakeholders" is going well. Our contractor has started creating an invite list and agenda for the listening sessions. Tuana and Briana have continued to give DEIJ related presentations. They presented during the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's All Hands meeting and will give a presentation to the Fish GIT later this month. The next Diversity Workgroup Meeting will be held on June 25.

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; phillips.tuana@epa.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.

Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System
All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The Local Action cohort is the last cohort to go through the current SRS cycle (2nd cycle). The Local Action Cohort's Local Leadership and Tree Canopy outcomes' as well as the Climate Change and Resiliency Cohort's Climate Adaptation and Climate Resiliency outcomes' draft final SRS materials were posted to Chesapeake Decisions The SRS Planning Team has temporarily merged with the Biennial Meeting Planning Team and 3rd Cycle Planning Team as we approach the Biennial Meeting dates (May 12-13, 2021) and beginning of the 3rd SRS Cycle (June 2021). **Contact**: Doreen Vetter, vetter.doreen@epa.gov

Goal Team 6
The GIT 6 Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on March 17, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: Strategy Review System (SRS)-related updates, GIT Funding Program updates, Culture of Trust Analysis updates, Governance Document Action Team (GDAT) updates (specifically around the topic of DEIJ), the draft 2021 GIT 6 Workplan, and workgroup updates.
Contact: Dave Goshorn (Chair), david.goshorn@maryland.gov; Carin Bisland (Vice Chair), bisland.carin@epa.gov; or Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov

FY 21 GIT Funding Program
FY21 process/planning discussions are underway with the GIT Funding Innovation Team (GIT FIT).
Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov; and Kristin Saunders (ksaunders@umces.edu)

Budget and Finance Workgroup
The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on April 28, 2021 as a conference call. Agenda topics included budget impacts (as a result of COVID-19), CWSRF follow-up discussion updates, utilization of carbon markets for financing, restoration economy action item

updates, proposed conservation finance bills in the Maryland legislature, as well as the BFWG Charge and draft 2021 Workplan.
Contact: Bill Jenkins (Co-Chair), jenkins.bill@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov; or Michelle Guck (Coordinator), guck.michelle@epa.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on May 18, 2021 as a conference call. The "theme" for this meeting was Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ). Agenda items include an overview of DEIJ, an example of how Maryland Black Mayors connected their members with stormwater technical assistance and a discussion of how mapping can address equity issues within a local government.

Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Shannon Moore (Chair), SMoore@FrederickCountyMD.gov; or Heidi Bonnaffon (Vice Chair), hbonnaffon@mwcog.org

GIT 6 Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov (until new GIT 6 Staffer is on-boarded)

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

A brief update on progress with the PSC review was provided at the May 27, 2021 meeting. Note, a workplan update on the monitoring review process was presented by Lee McDonnell EPA to the PSC on June 2, 2021**. The PSC supported the workplan as presented.** Monthly updates to STAR on progress with the review are expected throughout the remainder of the year.**Data Integrity Workgroup (DIWG)**
A presentation regarding the monitoring review, guidance DIWG can provide the effort, and approved 2021-22 STAC Workshop on advanced monitoring approaches was presented at the April 13, 2021 meeting.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

- **The next meeting is June 18, 2021**, 10AM-12PM
- The tentative agenda for the meeting is:
    - **Discuss Homework #1: Tidal benthic monitoring program –**
        - What was lost for support of the Aquatic Life Use assessment when the Spring season monitoring was eliminated?
        - How strong of a recommendation can be made for restoring a Spring season IBI?
        - Generally speaking at this point – how are we doing with the 5 year outlook for sustaining summer IBI programming? What resources may be needed?
    - **Exploring SAV satellite-based assessment – recent workshop findings to consider in the future of bay assessments.** What considerations are needed for updating the

protocol for using SAV cover in an assessment of our water quality standards if a method change occurred in the future?
    - **Sampling design to support DO criteria assessment –** sampling design considerations to support the 4-D water quality estimator. Open discussion after a short presentation from Peter Tango
- Homework #2 = Prepare for discussions the next 4 months – Summer reading:
    - On the topic of estimating light limitation via satellite assessment Approximation of diffuse attenuation, Kd, for MODIS high-resolution bands: Remote Sensing Letters: Vol 10, No 2 (tandfonline.com)
    - For chlorophyll work consider A space-time geostatistical model for probabilistic estimation of harmful algal bloom biomass and areal extent - ScienceDirect , and
    - Dissolved oxygen 4D interpolation Fusion-Based Hypoxia Estimates: Combining Geostatistical and Mechanistic Models of Dissolved Oxygen Variability | Environmental Science & Technology (acs.org)

