



Management Board
Program Update
March 10, 2021

CBPO Calendar

Mar 11	BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team meeting
Mar 14	Criteria Assessment Protocol meeting
Mar 14	Status and Trends Workgroup meeting
Mar 14	SAV Workgroup meeting
Mar 15	<i>STAC Rising Water Temperatures Workshop (session 2; by invitation)</i>
Mar 15	Urban Stormwater Workgroup conference call
Mar 16	Webinar 1: Technical Assistance, Outreach and Social Science for RFB
Mar 16	<i>GIT 6 Quarterly meeting</i>
Mar 16	Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting
Mar 16	Land Use Workgroup conference call
Mar 17	Coordinator-Staffer meeting
Mar 17-18	<i>Local Government Advisory Committee meeting – Annapolis</i>
Mar 17	Agriculture Workgroup conference call
Mar 23	Integrated Trends Analysis Team meeting
Mar 24	STAR Science Needs meeting
Mar 28	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference call
Mar 29-31	<i>Environment Virginia Symposium</i>
Mar 30	<i>Goal Team Chairs meeting</i>
Mar 30	Webinar 2: Policy and Funding/Financing for Riparian Forest Buffers
April 6	Communications Workgroup meeting
April 11	Healthy Watersheds GIT meeting
April 14	<i>Management Board meeting</i>
April 25	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting

Program Updates

Chesapeake Bay Program to Participate in Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) has been invited to participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival this summer – a multi-day event on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. that is expected to attract nearly a million visitors on site and online. According to promoters, the Festival, which is partnering with Earth Optimism, a global conservation movement, “will explore the possibilities and solutions that address some of our planet’s most significant challenges through new ways of living, learning, and working toward a shared sustainable future.” The Festival is scheduled for June 22–26 and June 30–July 4. It includes four thematic areas – Animals, Plants & Us, Coastal Connections, Community Solutions and Field and Forest. The Bay Program has been invited to offer interactive displays, videos, speakers, and a panel taking a “deep dive” into the partnership’s work. A Bay Program committee is exploring possibilities for participation.

Contact: Martha Shimkin, 267-846-0140

Chesapeake Bay Program to Hold Tribal Showcase with Region 3

Federally-recognized Tribes Representatives from the CBP partnership are holding a virtual showcase with the EPA Region 3 federally-recognized tribes on March 22-23, 2022 to initiate discussions with the tribes on opportunities for increased engagement with the CBP partnership. This two-day listening and informational session will highlight key partnership priorities and initiatives under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, discuss tribal restoration priorities and needs, and identify next steps for increased engagement. Bay Program staff presented a draft agenda for the showcase to the Regional Tribal Operations Committee on February 8, 2022.

Contact: Lucinda Power, 443-863-0657

STAC Considers Key Issues

At its two-day meeting March 8-9, the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) began a discussion of fundamental issues, including a stronger and broader concentration on social science and behavior change, focused on people and living resources. With new members making up nearly a quarter of its roster, STAC dedicated a portion of its meeting to basic information about the CBP, such as operations, governance, organizational structure, goals and outcomes, and adaptive management. STAC members also discussed how science informs decision making and what STAC's role is and can be related to moving the program through a "Triple Loop Learning" framework from incremental improvement to reframing and ultimately to transforming through learning. There were also robust discussions about where perverse incentives exist that put goals and outcomes in conflict and how over time the partners may want to move to an accountability framework that rewards and incentivizes learning rather than counting outputs.

Contact: Carin Bisland, bisland.carin@epa.gov

Letter to Farm Bureau Confirms Credit for Ag Cost-Share Practices

In a March 1 letter to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz confirmed that conservation practices supported by a dedicated state agriculture cost share program would receive credit for pollutant reduction in Chesapeake Bay models. EPA, the Farm Bureau and others have called on Pennsylvania to establish such a program to address the state's nearly 7,000 miles of streams impaired by agriculture sources, a best practice already in place in downstream jurisdictions. In his letter following up an earlier meeting with the Farm Bureau, Ortiz noted that agricultural cost share programs support priority practices associated with nitrogen, phosphorus, and/or sediment reduction benefits. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, working with federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions, developed a model to credit these high priority practices, many of which are structural practices that have long-term staying power such as manure storage, barnyard runoff controls, livestock stream exclusion measures, and streamside buffers.

