



Principals' Staff Committee
Program Update
July 19, 2022

CBPO Calendar

July 19	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
July 20-21	Fisheries GIT Summer Meeting
July 20	Diversity Workgroup Bi-Monthly Meeting
July 20	Nontidal Network Workgroup Meeting
July 20	Land Use Workgroup Conference Call
July 21	Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call
July 21	Clean Water Cohort SRS Dry Run Meeting
July 25	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Conference Call
July 27	Integrated Trends Analysis Team Meeting
July 27	Budget and Finance Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
July 28	STAR Meeting
Aug. 2-3	Wetland Outcome Attainability Workshop
Sept. 15	MB/Quarterly Progress Meeting: Water Quality Cohort
Sept/Oct	Executive Council Meeting

Updates

Bay Model Shows Slight Decline of Pollution in 2021

Each year, the seven Chesapeake Watershed jurisdictions report to the Chesapeake Bay Program the many conservation practices that they have installed across farmlands, cities and wastewater treatment plants to help reduce pollution flowing into their local waterways. These data are entered into the partnership's modeling system that determines the amount of pollution that will be reduced thanks to the implementation of these practices. Estimates from the Watershed Model show that between 2009—the baseline for the Bay TMDL—and 2021: overall *nitrogen* decreased 14%, meeting 49% of the goal to reduce nitrogen by 2025; overall *phosphorus* decreased 14%, meeting 64% of the goal to reduce phosphorus by 2025; and overall *sediment* decreased 4%, meeting 100% of the goal to reduce sediment by 2025.

On the positive side, the Bay Model shows a slight decline of pollution in 2021, thanks primarily to agricultural conservation practices. Specifically, 77% of nitrogen reductions in the past year came from the agricultural sector. Declines in phosphorus and sediment pollution also came from the agricultural sector, but also the natural sector, which includes forests, stream beds and banks, wetlands and shorelines. However, in 2021, several permit violations occurred at wastewater facilities in Maryland that actually increased the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that entered the Bay.

For more information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/watershed_jurisdictions_help_lower_nutrient_and_sediment_pollution_entering

EPA Releases Evaluations of the Jurisdictions' Two-year Milestones

On June 27, EPA released its evaluations of the jurisdictions' 2020-2021 final milestone progress and draft 2022-2023 milestone commitments. The two-year milestones are intended to show incremental progress towards meeting the Phase III WIP planning targets by 2025. EPA evaluates the jurisdictions' numeric and programmatic commitments through its role under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Accountability Framework. While EPA noted programmatic strengths in each of the evaluation documents, accelerated implementation in the agricultural sector is needed since most jurisdictions are relying on that sector to achieve their respective nitrogen targets by 2025. EPA is conducting calls with each jurisdiction to review the evaluation findings. Jurisdictions are expected to submit final 2022-2023 milestone commitments to EPA by August 5.

Contact: Lucinda Power, (443) 863-0657

No Discharge Zones Expand in the Chesapeake

The Chester, West, and Lynnhaven Rivers, Broad and Jackson Creeks, and Fishing Bay were recently added to the growing list of No Discharge Zones (NDZs) in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. No Discharge Zones (NDZs) are protected areas in marine, coastal, or other water bodies that prohibit any discharge of wastes from marine sanitation devices (MSDs) or onboard toilets. The NDZs principally protect swimming, aquaculture, and other filter feeding shellfish but NDZs also have the useful side effect of reducing nutrient loads in the Chesapeake. The CBPO provided technical assistance for Chesapeake NDZs through an expert panel report and with model tracer analysis of boat discharges from different regions of the Bay. An interactive article on Chesapeake NDZs published this week in the *Chesapeake Quarterly* can be found here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9b5c73393d364dafb1206f87234a33db>

Contact: Lew Linker, 410-267-5741

2022 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Forecast Released

On June 28, researchers from the Chesapeake Bay Program, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, University of Michigan and U.S. Geological Survey announced that they are predicting this summer's dead zone to be smaller than the long-term average taken between 1985 and 2021. The Bay's "dead zone" (waters less than 2 mg/l of dissolved oxygen) is predicted to be 13% lower than average when compared to the previous 36 years. This is similar to last year, when the hypoxic volume was predicted to be 14% lower than the average. For the past three years, the dead zone has been forecasted to be lower than the long-term average—and in all cases, the forecasts proved accurate when compared to data collected throughout the summer. In addition, 2022 summer hypoxia also began later than it had in several previous years. In 2021, 2019, 2018 and 2017, hypoxic conditions began in mid to late May, but in 2022, hypoxia was not apparent in the Bay until early June.

