



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
May 11, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

May 17	Principals' Staff Committee conference call
May 23-24	Choose Clean Water Coalition conference, Charlottesville, Va.
May 24-25	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, Charlottesville, Va.
May 30	Goal Team Chairs meeting
June 7-8	Local Government Advisory Committee meeting, Annapolis, Md.
Jun 8	Chesapeake Executive Council meeting, Annapolis, Md.
June 15	Management Board meeting
June 13-14	Science and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly meeting
Jun 17	Cecil County Wade-in

Updates

Congress Fully Funds CBP through September 2017

On May 4, Congress passed a \$1.1 trillion omnibus funding bill to keep the federal government up and running through September 2017 (the remainder of the federal fiscal year). The bill includes \$73 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program, the same level of funding as 2016. It also includes specific report direction that \$6 million of those funds should be allocated through the nutrient and sediment removal grants and small watershed grants. Work is already underway in Congress to craft bills for FY2018 funding.

Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-9778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

Bay TMDL Interim Evaluations back from states

All expected jurisdiction and federal agency responses to the EPA draft interim evaluations for their 2016-2017 Milestones have been submitted to EPA. The interim evaluations sent the week of April 10 include EPA recommendations for actions prior to the end of the milestone period to ensure jurisdictions and federal agencies remain on track. The interim evaluations are scheduled to be finalized and posted to the Bay TMDL website this summer.

Contact: Lucinda Power, (410) 267-5722, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Bay Gets a "C" in UMCES 2017 Report Card

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's (UMCES) annual report card gave the Chesapeake Bay a passing grade of "C" for 2016. The score combines measures for fish abundance, water quality, and habitat. The report was released on May 8 at a press event in Baltimore. Numerically, the estuary received a 54%, an uptick of 1% and one of the highest scores given by the Center's scientists. The recent improvements are an optimistic sign of resiliency and continued improvement.

Dissolved oxygen continues to be the best scoring indicator with 90% (A) and total phosphorus strongly improved, scoring 82% (A-); however, total nitrogen went down slightly to 55%, a C+. The Fisheries Index, which includes blue crab, striped bass, and bay anchovy indicators also received a grade of A—a large improvement over 2015 numbers—which is especially encouraging.

For more information: <http://www.umces.edu/research-highlights/chesapeake-bay-report-card-shows-steady-recovery>

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.

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one each in the District of Columbia, New York and Virginia.

LGAC will host a local government forum to assist the CBP's Land Use Workgroup with developing plausible growth scenarios. The Forum will be held on June 7, 2017 in conjunction with LGAC's next quarterly meeting June 7-8 at the Crowne Plaza in Annapolis..

Mary Gattis and members of LGAC continue to facilitate the Local Government Engagement Initiative (LGEI). The next gathering will be a conference call to be scheduled after the Principals Staff Committee meeting. A summary of communications tools and resources needed by the jurisdictions will be delivered to EPA in May. Any questions about the Initiative should be directed to Mary at mgattis@allianceforthebay.org.

Contact: jstarr@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 Program Assistant, Jennifer Starr, has transitioned to full time support for the Alliance's Local Government Programs and continues support Local Government Advisory Committee. The CAC Coordinator will be hiring a new CAC Program Assistant by the end of the month.

The next CAC meeting will be in Charlottesville, VA on May 24-25 following the Choose Clean Water Conference. The meeting will focus on the role and value of the Chesapeake Bay Program and case studies of how EPA funded projects have benefited local communities and waterways.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Jessica Blackburn, CAC Coordinator, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Contact: jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC will hold its first quarterly meeting of FY2017 on June 13-14, 2017 at a location to be determined in Annapolis, MD. Please direct any quarterly meeting inquiries to STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org. To be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, please contact STAC Staff.

Workshops:

Results of the FY17 Request for Proposals (RFPs)

STAC agreed to support the following 5 workshops in FY17:

- 1) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 3) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 4) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design
- 5) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions

FY16 Workshops

STAC hosted four workshops so far in 2017. The 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. Information regarding each workshop - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the workshop [homepage](#).

- 1) Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) – **March 29-30, 2017**
- 2) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads – **April 24-25, 2017**
- 3) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change – **March 28 (Blue Crab), April 25 (Submerged aquatic vegetation), April 26 (Oysters)**
- 4) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay's Tidal Waters – **February 6-7, 2017 (Part I), May 2-3, 2017 (Part II)**

Upcoming Reports

STAC is working to finalize five reports from the following FY2015 workshops. Information regarding each of these workshops can be found on the STAC webpage, or please contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

- 1) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation
- 2) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 3) Cracking the WIP: Designing an Optimization Engine to Guide Efficient Bay Implementation

- 4) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement
- 5) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making

Reviews:

STAC has five review activities in progress – arranged here in order of anticipated completion. All review reports (as available) can be found at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_pubs.php.