Contact: Michelle Price-Fay, 215-814-3397

OMB Approves Information Collection Request

The Office of Management and Budget has approved a CBPO request to conduct a series of surveys to help track progress toward attaining the Stewardship goal in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Approval was given to conduct the following surveys: "Chesapeake Bay Program Citizen Stewardship Index, Diversity Profile, and Local Leadership Surveys." The Stewardship goal includes three outcomes: (1) Citizen Stewardship, (2) Local Leadership, and (3) Diversity. The OMB approval will be in effect until March 31, 2025 and can be renewed.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, 410-267-5780

Webinar Focuses on 'Green Re-Entry'

On March 1, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Diversity Workgroup hosted a webinar on "Green Re-Entry," the process of providing environmentally focused jobs and opportunities to assist formerly incarcerated people in finding professional opportunities as they leave the prison environment and re-enter society. Presentations were made by Civic Works, First Alliance Consulting and Division Street Landscaping.

A recording of the webinar is available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vXDBStkc00&list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTxyiO2P_wP2vO4R2v&index=9 and the presentation is available at:

The slides are up on the Comm Workgroup page:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/March_2022_Green_ReEntry.pdf

Contact: Briana Yancy, Yancy.Briana@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.

LGAC will hold its upcoming quarterly meeting March 17-18 in person in Annapolis with a video hybrid option. This is the annual elections meeting for LGAC Chair and Vice-Chairs. The proposed theme for this meeting is Resources for Local Governments and will include discussions around a new CBP case study database, county tree cover status and trends fact sheets, American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding, resources and technical assistance from Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Defense as well as a discussion about meeting "Match" requirements for federal funding. Additionally, Members will provide feedback on the STAC Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures project.

LGAC still seeks a New York representative.

If there are MB asks or requests to get LGAC feedback during future quarterly meetings, please contact the 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.

The CAC meeting was held virtually on Feb 24-25, 2022. Members spent time refining their operations and began discussion on potential bylaws revisions, including minimum member qualifications and the use of 'citizen' in their name. The CAC heard briefings on recent EPA letters regarding Watershed Implementation Plans and recent CBP Communications products. They also hosted a panel discussion on science, policy and mitigation options for the Conowingo Dam.

There are 2 PA 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)

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

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

STAC March Quarterly Meeting: March 8-9, 2022, Virtual

The March 2022 STAC meeting will only be held remotely on Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th. You can register in advance for this meeting using the link below.

[Register Here](#)

Approved STAC 2022 Quarterly Meeting Dates

June 14-15, 2022

September 13-14, 2022

December 6-7, 2022

Upcoming STAC Workshops: Follow links to workshop webpage for additional information

March 15, 2022 ***Session 2: Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses***

March 22 - 23, 2022 ***Evaluating a Systems Approach to BMP Crediting: A STAC Programmatic Workshop***
Annapolis, MD

May 17 - 18, 2022 ***Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Watershed***

STAC Reports

Upcoming Reports:

STAC is working to finalize the following 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. **Reports in bold are undergoing final review stages and will be released within the next quarter.**

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)

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.