Contact: Lew Linker, 443-875-8070

STAC Talks Soil and Science

The CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) held a hybrid quarterly meeting on June 14-15 at the Cork Factory Hotel in Lancaster, PA and via webinar. Participants heard presentations and discussed a range of topics including an overview of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, science needs for the stewardship outcomes (public access, diversity, and stewardship), and relating science needs to

single, double and triple loop learning. More information is posted on the [June 2022 quarterly meeting page](#).
Contact: Greg Barranco, 410-267-5778

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 co-sponsored a July 12th zoom webinar - *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Opportunities to Invest in Water Infrastructure using State Revolving Funds*. Co-sponsors are state and national “trusted source” associations.

LGAC has begun planning for the September Local Government Forum on *Developing Community Resilience Plans*. If MB members are interested in being part of the planning team or can suggest members to be subject matter experts, please contact Jennifer Starr at the email below. This deep-dive Forum will be held September 29th with the goal of developing recommendations for EC and MB consideration.

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 Citizens Advisory Committee held a hybrid meeting in Ellicott City, MD on May 18-19, 2022. The CAC Emerging Issues Subcommittee hosted a panel discussion about large scale solar development and their potential impacts on land use and the *Chesapeake Watershed Agreement* goals and outcomes, including water quality. Panelists included an agricultural and resource law professional sharing a briefing on national research on solar development, a local representative of a community solar development company and state agency representatives from VA, MD and PA. Following the panel, the members toured two nearby solar farms- one under construction, the other completed- and learned from the solar development owner why he invested in the technology.

Members learned about the local context of the watershed from the Patuxent Riverkeeper, had a discussion with the Chesapeake Bay Commission’s Chair, and continued their discussion on

bylaws revisions, the CAC's role and its relationship to "citizen" in CAC's name. Members were unable to come to consensus on the CAC's name and will continue the discussion.

The next CAC meeting will be on September 15-16 in Washington, DC.

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: Alexa Maione
amaione@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, Meg Cole
(colem@chesapeake.org)

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

June Quarterly Meeting: June 14-15, 2022

The STAC June Quarterly Meeting was held in-person in Lancaster, PA on June 14th and 15th at the Cork Factory Hotel. The meeting centered around the theme of soil health. On Day 1, STAC continued the dialogue on Chesapeake Bay Program science needs with a presentation of STAR's role in the Strategy Review System and Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF) processes, a talk from the Stewardship Outcome, and a discussion of relating the presented science needs to single, double, triple-loop learning. The afternoon of the first day introduced the meeting theme, with a presentation from Allyson Gibson (Lancaster Clean Water Partners) on the importance of Lancaster to soil health and an optional fieldtrip to nearby farms - participants first visited Cedar Meadow Farm, a no-till operation, and then to an Amish farm, Bottom Line Ag Supply, to hear about an innovative program renting out horse-drawn manure injector equipment from users.

Participants continued to discuss soil health on the meeting's second day. STAC Chair, Kathy Boomer (FFAR), presented on soil and its relevance to the Bay Program and STAC. Following this talk, there were two panels on the topics: stakeholder perspectives related to soil health and gaps in understanding/opportunities to advance soil health. The meeting closed after a large group discussion on reflections from the meeting and next step recommendations.

Upcoming STAC 2022 Quarterly Meeting Dates

September 13-14, 2022: Hybrid; [Vandiver Inn](#) in Havre De Grace, MD.

December 6-7, 2022: Virtual

FY2022 STAC-Sponsored Workshops and Reviews

Planning for the following STAC-sponsored workshops and reviews began on June 1, 2022:

1. *Using Carbon to Achieve Chesapeake Bay (and Watershed) Water Quality Goals and Climate Resiliency: The Science, Gaps, Implementation Activities and Opportunities* (State of the Science Workshop)
2. *Best Management Practices to Minimize Impacts of Solar Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality* (State of the Science Workshop)
3. *The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes* (State of the Science Workshop)
4. *Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Benefits of, Multiple CBP Outcomes* (Programmatic Workshop)
5. *Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model* (Programmatic Workshop)

The following proposal was recommended to be a STAC technical review:

1. *Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment Proposal: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in Acid Mine Drainage Impacted Watersheds*

FY2021 STAC-Sponsored Workshops

All FY2021 STAC-Sponsored workshops have now convened. Recent workshop sessions are listed below. FY2021 ran from June 1, 2021- May 31, 2022.