Integrated Monitoring Networks Workgroup

Nontidal Network Workgroup

- **The next meeting is June 16, 2021**. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:
    - **PSC Review continues –** thank you for input on status, vulnerabilities, outlining general framework for our painting the generic picture on our financial outlook.
    - **NTN operations –** How are we doing meeting sampling plans in 2021? Round robin of jurisdictions, agencies
    - **Watershed Science:**
        - **Follow-up thoughts on the WV filamentous algae problem?**
        - Other topic TBD
- Developing an inventory of partner support behind funding of each of 123 stations. The first round of information gathering is near complete.
- Due to level funding operations, an optimization exercise is being planned to consider prioritizing decisions for adjusting the network size on a 5-year time horizon.
- **Team homework:**
    - Doug Moyer has partner related site distribution of the NTN to share.
    - Dave Montali suggested we add data utility to our NTN status summary.
    - Ken Hyer presented on NRCS monitoring directions – include in our PSC review partner opportunities report section.
    - All – Provide examples of vulnerabilities to NTN table in Teams page.
    - All - Be prepared for a round robin how NTN operations are proceeding in 2021.

Bay Oxygen Research Group, BORG (4-D Water Quality Estimator Team)

- **The next meeting is June 17, 2021**. Meeting time was adjusted to **2PM-3PM this month**.
- The tentative agenda for the meeting is:
    - **Stakeholder requirements** continued– what we learned so far, other considerations?

    - **Data needs – infrastructure development** - Peter Tango. We will review existing monitoring efforts and new vertical profiler deployments for consideration on how to support data needs of the water quality estimator.
    - **Alternative interpolator methods and their considerations** – Isabella Bertani
    - **ACTION ITEM**: Are there any methods we are excluding from consideration at this point?
- Proposed project timeline is 2 years of development of the initial tool (2021-23), and 2 years of application and education (2023-25).
- Methods underpinning the tool will be considered and reviewed in upcoming meeting discussions.
- **Team Homework:** Return in June 2021 with 1) continued input on stakeholder requirements for the new tool, and 2) any method alternatives to the approaches that have been discussed are welcome.

Hypoxia Collaborative (Vertical Profiler Network Development Team)

- **No June meeting**. **The next full team meeting will be in July**. Dates and agenda TBD.
- At the May 2021 meeting the group provided suggestions and discussion on locations for 2 new vertical profiler deployments as follow-up from the post-April meeting survey.
    - Location recommendations included 1 instrument array returning to CB4.3E, a second a CB4.3W.
- Recommendations were provided on sensor distributions at 2 m intervals after 1m initial depth on the array to align data at the same depths across sample sites.
- Other profilers are being planned for deployment after 2021 by MD DNR and interest by MARACOOS.
- QA programming considerations for ConMon data collection was overviewed by Durga Ghosh USGS
- **Team Homework:** Provide examples of vulnerabilities to the network in the table on the Teams page.
- Contact Justin Shapiro CRC Staffer, Peter Tango USGS, Bruce Vogt NOAA

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup continues to develop next-generation airshed, watershed, and estuary models to support CBP partners and decision-makers in the consideration of "results of updated methods, techniques, and studies in 2025 to revisit existing estimated loads due to climate change to determine if any updates to 2035 load estimates are needed." During the April Quarterly Review, 6-7th, the Workgroup began to outline the formulation of a bacterial model to determine the human health impacts of No Discharge Zones in Virginia.

Also, Airshed Model tracer work is going forward to answer the nitrogen emission question, "For What Goes Up, Where Does It Come Down?". Recent advances in the Chesapeake Bay Airshed Model allow a much-improved estimate of the transport and fate of atmospheric emissions of oxidized nitrogen (NOx) and reduced nitrogen (NH4+). The analysis centers on the question, "For a nitrogen emission source type within a source region, what is the fraction that is deposited to the Chesapeake watershed and tidal Bay? Eight emission source types are tracked: 1) electric generating units (EGUs), 2) mobile sources, 3) off-road sources, 4) poultry manures, 5) other animal manures, 6) fertilizer, 7) marine

sources, and 8) other emission sources. The eight emission types are tracked from nine source regions. Finally, the Workgroup has begun to work cooperatively with the WQGIT and CRWG to draft a Climate Narrative.

The next quarterly meeting of the Modeling Workgroup will be held July 6 and 7.