- 1) Boat Wake Wave Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

The panel completed their review. The final report will be distributed to the Partnership in early May.

- 2) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum

The STAC Criteria Addendum review panel is still finalizing its review of the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Criteria Addendum. The review panel suggested a clarifying re-write of the addendum and then requested additional revisions to the updated document. The CBP has provided a new and improved document and the panel is working to complete their review. The panel anticipates finishing the final report in late May.

- 3) Follow-up Review: James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation

STAC completed the review request from CBP for a review of the James River Chlorophyll *a* Criteria Re-evaluation in October 2016. The review panel has been re-assembled to assess how well their findings and recommendations have been implemented in the revised chlorophyll criteria assessment methodology. The review will take place over the next month.

- 4) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

The panel have completed their review of the requested documentation and finalized a report of their recommendations. The panel is currently awaiting the remaining documentation on the approach to climate change and Conowingo infill from the Modeling Workgroup to complete their review.

- 5) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)

STAC received the official review request from STAR's Modeling Workgroup on the Water Quality Sediment Transport Model in late November 2016. STAC Staff are currently working with the CBPO to finalize the review approach, questions, and documentation by mid-May. The review panel plans to convene in early June to discuss the material to be reviewed with CBP representatives.

Upcoming Reviews

STAC is working closely with the CBP to plan for one additional STAC-sponsored review in the coming months. These STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Mid-point Assessment.

- 1) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

Contact: dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

The Workgroup will use the Indicators Framework to evaluate how our existing indicators support our needs under the new Agreement, identify gaps, assist in developing new indicators, and ensure we have updated indicators for all of our Partnership products.

Indicators

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Juvenile Striped Bass Abundance	Between 2015 and 2016, the relative abundance of juvenile striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay decreased. In Maryland waters, the abundance index fell from 10.67 to 1.25, which is well below the long-term average. In Virginia waters, the index fell from 12 to 5.44, which is also well below the long-term average.	http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/striped_bass_juvenile_abundance_index
Oyster Restoration	Six Chesapeake Bay tributaries have been selected for oyster restoration: Harris Creek and the Little Choptank and Tred Avon rivers in Maryland, and the Lafayette, Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers in Virginia. Each tributary is at a different level of progress in a process that involves developing a tributary restoration plan, constructing and seeding reefs, and monitoring and evaluating restored reefs. In Maryland, 563.9 acres of oyster reefs are considered "complete." In Virginia, 158 acres of oyster reefs are considered "complete."	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/oysters
Blue Crab Abundance	Between 2016 and 2017, the abundance of adult (age 1+) female blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay increased 31 percent from 194 million to 254 million. This number is above the 70 million threshold and the 215 million target, and marks the highest amount ever recorded by the Bay-wide Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/blue-crab-abundance
Submerged Aquatic	In 2016, preliminary data indicates an estimated 97,433 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in the Chesapeake	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sav

Vegetation (SAV)	Bay: 7,433 acres greater than the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2017 restoration target and 53 percent of the partnership's 185,000-acre goal.	
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Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

Black Duck (May 2017)

Reducing Pollution (May 2017)

Forest Cover (May 2017)

Toxic Contaminants (Spring 2017)

Student MWEE (Spring 2017)

Citizen Stewardship* (June 2017)

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

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

Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team is preparing for their biannual meeting, which will take place on June 19-20 at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in Wallops Island, Virginia. The meeting will focus on blue crabs, fish habitat, and forage in the Chesapeake Bay. We invite other Goal Team Chairs and Management Board members to attend. Register [here](#).

The Fish Habitat Action Team held a meeting in April to analyze workplan progress, identify gaps and challenges, and prepare their strategy review presentation to the Management Board on May 11. Members contributed updates on workplan actions and provided recommendations for future workplan actions.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force reconvened in March to plan for a symposium in the fall that would bring recent invasive catfish research concerning population, diet and fish movement in the Chesapeake Bay to fisheries managers.

The results of the annual blue crab winter dredge survey were distributed in press releases by [Maryland](#) and [Virginia](#). There were decreases in adult male crabs and juveniles this year, however the female spawning stock increased by 31% to 254 million crabs, surpassing the scientifically recommended target of 215 million spawning female crabs.

Oyster experts convened for the "Aligning Monitoring with Climate Change" STAC workshop to gain a better understanding of the likely impacts of climate change and identify critical monitoring parameters. This workshop was the last of three 2017 workshops designed to increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and develop a long-term vision for management in the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact: Kara Skipper; kara.skipper@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

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

The Habitat Goal Implementation Team's Spring 2017 will take place on May 9th at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's office in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The meeting will focus on preparing for the Management Board's Biennial Review and updating members with ongoing GIT and partner activities such as the USACE's Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan.