1. *Improving Modeling and Mitigation Strategies for Poultry Ammonia Emissions Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (Programmatic and State of the Science Workshop):
Workshop met over a series of virtual sessions. More information on these 'mini-workshops' linked below. The Steering Committee is now drafting the workshop report for release in fall 2022.
 - . June 1: Synthesis session discussing key findings and drafted recommendations from all previous sessions.
 - i. May 4: Examined critical knowledge gaps and obstacles to developing and integrating new poultry productions management and mitigation data.
 - ii. April 21: Follow-up session on the outputs from March 31st. Defined priorities and considerations and options available for decision-makers.
 - iii. April 20: CMAQ apportionment deep dive: How can these new results inform out bay modeling/bay restoration efforts?
 - iv. March 31: Summarized the effectiveness of various BMPs and incorporated stakeholder input on the practical implications of these BMPs.
 - v. November 19, 2021: Introduction – What are the key decision points related to this issue? Is the partnership supporting these decision points? How might they?
2. *Improve the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (State of the Science Workshop):
May 17-18, 2022: Workshop webpage
Met in-person at the Historic Inns of Annapolis. The Steering Committee is now drafting the workshop report for release in fall 2022.

3. *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):

May 11, 2022: [Workshop webpage](#)

Workshop met virtually for three full-day sessions to discuss Water Clarity/SAV, Chlorophyll a, and Dissolved Oxygen criteria respectively. The Steering Committee is now drafting the workshop report for release in fall 2022.

- . May 11: [Dissolved Oxygen](#)
 - i. April 22: [Chlorophyll a](#)
 - ii. December 9, 2021: [Water Clarity/SAV](#)
4. *Evaluating an Improved Systems Approach to Crediting: Consideration of Wetland Ecosystem Services* (Programmatic):

March 22-23, 2022: [Workshop webpage](#)

Workshop met in-person at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD for a 2-day meeting. The Steering Committee is now drafting the workshop report for release in early-fall 2022.

5. *Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses* (Programmatic):

Workshop met virtually for two full-day meetings. Meeting agendas and presentations are available on the linked webpages below; Day 2 workshop briefing papers are included for the Tidal and Watershed workgroups. The Steering Committee is now drafting the workshop report for release in the coming months.

- . [March 15: Day 2](#)
 - 0. [Tidal Briefing Paper](#)
 - 1. [Watershed Briefing Paper](#)
- i. [January 12: Day 1](#)

Information regarding future workshops, including agendas, presentations, and reports (as they become available) can be found on the STAC [workshop homepage](#).

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 publication page](#). 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. **Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens** (FY 2020)
2. **Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap** (FY20)
3. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)

4. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
5. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
6. 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.

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT summer membership meeting will be hosted at the UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory on July 20th-21st. There will be hybrid availability for all who wish to attend. Please contact Justin Shapiro (justin.shapiro@noaa.gov) with any questions about meeting specifics.

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.

- **GIT FUNDING:** The Brook Trout, Fish Passage, Stream Health, and Wetland workgroups were all approved for GIT Funding and their proposals were included in the RFP. The final decisions for the Fish Passage & Stream Health projects will be announced soon. The Brook Trout & Wetland project scopes are currently being refined and will be re-advertised in July.
- **STATUS & TRENDS:** The Stream Health and Fish Passage Workgroups will be providing indicator updates at the next Status & Trends Workgroup meeting on July 11th from 1:00-3:00 ET. Additional information on this meeting can be found [here](#).
- **WETLAND WORKSHOP:** The Steering Committee has been meeting weekly to plan the workshop that will address increasing the implementation of tidal and nontidal wetland restoration. The “[2022 Restoring Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop](#)” will be held August 2-3, 2022, from 10:00-3:30 ET both days. This will be a virtual meeting and additional details can be found on the [CBP Calendar](#).