CRWG

A presentation regarding the monitoring review and summary of what the current monitoring networks can provide to support CRWG monitoring was provided by Peter Tango and Breck Sullivan on Monday, May 17, 2021. Feedback from the group suggested considerations about additional and complementary data needs in the monitoring program including:

- Carbonate chemistry
- Air temperature – assessing management of urban heat islands

The Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

The ITAT met in April to discuss the state of trends within the Rappahannock River. This meeting led to the discovery that: 1) The Middle Rappahannock River needs further analysis; 2) the trends in SAV and nutrient dynamics require further examination; 3) Scientific results will require a translation into actionable items for on the ground implementation. As a result of this meeting, there is the potential for the development of a citizen science SAV identification group working in Virginia. Contact Jeni Keisman (jkeisman@usgs.gov) for more information.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

During the June 7, 2021 meeting, watershed agreement outcomes in immediate need of data to support their indicator reporting were highlighted.

- Wetlands, Brook trout, Black duck and Stream Health were referenced for monitoring support. While the core work on the PSC review is focused on the water quality monitoring program, a final chapter to the review documentation will identify additional monitoring program support needs across all GITs noted during the 9-month review process with the partnership.

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org and Tom Butler; butlert@chesapeake.org

June Management Board Program Update

Indicators

No indicators were updated since the May Management Board meeting.

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

- *RPI – update with 2020 data*
- *Water Quality Standards and Attainment – update with 2019 data*
- *Water Quality Loads and Flow – update with 2019 data*
- *Blue Crab Management – update with 2020 data*
- *Blue Crab Abundance – update with 2020 data*

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: Katheryn Barnhart, barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov

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.

Communications Workgroup

On June 2, the Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting where we coordinated shared messaging around Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and Get Outdoors Month. Additional shared messaging content can be found at:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41862/05_2021_may_comwg_shared_messaging.pdf

Marisa Baldine, Chesapeake Research Consortium, provided an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week social media toolkit. Caroline Donovan, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies, provided an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Report Card draft.
Meeting materials can be found here:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/communications_workgroup_june_meeting1

Communications Office:

On June 2, the Communications Office published a press release for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

- Access the press release here: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/celebrate_all_of_the_recreational_opportunities_the_chesapeake_bay_watershe

On June 8, the Communications Office hosted a webinar open to the public discussing opportunities for recreation in the Bay watershed as part of the monthly webinar series.

- All of the monthly webinars can be accessed on the Chesapeake Bay Program's YouTube page in the Monthly Webinar Series playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTXyiO2P_wP2vO4R2v

Rachel Felver, Communications Director and Caitlyn Johnstone, Outreach and Communications Specialist presented at the May 19-20 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The presentation included an overview of the Communications Office role with CBP Goal Implementation Teams and Advisory Committees as well as an overview of the Fish Consumption Advisory project development and implementation.

- The presentation can be accessed here: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41551/cbp_communications_and_outreach.pptx

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is taking place from June 5-13. The theme for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week 2021 is recreation.

- Access the Bay Awareness Week page: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/chesapeake_bay_awareness_week
- Access the press release: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/celebrate_all_of_the_recreational_opportunities_the_chesapeake_bay_watershe
- Read the Chesapeake Bay Program blog post: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/10_things_to_do_during_chesapeake_bay_awareness_week
- Members of the Communications Workgroup created a social media toolkit that includes sample posts, social media graphics, and relevant content for partners to share throughout the event.
    - Access the toolkit here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mW5kOkNTd4Qxfo23EP9vgfxASQobPZCf?usp=sharing

On June 1, Ethan Weston joined the Communications team as the Multimedia Intern. Ethan will join the team for the summer and recently graduated from the University of Missouri with a Master of Arts in Journalism.

Published blogs:

The following blogs were published in May:

- A brood awakening
    - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/a_brood_awakening
- The Bay's fisheries are feeling the heat
    - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_bays_fisheries_are_feeling_the_heat
- Beautiful Bay blooms
    - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/beautiful_bay_blooms
- Cities across the region looked for wildlife. Here's what they found.
    - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/cities_across_the_region_looked_for_wildlife._heres_what_they_found
- An environmental leader realizes the power of her own backyard
    - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/an_environmental_leader_realizes_the_power_of_her_own_backyard
- Magnolia bogs are a trove of rare wetland species
    - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/magnolia_bogs_are_a_trove_of_rare_wetlands_species
- Sea level rise forces wetlands inland. But is there room for them?

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/sea_level_rise_forces_wetlands_inland._but_is_there_room_for_them