- **Biannual Membership Meeting:** The Sustainable Fisheries GIT hosted their two-day virtual membership meeting to kick off 2022. Day one focused on progress towards the Fisheries GIT's oyster restoration outcome. Topics covered included oyster restoration accomplishments from 2021; ongoing science efforts surrounding monitoring, restoration, and ecosystem service valuation; and a group discussion focused on the future of oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Day 2 highlighted a number of ongoing efforts linking environmental observations to living resources in the Chesapeake Bay. Beyond research updates, the Fisheries GIT heard about multiple social science/engagement projects aimed to communicate the importance of fish habitat and its impact on living resources. The day ended with a few updates from other Chesapeake Bay Program workgroups, with an emphasis on potential connections to the Fisheries GIT's work. A summary document highlighting the meeting presentations can be downloaded [HERE](#).
- **Aquatic Life Cohort SRS:** The Fisheries GIT recently completed, and submitted, updated Logic and Action Plans for the Forage, Blue Crab Abundance, and Oyster Restoration outcomes. Thanks to the hard work and engagement of the GIT's workgroup members, these updated plans provide an actionable and achievable blueprint to move these outcomes forward.
- **Blue Crab Science Needs Assessment:** In response to a request from the Management Board, the Blue Crab outcome's Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee is evaluating predicted costs and priority-level of their listed science needs. This updated estimate will be presented to the Management Board during the March meeting.

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.

HABITAT GIT:

- Habitat GIT will be holding a Workgroup Co-Chairs meeting on Thursday, March 3rd from 10:00-12:00 ET. An agenda has been sent out, and will focus on planning efforts for the Spring HGIT meeting.
- The Habitat GIT Spring Meeting is scheduled for May 4th (1:00-5:00 ET) and 5th (09:00-1:00 ET). A meeting agenda is being drafted and will be sent out closer to the meeting date. Meeting details will also be posted to the CBP website.

- **GIT FUNDING:** The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Stream Health, and Wetlands workgroups were all approved for GIT Funding. The workgroups have submitted their final versions of the Table 2 Proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- **STRATEGIC REVIEW SYSTEM:** The SAV and Brook Trout Workgroups revised Logic & Action Plans were submitted for Public & Signatory Feedback and the feedback period ended 02/25. The final management materials will be submitted for Management Board approval on 03/09.
- **STAC SCIENCE NEEDS:** The Brook Trout, SAV, and Stream Health workgroups will be presenting their science needs at the upcoming STAC March Quarterly Meeting on 03/08-03/09.
- **WORKGROUP UPDATES:**
 - **SAV Workgroup:** There is a workgroup meeting schedule for March 14th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm ET. A meeting agenda is being drafted.

OTHER:

The steering committee has been meeting weekly to plan the workshops that will address increasing the implementation of tidal and nontidal wetland restoration. The workshops will be held in Summer 2022.

Habitat GIT Contact: Megan Ossmann (ossman.megan@epa.gov) and Katlyn Fuentes (fuentesk@chesapeake.org)

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 meeting on February 28, 2022. A subset of topics discussed includes:

- WQGIT reached concurrence on the approval of the Agriculture Workgroup's new Vice-Chair, Kathryn Brasier (Penn State).
- Gary Shenk provided an update on Phase 7 Model Development and the 6 development tracks: land use, CAST, optimization, watershed modeling, main bay and tributary models, and criteria assessment. A new [webpage](#) to house Phase 7 documentation is now available.
- Peter Tango and Breck Sullivan provided an overview of STAR's monitoring review and the recommendations to the PSC.
- Breck Sullivan provided an update on the newest tidal release and Rebecca Murphy presented on nutrient trends in the tidal waters of the Bay and how they link to loads from the Watershed. Links to additional resources below.
 - [Tidal Water Quality Change](#)
 - [Nutrient Improvements in Chesapeake Bay: Direct Effect of Load Reductions and Implications for Coastal Management](#)
- Lee McDonnell provided a brief recap of the [February 14 CAST 2021](#) meeting and discussed the revised schedule and timeline. The WQGIT decided to write a letter to the MB addressing their concerns about CAST 2021 and outlining recommendations for how to proceed.
- Hilary Swartwood and Jackie Pickford discussed creating a quarterly newsletter to serve as a consolidated source of information for the WQGIT and its Workgroups.