Habitat GIT Contact: 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 June 27, 2022. A subset of topics discussed includes:

- The WQGIT agreed with the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee's proposed model-based process to evaluate dredging as a BMP. The WQGIT will continue to receive updates on this effort as it progresses.
- The WQGIT did not reach consensus on the Revised Forestry Workgroup (FWG) Method for the Tree Canopy Outcome Indicator. The revised method counted forest conversion to developed as a loss of urban tree canopy. Jurisdictions expressed concerns that this is actually a loss of forest canopy but not a loss of urban canopy and that the forest conversion to developed should be excluded from the "urban canopy loss" calculation. The Forestry Workgroup will work with the Land Use Workgroup to review the calculation(s) and definitions and develop further justification and/or a new approach.
- Lucinda Power updated the WQGIT on the status of the Revised BMP Protocols. Consensus was postponed till the August WQGIT meeting to give more time to address comments received from STAC and Pennsylvania.
- The WQGIT requested and received a 1- month extension for the Clean Water Cohort for this SRS cycle. The Quarterly Progress Meeting is now scheduled for September 15, 2022.
- Lee McDonnell presented the latest results of 2021 progress under both CAST 2019 and CAST 2021. He also showed the differences between CAST 2019 and CAST 2021 with using the accurate fertilizer data, as well as the full list of data inputs that have been incorporated into CAST 2021.
- Helen Golimowski and Jeff Sweeney recapped items included or addressed in CAST-21 and items where consensus was not reached. They previewed the existing list of items for the next CAST update that will be reviewed in fall 2023 and released in 2024.
- Lew Linker described plans for a release of a Request for Applications (RFA) this summer to support a forward-looking CBP analyses of future impacts and challenges due to climate, growth, and energy generation that can inform options for changes to CBP programs and restoration efforts at federal, state, and local levels beyond 2025. In addition, climate ready BMPs will be assessed and quantified for use in the CBP partnership's Phase 7 suite of modeling tools.

The WQGIT will hold a meeting on July 25, 2022. A subset of topics to potentially be discussed are below:

SRS 2025 WIP Outcome

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 HWGIT Leadership Team has gotten draft deliverables for the Maryland Healthy Watershed Assessment (MDHWA). The assessment framework, metrics, and geodatabase created in this state-specific refinement are intended to be useful for a variety of management applications,

primarily to support strategies to protect and maintain the health of Maryland's Tier II waters. The release of the MDHWA is expected later this month.

- Updating the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) Priority Habitat Dataset of the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas Scoping Project has kicked off with contractor Skeo. The overall goal of this project is to produce a report that describes various potential approaches, and associated resources required, for an updated, watershed-wide dataset of important habitat to guide land conservation and terrestrial and aquatic habitat conservation, restoration, and stewardship.
- In connection to the CCP Priority Habitat Dataset the HWGIT leadership team is currently seeking out habitat experts from the jurisdictions. The HWGIT is looking for people who have expertise on the different types of habitats throughout the watershed, and who have knowledge of the habitat data out there. **If you know of any habitat experts in your jurisdictions, please send their contact information to HWGIT Staffer Sophie Waterman (swaterman@chesapeakebay.net).**
- The Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment 2.0 Project will be kicking off later this month with contractor Innovate Inc. This project will further improve, refine, and finalize the [Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment](#).
- The next HWGIT meeting is on August 8th from 11am-1pm. The focus of the meeting will be on the LUMM indicator update, members will have an opportunity to give feedback on the update.

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.

Stewardship Workgroup

- The workgroup has finalized its 2022-2023 Logic and Action Plan. The next workgroup meetings held on July 13th and October 6th will focus on advancing the work under the two-year plan, and further developing the professional community among the workgroup members.
- 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. A CBP webinar about the site took place on 4/12, a recording can be viewed on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Youtube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/chesbayprogram>
- 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 Education Workgroup completed its Quarterly Progress Meeting with the Management Board on May 12th. The group is next focusing its attention on developing the new two-year Logic & Action Plans for the three Environmental Literacy Outcomes. The biennial forum for environmental literacy practitioners and leadership summit are being planned for 2023.

- Progress continues on the Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI), 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.
- The Chesapeake Youth Initiative is underway for this summer. Youth participants will be joining the Management Board meeting in July.