The Wetland Workgroup, in collaboration with the CBP Web and Communications Teams, has refined the project scope of a GIT Funded project "Increasing landowner participation in wetland restoration programs – information access and program cross-training." Contracts are expected to be awarded by the end of May.

The SAV Workgroup's GIT Funded project "Watershed group and citizen monitoring of fish habitat" is in the process of scheduling trainings for watershed groups to monitor SAV and forage fish. An existing citizen science app, Water Reporter, is being updated to include SAV and forage monitoring capabilities.

The SAV Workgroup hosted a workshop on March 29th at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD to focus on the SAV Survey and potential changes in design to help ensure continued monitoring under uncertain funding. Data users have been surveyed and an outcome of the workshop will be consensus on a path forward to continue SAV data collection in the Chesapeake. A workshop report will be available in the coming weeks describing recommendations and rationale.

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries jointly hosted a multi-state Landscape Science Workshop in late April. Workshop participants were briefed on the diversity of regional science tools with a focus on the use of habitat conservation planning and design tools developed by Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). Participants included a range of conservation professionals -- including biologists and program managers; planners and administrators; and GIS experts. The group used new GIS resources to identify mutual priorities and opportunities for conserving key habitats, strategically aligning local conservation plans with broader regional goals and objectives.

Contact: Runion.kyle@epa.gov

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held a conference call on April 10.

The WQGIT was briefed on the proposed Phase 6 Model Review Strategy document, which includes Phase 6 model changes, fatal flaw review definitions, and a review strategy document. A copy of the document will be distributed to the Management Board members once finalized by the WQGIT and the Modeling Workgroup.

The WQGIT received presentations on a proposed midpoint assessment communications strategy from the Partnership's Communications Office and on a draft Phase III WIP local government engagement and communications template from LGAC's Local Government Engagement Initiative.

The Principals' Staff Committee approved the revised Midpoint Assessment schedule during their April 25 conference call.

A series of webinars has been scheduled (two have already taken place) in preparation of the fatal flaw review of the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools over the summer:

- 2025 Growth Projections on April 14, 2017
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25069/>
- Phase 6 Sediment Simulation Webinar on April 19, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/24949/>
- Overview of the Integrated Air Watershed and Bay Models, the Midpoint Assessment Decisions the Models Were Designed to Address, and the Decision Framework of Standards, Models, and Planning Target Method, May 9, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25114/>
- Phase 6 Loads Webinar, May 23, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25115/>
- Poultry Data Webinar, May 24, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25117/>
- Phase 6 Inputs Webinar, May 25, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25087/>
- Phase 6 Physical Transport Webinar, June 13, 2017:
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/25116/>

The WQGIT will hold conference calls on May 8 and May 22. A subset of the planned topics includes:

The WQGIT will be briefed on the Oyster BMP Panel's progress toward developing protocols involving the nitrogen and phosphorus assimilation in oyster shell and enhanced denitrification crediting pertaining to oyster aquaculture and/or restoration practices.

The WQGIT will be briefed on the climate change storyboard for the Phase 6 model, which includes the most recent estimated influences of climate change in the Chesapeake Bay.

The WQGIT will be briefed on the Agriculture Workgroup's proposed inputs for running E3 scenarios in the Phase 6 model. The WQGIT will be asked to approve the proposed scenario inputs.

The WQGIT will be briefed on newly released calibration inputs for the draft final Phase 6 model, and transitioning between Phase 5 and 6 CAST tools.

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 Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT had a meeting on April 21st to go over materials and the presentation for the Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting. Also in preparation for the SRS meeting, HWGIT staff have met with jurisdictions to review progress on workplan action items.

The HWGIT has decided not to pursue its Back Creek Watershed Demo FY16 GIT Funding project and instead will be pursuing a project to incorporate the EPA Healthy Watershed Team's Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment data with jurisdictional data to assess the condition of state identified healthy watersheds and determine threats and vulnerability level. FY15 GIT funding projects are beginning to wrap up. The Land Use Options Evaluation project has created a draft Conservation Land-Use Policy toolkit that highlights the best policies, planning incentives and tools aimed at reducing the rate for forest, wetland and farmland conversion to development a webinar on the results will be scheduled soon. The Healthy Watersheds TMDL/Forest project has expanded from Virginia to include another jurisdiction, Pennsylvania. Model results related of the economic impact of retaining forestland in PA have been completed and will then be compared to similar results in VA. The aim of the project is to provide a scientific justification for crediting forestland retention in the TMDL and develop the tool box of criteria, incentives, etc. that could be used in land use policy and zoning situations to accurately identify and assign appropriate values to high conservation value forest lands.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@chesapeakebay.net