The WQGIT will hold a meeting on March 28, 2022. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed are below:

- Urban Fertilizer Data in CAST
- USWG Recommendations for Advancing Climate Resiliency in Stormwater
- BMP Climate Synthesis Report

Water Quality GIT Contact: Hilary Swartwood (swartwood.hilary@epa.gov), Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@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 Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT have submitted the GIT Funding Table 2's for two projects: Updating the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) Priority Habitat dataset of the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas: Scoping project and The Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment 2.0. During our the last HWGIT meeting we had a Jurisdictional Round Robin. Each Jurisdictional lead provided a highlight of accomplishments and developments within their programs. You can read those highlights

here: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/maintain_healthy_watersheds_git_meeting_february_14_2022

In February, the HWGIT mapped out some themes to explore including:

- Local Leadership – Strengthen local commitment and Capacity
- Land Use Landowner and Community Engagement
- Federal Funding opportunities: Federal and State Leadership
- Land conservation, source water protection in vulnerable healthy watersheds: opportunities and example

The Healthy Watersheds GIT staff are continuing working with each of the signatory jurisdictions to update their baseline 2017 State Identified Healthy Waters and Watersheds for 2022

Healthy Watersheds GIT Contact: rthompso@chesapeakebay.net; swaterman@chesapeakebay.net

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists residents, communities, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase engagement and active stewardship.

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership / Protected Lands Workgroup

- 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 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.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The next workgroup meeting will be held on April 5th, July 13th, and October 6th.
- The Stewardship Workgroup is excited to share the Chesapeake Behavior Change web-tool which houses and promotes the use of the stewardship index data. Check it out for yourself here: <https://www.chesapeakebehaviorchange.org/> This project was generously supported by GIT funding and will serve as a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- 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.

Education Workgroup

- The next Education Workgroup held a full-membership meeting February 16th from 9:00 - 12:00 pm. It was attended by 100+ environmental literacy professionals from throughout the watershed.
- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) was launched in September, 2019 to increase sustained and systemic Environmental Literacy instruction in underserved districts. The first local networks included (1) Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties, WV, and (2) Lancaster County, PA. The second local networks are in their early stages and include Baltimore City, MD and Hampton Roads, VA. OLNI project is advised by the Education Workgroup and consistent with Stewardship GIT goals.
- 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 MWEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
- 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.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup is currently collecting data on Public Access sites opened in 2021.
- 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. A small subset of the workgroup has agreed to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward.

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

Diversity Workgroup

- The Diversity Workgroup had their Quarterly Progress Meeting in February. This presentation to the Management Board outlined the progress and challenges the workgroup has experienced

over the past two years. The workgroup will begin to incorporate priority actions and goals for the next two years and update the Logic & Action table.

- The Diversity workgroup partnered with the communications team to host our first Lunch and Learn Webinar, titled, “Green Re-Entry: How Environmental Jobs Help System Involved”. After the webinar we discussed key themes and brainstorm actions we can take in our own organizations.
- Finally, we are preparing for our next allyship series training on power and privilege as well as our next lunch and learn which will be on mental health. These will be held in April and May respectively.

Diversity workgroup contact: Briana Yancy; yancy.briana@epa.gov (Staffer)

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

2021 GIT Funding Program

An EPA GIT Table 2 Training was held on December 14, 2021 to review the GIT Funding Manual for Phase 2: Refinement of Project Ideas into Scopes of Work (Table 2). Chesapeake Bay Trust provided reviews and comments on Table 2 drafts and Final Phase 2 Scopes of Work were due to CBT February 21, 2022 and are currently under review. The 2022 GIT Funding Program Manual has been drafted and will follow an extensive review by a volunteer team of stakeholders.

Governance Document Action Team (GDAT)

The GDAT meets biweekly to work through needed adjustments to the CBP Governance Document. GIT 6 approved the recent proposed edits regarding roles of staff and grammatical edits to EC Leadership language. A draft of the revised document and proposed language will be presented to GIT 6 for concurrence at the March 16, 2022 meeting and later presented to Management Board. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEI Directive, clarified responsibilities regarding the Strategy Review System and refinement of guidance on decision making.

Organizational Analysis

A plan has been developed to use a published survey instrument to measure the culture of trust across the CBP. This initiative responds to several occasions when GIT 6 has gotten feedback that trust is an important factor in CBP member perceptions of the program. In addition, trust is known to be one of the essential factors in efficient, high-performing organizations. The survey is targeted to be released to CBP leaders and members in Spring 2022.