Public Access Workgroup

- The Public Access Workgroup's Spring Meeting was held on April 20th. Preliminary results of the Benefits and Barriers to Public Access Research Project were shared, along with a draft version of the workgroup's next 2-year action plan, which has since been finalized.
- The Public Access Workgroup has finalized 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 continues to work with the selected contractor OpinionWorks to advise this project as it goes forward. The workgroup will meet with the contractor on July 15th to discuss the focus groups being conducted by the contractor.

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 project is slated for completion this summer.
- The CCP has been involved in organizing the team of partners that will ultimately implement the Chesapeake WILD program. While this is separate from CBP work, it is complementary, and there are members of the team who represent CBP as well as jurisdiction partners.

Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship contact: Britt Slattery; britt_slattery@nps.gov

Diversity Workgroup

Our next Diversity Workgroup meeting is on July 20th. We will begin the workgroup meeting with a webinar in partnership with the CBP Communications workgroup on Mental Health and Environment.

In 2021, The Chesapeake Conservancy was selected to complete The Diversity workgroup's GIT funding project, "Cultivating and Strengthening Relationships with Underrepresented Stakeholders." We are excited to announce that we will be wrapping up this project on July 8th with a community forum.

The GIT-Funded project, Equitable Grant Funding in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, is scheduled to kick off soon. This project will bring together funding organizations and historically under-resourced organizations through a series of workshops in effort to build understanding of barriers to equitable funding and to strengthen connections

We are hosting the third CBPO Allyship Training on July 26th

We are still accepting applications for the **CBP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Coordination Grant**. This is to help field a person(s) who will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of key elements of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan. The amount available for the project is approximately \$150,000. The deadline for application submissions is 7/22/2022, at 11:59 p.m. A complete electronic copy must be e-mailed to 2022DEIJ.grants@dc.gov.

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

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 – Funding for the 2022 GIT Funding Program has been confirmed. Following an extensive review by a volunteer team of stakeholders, the 2022 GIT Funding Program Manual is expected to be issued in July. The Project Idea Brainstorming and Collaboration Meeting will take place August 9, 2022.

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 were presented to GIT 6 for concurrence at the March 16, 2022 meeting and later will be presented to Management Board. Example changes to the document include insertion of the DEIJ 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 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) Spring Quarterly Meeting took place on May 5, 2022 as a conference call. Meeting topics focused on infrastructure spending with

an update on the funding opportunities table, an update on an NCEE Environmental Justice proposal, and a discussion on the role of BFWG regarding forest buffers and wetlands outcomes. The BFWG will hold its next meeting on July 27, 2022. Meeting topics include a discussion on funding opportunities, funding programs, and an update on the NCEE proposal.

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 Spring Quarterly Meeting on May 3, 2022 as a hybrid meeting in person in Leesburg, Virginia and virtually via conference call. The LLWG will hold its next meeting on August 30, 2022. Meeting topics include identifying tools to help local governments utilize social science, a discussion on the results of the Local Leadership Survey, a presentation on the Chesapeake Behavior Change website, and an update on A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay 2.0.

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 (STAR)

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.

The [June STAR meeting](#) primarily focused on components of the Strategic Science and Research Framework. The Next Generation Stewards Cohort presented their science needs and the STAR team presented on the updates to the [science needs database](#), which houses the science needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program. John Wolf presented on the maps and data viewers developed to display work on ecosystem services, and Angie Wei gave an overview of the 3D segment explorer and [4D visualization of living conditions for striped bass and blue crab](#). STAR members were also given an opportunity to provide feedback on how to improve the STAR webpage. The next STAR meeting is on July 28, 2022.

Modeling Workgroup

The Modeling Workgroup continues to develop the CBP Phase 7 watershed, airshed, and estuarine models. Many elements of the Phase 7 modeling work were highlighted at the recent Chesapeake Community Research Symposium 2022 (CCRS 2022), a biennial symposium on Chesapeake research held in Annapolis on June 6-8, 2022. The symposium's theme was recognizing the significant progress made toward restoring Chesapeake Bay water quality and living resources. The 3-day event emphasized the progress that has been made toward restoring the Chesapeake Bay and enhancing coastal community resilience while addressing future challenges to maintaining this progress in the face of our changing human and natural environment. Sessions at the CCRS 2022 were on Phase 7 land use, Watershed

Model, Main Bay Model, (MBM), and Multiple Tributary Models (MTMs) and other key areas of Chesapeake science. The next CBP Modeling Quarterly is a two-day meeting on [July 12th and 13th, 2022](#).

Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

The [June ITAT](#) meeting focused on gathering input from ITAT members through discussing the status of the Strategy Review System actions for the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome, suggested changes to the ITAT webpage for enhanced communication with stakeholders and members, and the draft Rappahannock Tributary Summary report. The next ITAT meeting will take place on July 27th.

In efforts to distribute 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 Climate Resiliency Workgroup's (CRWG) [June meeting](#) focused sharing updates related to the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop Report, the CRWG GIT-Funded project titled "Partnership-Building and Identification of Collaborative Tidal Marsh Adaptation Projects," and the Chesapeake Bay Program's Climate Directive Workplan, as well as discussing key takeaways from the EPA Office of Research and Development's Resilient (ORD) Coastal Wetlands and Communities Multi-Regional workshop.

[EPA's ORD Coastal Wetlands and Communities Multi-Regional workshop](#), with groups from the North East and Mid Atlantic. The workshop aimed to share information on translating science for decision making, barriers and opportunities, capacity building, working with stakeholders, and dealing with uncertainty in modeled climate information. Julie Riechert-Nguyen, Taryn Sudol, and Kristin Saunders shared their main takeaways from the workshop.

Jamileh Soueidan (NOAA/CRC) presented the draft tidal management recommendations from the STAC Rising Water Temperature Workshop. The five recommendations each address one of the four main themes that were identified in Day 1 of the workshop (i.e. ecosystem-based management, nearshore habitats, multiple stressors, and new temperature regime). These draft recommendations were selected based on the development of the rationale and identification of the science needs during the workshop and based on their impact and feasibility as assessed by the workshop participants.

Julie Reichert-Nguyen (NOAA) presented updates on the GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation project. The overall objective of this project is to advance the Climate Adaptation outcome through aligning organizational priorities with stakeholders' priorities to identify and support marsh collaborative adaptation projects. Recently, after reviewing proposals, the project contract was awarded to SKEO Solutions. The kick-off meeting to start work on this project is July 8, 2022.

Bo Williams presented the CBP Climate Directive Workplan to the workgroup. This workplan is the result of the Climate Directive No. 21-1. Through this directive the CBP commits to address the threats of

climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Bay and its watershed. This workplan is an opportunity for CBP to improve partnership wide coordination and put more resources towards climate change through four main goals: (1) address the threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed; (2) prioritize communities and habitats most vulnerable to ever increasing risks; (3) apply the best scientific, modeling, monitoring and planning capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Program; and (4) connect Chesapeake Bay restoration goals with emerging opportunities in climate adaption, mitigation and resilience. While this workplan addresses climate change, resiliency, and adaptation, it is distinct from the [CRWG workplan](#), which works towards attaining its two outcomes (i.e. Climate Adaptation and Climate Monitoring and Assessment). However, aspects of the CRWG workplan can assist in achieving actions identified in the CBP Climate Directive Workplan.

The next CRWG meeting is scheduled for 7/18/2022; the focus of the meeting is TBD. The CRWG is also preparing to begin the SRS process, starting with the progress review with the workgroup in August.

Data Integrity Workgroup

The Data Integrity Workgroup held their [quarterly meeting on June 17th](#). The meeting included updates on the PSC Monitoring Program Review, Monitoring and Laboratory Analysis, and Citizen Monitoring. Presentations focused on the Coordinated Split Sample Program, Blind Audits, and USGS Reference Samples. The meeting concluded with an opportunity for workgroup members to provide feedback on the webpage.

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

BORG met twice in June ([10th](#) and [24th](#)) to discuss a proposal for implementing cross-validation of 4-D estimation GAMs (General Additive Models) used in the interpolation of dissolved oxygen patterns for tidal waters of Chesapeake Bay in the initial simulations, and to do a review of TetraTech's work on screening available, high quality Dissolved Oxygen data for use in development, calibration and verification of the 4D tool. BORG discussed how they might proceed with meeting schedules going forward.