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

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

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

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team

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

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The GIT sub-group (the "SRS Small Group") is hosting with the first Quarterly Progress Meeting on May 11, 2017 with the Management Board. The full GIT will meet on May 16, 2017 to review the outcome(s) of the meeting, including action items, follow-up, successes, and opportunities for improvement at the August 2017 meeting. The GIT is also drafting a report and executive summary from the February 2-Day Biennial Meeting that highlights key themes and considerations, to be presented to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) and potentially the Executive Council.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Workgroup has offered to meet with Goal Teams and their respective workgroups after these groups' Quarterly Progress Meetings with the Management Board, to discuss areas of opportunity for including finance considerations and financing strategies in their Management Strategies and 2-Year Work Plans. The Workgroup is also beginning to review the draft "Path Forward" report developed by

the Environmental Action Team, and will take on lead and/or oversight roles for many of the action items listed in the report.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

GIT Local Leadership Workgroup

The Workgroup is hosting a meeting on early July 12, 2017 to review the report on local elected officials' information content needs and preferred delivery mechanisms developed by EcoLogix. The Workgroup will use the information in this report (and other sources) to implement the third phase of the local official watershed education project "*Implementation Support for Local Official Watershed Education and Capacity Building*."

Contact: Reggie Parrish, parrish.reggie@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.

The STAR team will continue to review and summarize GIT science and monitoring support needs to work through the Management Board and address gaps in achieving management goals and GIT outcome assessments of the 2014 Bay Agreement. STAR is facilitating this work by providing a forum supporting GIT preparation for the SRS Biennial Review meetings with the Management Board. Dedicated meetings on GIT preparation are occurring two months prior to the Management Board's themed SRS quarterly review meetings. The [April meeting](#) of STAR featured four GIT teams preparing for the first SRS review with the Management Board in May.

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee hosted three one-day workshops to assess blue crab, submerged aquatic vegetation and oyster climate change monitoring needs to support adaptive management. Priority monitoring needs as well as spatial and temporal collection parameters for key climate drivers were identified. The Steering Committee will compile the workshop results and synthesize monitoring needs to identify commonalities among various workgroups. The CRWG is also conducting an internal assessment of monitoring needs for stream health, black duck, forage and fish habitat. The CRWG will be holding a conference call on May 15, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. and a full in-person workgroup meeting on June 19, 2017.

Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup

During February 2017, CBP partners requested an overview and update of the Chesapeake Bay tidal waters benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring program with applications of its Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity. The methodology supports Clean Water Act 303d impairment listings in tidal waters of Chesapeake Bay. Specific interests among the partners includes 1) sampling distribution, 2) latest work regarding reference community classification and 3) the power of the tool to discriminate causes of impairment. The CAP WG webinar occurred on April 4, 2017 to address these interests. See the [calendar event page](#) for the presentation and supporting materials.

Integrated Monitoring Networks

The CBP supported Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) through the Alliance for the Chesapeake has completed Quality Assurance plans and Prioritization Report work on volunteer and nontraditional

partner monitoring for the bay and watershed. On May 1, the CMC conducted its first webinar networking with citizen groups to join the CMC in monitoring water quality and benthic macroinvertebrates. Data will be entered into a new database being developed with the CMC and support educational information needs (Tier 1), targeting assessments for management activities (Tier 2) and regulatory water quality assessments (Tier 3).

IMN WG members are also providing presentation and coordination support to the 1) the Maryland Water Monitoring Council sponsored second “Data to Decisions Workshop” (June 2017 – Eastern Shore MD) that targets networking with citizen scientists and how to improve the utility of their data collections (ties into multiple GIT monitoring needs), and 2) Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership, its Actionable Science Team and their upcoming Toxics Workshop (TBA, Summer 2017) with links to the CBP Toxics WG.

The May 17th IMN WG meeting will feature a data call to the monitoring community linked with the Climate Resiliency WG project on development of CBP Climate Indicators.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

The Communications Workgroup reviewed its priorities from the previous year at their April meeting, with the intent to create a two-year workplan. Kristin Reilly (CCWC, Communications Director) gave an update on the Coalition’s activities to support CBP and led a discussion about how CBP partners could communicate the successes of the partnership. Jennifer Starr (ACB, LGAC) updated the workgroup on the activities of the Local Government Engagement Initiative.

On April 10, Rachel Felver (ACB, CBP Communications Director) spoke to the Water Quality GIT about the Midpoint Assessment/Phase III WIP planning communications strategy. On April 13, the office put out a press release with NOAA updating on oyster restoration progress. In March, CBP ran a “This is Progress” campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to highlight progress made toward the Agreement and the data available on [ChesapeakeProgress.com](#). A separate “Chesapeake Stories” Facebook campaign features short, one-minute videos where watershed residents share their stories: what their waterway means to them, how they interact with their environment and what environmental issues face their communities.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Apr 4	Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management (GIT 6) Meeting
Apr 10	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Call
Apr 12	Local Leadership Workgroup Meeting