Contact: Greg Allen (Coordinator), allen.greg@epa.gov; and Kristin Saunders (ksaunders@umces.edu)

Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Winter Quarterly Meeting took place on February 23, 2022 as a conference call. Meeting topics focused on infrastructure spending following the recent Infrastructure Bill, the 2022 BFWG Workplan, a National Center for Environmental Economics Environmental Justice Proposal, and the Conowingo Finance Strategy Update. A funding opportunities table focused on outcomes is being drafted by BFWG leadership.

Contact: Martha Shimkin (Co-Chair), shimkin.martha@epa.gov; Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), elliott.campbell@maryland.gov

Local Leadership Workgroup

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) held its Winter Quarterly Meeting on February 22, 2022 themed around Agriculture. The meeting explored case studies on how local officials are supporting their local agricultural community, identified tools and resources about agriculture, and determined what local elected officials need to know about agriculture. LLWG will hold its Spring Quarterly Meeting in person on May 3, 2022 (location TBD). Efforts to roll out A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay 2.0 continue in partnership with state agencies and local government associations. Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer), johnson.caroline@epa.gov; Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), lnoll@allianceforthebay.org; Heidi Bonnaffon (Chair), hbonnaffon@mwcoq.org; Michelle Edwards (Vice Chair), medwards@rrregion.org
GIT 6 Contact: Caroline Johnson (Staffer) johnson.caroline@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.

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team (STAR)

At the PSC meeting on March 2, the PSC decided against creating the action team proposed by the authors of the monitoring report. Instead, the PSC suggested a charrette to determine monitoring funding priorities based on the report. The [February STAR meeting](#) focused on the themes of targeting co-benefits and ecosystems services. Scott Phillips began with a brief overview of the need for and potential approaches to addressing multiple Chesapeake Bay Program outcomes. John Wolf provided some examples of the existing tools that address this need, which he showcased on a [draft webpage](#). Bo Williams shared a list of existing ecosystem services projects and Ryann Rossi discussed the applications of her research on an ecosystem services assessment in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Peter Claggett and Katie Walker presented on the new 1-meter land use/land cover data for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, in addition to how the watershed has changed over time. Peter and Katie's presentation included the benefits and limitations of the usage of this data. Members were polled to gauge which topics STAR should focus on at future meetings related to targeting co-benefits. STAR also held its first STAR Coordination Quarterly meeting on February 10, 2022 to enhance collaboration and understanding of the different workgroups and action teams under STAR. The next STAR meeting is on March 24, 2022 and will focus on science needs for the Stewardship Cohort.

Modeling Workgroup

There are no new updates since last month. The Modeling Workgroup completed its [January Quarterly Review](#) of CBP Modeling and Analysis. The January 4-5, 2022 CBP Modeling Quarterly Review introduced the new Phase 7 suite of models to the CBP. Within the suite of models, the state-of-the-science Phase 7 Main Bay Model (MBM) will replace the national award-winning Bay Model that has been successfully used by the CBP for three decades. Along with the MBM will be new and updated models of the watershed, airshed, and future land use, all directed as an integrated model suite to assess challenges to the Chesapeake watershed and Bay beyond 2025. In particular, the Phase 7 Models will assess the 2035 climate risk to the Chesapeake TMDL and its restoration goals.

The tasks and timelines of the various models were shared and discussed as part of the process to ensure CBP decision-maker's direction and guidance were included in the Phase 7 Model workplans. Specifically, the 13 presentations ranged from optimization efforts, to the initial set up of

the James and Patuxent Multiple Tributary Models (MTMs), to an outline of the initial the Phase 7 Watershed Model workplan and the progress on Phase 7 development thus far. Throughout the two-day meeting, the feedback from the WQGIT, STAC, and other GITs was incorporated into the planning discussions for Phase 7. Going forward, the Modeling Ad Hoc team will meet weekly to continue working on improving the workplans and coordination among the Phase 7 suite of models. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly is a two-day meeting on April 5 and 6, 2022.

Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT)

The [February](#) Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT) meeting began with an update from Mike Lane on the modifications he has made to the Rappahannock Tributary Summary since the last meeting, a discussion on some of the comments that required group input, and the next steps for the project. Elgin Perry then presented on the results of his amended cluster analysis and discussed with ITAT how the analysis can be incorporated into the tributary summaries. Rebecca Murphy presented on her and other ITAT co-authors' publication ([Nutrient Improvements in Chesapeake Bay: Direct Effect of Load Reductions and Implications for Coastal Management](#)). Rebecca overviewed the results and the role of General Additive Models (GAMs) in explaining trends in estuarine nutrient concentrations by connecting them to watershed-based loads and flow. The next ITAT meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2022.

A priority for ITAT is to include Washington D.C. water quality trends in the Bay-wide tidal water quality change assessment. As a first step, Rebecca Murphy held a training on the statistical approach Generalized Additive Models to DOEE and COG analysts. This is the approach used for analyzing tidal water quality data in Chesapeake Bay. Next steps will include working with DOEE and COG on deciding stations, parameters, and other items.

In efforts to disseminate the tributary summaries to interested parties, ITAT has presented information and examples on how to use the information to inform management decisions to multiple groups including STAC, CBP Modeling Workgroup, and Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee. If interested in having the Tributary Summaries presented at your jurisdictional or local meetings, please contact Breck Sullivan (bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net) and Vanessa Van Note (VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov).

Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)

The [February 2022](#) CRWG meeting focused on sharing research on marine heat waves in the Chesapeake Bay and debriefing the workgroup on key findings from the watershed and tidal discussions during the January 12 Rising Water Temperature STAC workshop. Dr. Piero Mazzini (Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences) presented research that characterized the intensity, duration, and frequency of marine heat waves in the Chesapeake Bay. The research concluded that if trends persist, the Chesapeake Bay will reach a state of semi-permanent marine heat waves by 2100.

Julie Reichert-Nguyen, Amy Goldfischer, and Alex Gunnerson shared the highlights on science findings, research gaps, and management implications from the Tidal Subgroup of the Rising Water Temperatures STAC Workshop, while Katie Brownson and Spencer Tassone shared findings from the Watershed Subgroup. The meeting concluded with discussion and input from attendees on the results of the first day of the STAC workshop. The CRWG will be supporting the second day of the Rising Water Temperature STAC Workshop on March 15, 2022 instead of having a separate CRWG meeting in March.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held its quarterly virtual meeting on February 22, 2022. The meeting materials have been uploaded and can be found [here](#). The meeting was presided by Cindy Johnson from VADEQ. All jurisdictions provided an update on monitoring. Peter Tango and Breck Sullivan provided an overview of the PSC report on monitoring, specifically the enhancement of nontidal and tidal monitoring programs. Peter also updated the workgroup on updates for SAV and 2022 monitoring. Scott Schroeder presented on and demonstrated Fluidics Intelligently Automated (FIA) lab instrument's system. Mike Mallonee presented the coordinated split sample results for the Chesapeake Bay mainstem and tributaries. CBL performance testing blind audit program schedules were provided by Jerry Frank. Liz Chudoba provided updates on citizen monitoring programs. The next quarterly meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG) - 4-D Water Quality Interpolator

The Leadership Team met on January 14th, 2022 to 1) review progress on the case study, 2) revisit the interpolator development timeline, 3) revisit capacity to support interpolator development based on any changes regarding the development timeline, and 4) discuss a plan, outline an agenda, and propose a date for the next full BORG meeting in 2022. The full BORG meeting on the case study showcase and 4D developments will be coordinated as the 3rd event in the STAC Advanced Monitoring Workshop event underway this year. Tentative plans are targeting April/early May 2022. The next development update only involved a subset of members and took place in February.

Nontidal Network Workgroup

The [February 2022 NTN meeting](#) included final adjustments to the PSC Monitoring report as well as a survey on key topics for future meetings. The meeting also included a presentation from Bob Hirsch on WRTDS-K, which discussed its status as an enhancement for improved load estimates, and a presentation from Chris Mason on River Input Monitoring (RIM) station load and trend results through water year 2020. The next Nontidal Network Workgroup meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2022.

Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup

The CAP WG participated in the first event of the STAC workshop on Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment focused on advances in estuarine SAV assessment. This is a STAC workshop with invited technical and management personnel convened to review and determine the gaps and cost challenges limiting habitat assessments as outlined by the water quality standards under the TMDL for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll a. The objective is to develop actionable recommendations on adaptive monitoring and assessment for the next generation Chesapeake Bay Program tidal monitoring program.

Plans for the second STAC workshop session for late winter/early spring 2022 are being targeted at the state of research for satellite-based assessment of chlorophyll and water clarity. CAP WG members will be asked to provide foundation perspectives on the existing protocols for reference to compare to new opportunities evolving with aerial/satellite-based sensors. If interested in participating in the workshop, please reach out to Peter Tango (ptango@chesapeakebay.net) or Meg Cole (colem@chesapeake.org). The next Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2022. Topics are anticipated to include a brief recap of the STAC Advanced Monitoring workshop event and input on plans for the remaining 2 workshop sessions as well as DO and CHLA criteria considerations for the future.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

The workgroup had a meeting on [January 10th](#) that focused on identifying current metrics, potential new metrics, and influencing factors for each outcome. Outcome representatives shared information via Jamboard and discussed connections to other outcomes and barriers to new indicator development. The finalized workplan was presented and the workplan was posted to the STWG page on chesapeakebay.net.

There was also discussion on how to best organize the workgroup page and the existing documents it houses that are of use to members such as the [indicators framework](#), [indicator update process](#), and [guiding questions for GITS when developing new indicators](#). The workgroup did not meet in February to focus on acting on the information gathered in January and will next meet on March 14th, 2022.

STAR Contacts: Breck Sullivan; bsullivan@chesapeake.org (Coordinator), Amy Goldfisher (Staffer); agoldfisher@chesapeake.org, Alex Gunnerson (Staffer); gunnersona@chesapeake.org

March 2022 Management Board Indicators Update

March MB Indicators Update

Since the February MB meeting, there have been no indicator updates on ChesapeakeProgress.

We do not anticipate finalizing any additional indicator updates in advance of the April MB meeting.

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

The Communications Workgroup is taking a short break while we reassess its direction.

Communications Office

On March 1, the Communications Office hosted a webinar, “Green Re-Entry: How Environmental Jobs Help System-Involved People” in partnership with the Diversity Workgroup. The speakers included BeKura W. Shabazz, Wellington Bruce Ashe and Alex Smith. On March 29, the Communications Office will host a webinar for Women’s History Month focusing on women on the water.

- Watch the recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vXDBStkc00&list=PLRa28NrZJAF6wSTLTxyiO2P_wP2vO4R2_v&index=8

On March 2, the Communications Office hosted the first planning meeting for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. The event will take place from June 4 to June 12, 2022. The following partner organizations are contributing their efforts to planning this year’s celebration:

If you are interested in helping, have an event to promote or just want to know more, please reach out to Marisa Baldine at mbaldrine@chesapeakebay.net.

Learn more:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/chesapeake_bay_awareness_week

The following blogs were published in February:

- Mourning doves raise multiple broods each year
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/mourning_doves_raise_multiple_broods_each_year
- Scientific, local and community representatives find common goals make a larger impact
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/scientific_local_and_community_representatives_find_common_goals_make_a_larger_impact
- Emergency funding allows environmental education to continue outside and online
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/emergency_funding_allows_environmental_education_to_continue_outside_and_online
- Are there sharks in the Chesapeake Bay?
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/are_there_sharks_in_the_chesapeake_bay
- A new park in Delaware honors the 'people of the tidewater'
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/park-delaware-honors-people-tidewater>
- Seven locations around the watershed that hold a connection to the Underground Railroad
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/seven_locations_around_the_watershed_that_hold_a_connection_to_the_underground_railroad