Nontidal Network (NTN) Workgroup

The [June 2022 NTN Workgroup](#) meeting began with a [presentation from Liz Chudoba](#) of the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative on the work being done in conjunction with National Fish and Wildlife Federation to monitor Best Management Practices. The meeting also featured a follow up discussion from Qian Zhang and Matt Cashman's [presentation on Monitoring Gaps in the Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Monitoring Network](#) at the May Meeting. This discussion focused on how to optimize the monitoring network given current and expected levels of funding. The next NTN Workgroup meeting is scheduled for July 20th, 2022.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup

The CAP WG participated in three sessions of a STAC workshop on Advanced Monitoring. The [third and final session](#) occurred on May 11th and focused on gaps and cost challenges limiting habitat assessments as outlined by the water quality standards under the TMDL for water clarity/dissolved oxygen.

Status and Trends Workgroup (STWG)

The STWG met on [June 13](#) with the Local Leadership Outcome to narrow down options for metricizing key aspects of the outcome, using the acquired Local Leadership Survey data, into an indicator. STWG

members also had an opportunity to provide input on the STWG webpage. The next meeting is on July 11th and will focus on the updates and maintenance of existing indicators.

July 2022 Management Board Indicators Update

Since the June MB meeting, we have updated the following indicators to ChesapeakeProgress.

- RPI (2021 data)
- Sustainable Schools (2021 data)

We anticipate finalizing the following additional indicator updates in advance of the August MB meeting:

- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention (2018 data)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (2021 prelim data and 2020 final data)
- Blue Crab Abundance (2020 harvest data and 2021 adult female abundance data)
- Oyster Reef Restoration (2021 data)
- Indicators Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, barnhart.katheryn@epa.gov

STAR Coordinator: Breck Sullivan, bsuollivan@chesapeakebay.net.

STAR Staffers: Amy Goldfischer, agoldfischer@chesapeakebay.net; Alex Gunnerson agunnerson@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.

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup will start working as the Strategic Engagement Team in August.

Communications Office

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

- Read the press release:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake_bay_awareness_week_celebrates_restoration_projects_across_the_wa
- Read the blog:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/recognizing_bay_awareness_week_by_celebrating_a_brighter_future_for_the_che

On June 22, the Communications Office published the RPI press release and blog.

- Read the press release:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/bay_program_model_shows_decline_in_nutrient_sediment_pollution_entering_the
- Read the blog:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/watershed_jurisdictions_help_lower_nutrient_and_sediment_pollution_entering

On June 28, the Communications Office published a press release announcing the hypoxia forecast for 2022.

- Read the press release:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/chesapeake_bay_dead_zone_predicted_to_be_13_lower_than_average
- Read the blog:
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bays_dead_zone_is_predicted_to_be_13_smaller_this_summer

The Chesapeake Bay Program participated in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival from June 23-27 and June 30-July 4. The Chesapeake Bay Program asked each jurisdiction to lead an activity on one of the festival days. The jurisdictions participated on the following days:

- June 23 - Virginia
- June 23 - Washington, D.C.
- June 26 - Delaware
- July 1 - West Virginia
- July 2 - Maryland

The Chesapeake Bay Program participated in the Coastal Connections tent.

- Learn more: <https://festival.si.edu/2022/earth-optimism/coastal-connections>

The following blogs were published in June:

- With only a week to live, luna moths are a rare sight
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/with_only_a_week_to_live_luna_moths_are_a_rare_sight
- Recognizing Bay Awareness Week by celebrating a brighter future for the Chesapeake
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/recognizing_bay_awareness_week_by_celebrating_a_brighter_future_for_the_chesapeake
- What we've learned from exploring a century of nitrogen pollution
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/what_weve_learned_from_exploring_a_century_of_nitrogen_pollution
- Slight improvements in Bay health and new economic data added in 2021 Chesapeake Bay Report Card
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/slight_improvements_in_bay_health_and_new_economic_data_added_in_2021_chesapeake_bay_report_card
- The solar paradox https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_solar_paradox
- Watershed jurisdictions help lower nutrient and sediment pollution entering the Bay
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/watershed_jurisdictions_help_lower_nutrient_and_sediment_pollution_entering_the_bay
- Bay's dead zone is predicted to be 13% smaller this summer
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/bays_dead_zone_is_predicted_to_be_13_smaller_this_summer

- Creating a brighter and more sustainable future for Annapolis
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/creating_a_brighter_and_more_sustainable_future_for_annapolis