

**Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Summary
June 7, 2005
Radisson Hotel, Annapolis, MD**

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Attendance

Members: Don Boesch, Denise Breitburg, Kirk Havens, Carl Hershner, Mike Kemp, Gerrit Knaap, Ron Korcak, Doug Lipton, Jim Lynch, Gary Matlock, Saied Mostaghimi, Michael Paolisso, James Pease, Scott Phillips, Cliff Randall, David Secor, Kevin Sellner, Tom Simpson, Don Weller, Claire Welty
Guests: Rich Batiuk, Steve Colmus, Meghan Leavey, Steve Preston
Staff: Melissa Fagan, Dan Gustafson

Call to Order

Carl Hershner, STAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Membership

The new STAC members were given a chance to introduce themselves to the committee and share their areas of expertise. Carl Hershner discussed the responsibilities of being a STAC member indicating that STAC functioned similarly to a mini academy of science to provide discussion, review, and advice to the Bay Program as it works to restore the Bay both responsively and proactively. He also stressed that STAC goes beyond the committee structure to reach out to the scientific community Bay-wide as issues are brought to the table. Carl also noted that the STAC Bylaws have been updated to encourage turnover of both the general membership as well as the STAC Executive Board. The composition of the Executive Board now includes positions for the current Chair and Vice Chair, the past Chair, and 5 additional members. The officer nominations were presented: Carl Hershner for Chair, Doug Lipton for Vice Chair, and Denise Breitburg for past Chair. These nominations were voted upon and approved. There are also two additional positions vacant on the Executive Board and these will be discussed and voted on at the September meeting.

CRC Subcommittee Support Staff Presentations

Dan Gustafson, CRC, introduced Steve Colmus, CRC Subcommittee Support Staffer for the Information Management Subcommittee. Steve noted that the two primary responsibilities of the subcommittee are to serve as the data hub for the Chesapeake Bay Program and maintain the program's website. The subcommittee is focusing on three tasks: 1.) improve the exchange of non-point source data, 2.) work with the communications staff to redesign the suite of Bay Program indicators and communication products, and 3.) redesign the Bay Program website. In addition to supporting the subcommittee's needs, Steve has also written a series of Civil War articles, created maps detailing the voyage of John Smith, and is coordinating an effort to reduce the affects of stormwater runoff from the Annapolis City Marina. After Steve's presentation, Dan introduced Meghan Leavey, CRC Subcommittee Support Staffer for the Living

Resources Subcommittee. Meghan supports the Tidal and Non-tidal Habitat Workgroups and updated the committee on progress made towards fish passage, SAV, wetland, and stream corridor goals. She is preparing to begin graduate school where she will earn a Masters Degree in city and regional planning.

GAO Update

Rich Batiuk, EPA-CBPO, updated the committee on the status of the GAO review. The investigators have almost completed their review on the funding portion of the inquiry and are making progress on the portion of the review looking at how progress and current information is being communicated. The GAO officials are also hoping to assemble a panel of experts to look at how to judge the appropriateness and effectiveness of indicators. The EPA will have an opportunity to comment on any audit findings before the final report is published. The report will be released in October. In addition, the EPA and USDA IG are conducting a joint review of the Bay Program and are focusing on the challenges hindering progress in three areas: agriculture, land use and development, and atmospheric deposition. They are interested in forming panels of experts that can be interviewed over the course of their investigation as they review the three topical areas. Volunteers for these panels include:

Agriculture: Tom Simpson, James Pease, and Ron Korcak
Land Use and Development: Claire Welty and Gerrit Knaap
Atmospheric Deposition: Jim Lynch

The OMB is also performing a routine investigation of the Bay Program and is focusing on how funding is being used for implementation and outcome generation.

Action: STAC members willing to participate in the GAO review as an indicator expert should contact Rich Batiuk (batiuk.richard@epa.gov) as soon as possible. Suggestions for experts outside of STAC are also being accepted.

Action: STAC members wishing to join the IG expert panels listed above should contact Melissa Fagan by June 29th.

Non-tidal Monitoring Taskforce

Saied Mostaghimi, VA Tech, updated the committee on the results of the Non-tidal Monitoring Taskforce. The taskforce met May 9th to evaluate the current non-tidal monitoring network and develop recommendations for refinement. The network is designed to assess status and trends of nutrients and sediments and to calibrate models. The taskforce developed a list of recommendations focusing on improving the representativeness of the network, improving the data collection for model calibration and verification, and for determining the cost effectiveness of upgrading existing sites versus establishing new sites. The final report from this taskforce study will be completed and distributed by the end of June.

Non-tidal Water Quality Monitoring Taskforce

Don Boesch, UMCES, updated the committee on the results of the Non-tidal Water Quality Monitoring Taskforce. The taskforce met twice to evaluate three things: 1.) is the data being collected appropriate for making management decisions, 2.) are there ways to improve the network, and 3.) how do you integrate monitoring and modeling? Some initial recommendation that came from the group included; expand the network to cover unmonitored areas, clarify when statements are based on data or model output, use the monitoring data to improve the models, and model specific years and conditions as opposed to averages. The report is in draft form currently and should be available in final form at the end of June.

Action: Joe Bachman will review the draft report and provide comments to Don Boesch. Any additional STAC members wishing to review the draft should contact Don immediately after the meeting.

Rich Batiuk noted that the Taskforce structure being used by STAC was a great tool to the Bay Program. He will request a formal response back to STAC from the Bay Program to show how the results of these efforts have been considered.

Phase 5 Watershed Model Review

Carl Hershner updated the committee on the results of the Phase 5 Watershed Model review. An external review team was assembled to determine if what was currently being done with the model was appropriate and to develop recommendations for future versions of the model. The panel captured many of the issues and concerns expressed by STAC at previous meetings. A few of the panel's recommendations include: use additional models to inform the overall effort, coordinate with the Monitoring and Analysis Subcommittee, conduct an assessment of the uncertainty, focus on small watersheds intensively and use them for extrapolation, and look for ways to simplify the model. The report has just been completed and will be distributed and posted on the website immediately following the meeting.

Action: Carl Hershner, Don Boesch, and Saied Mostaghimi will combine the results of the two monitoring taskforces and the model review to create a merged set of recommendations focusing on management implications. The recommendations will be distributed and presented to the Bay Program committees and subcommittees.

STAC Activity Update

The committee was updated on three STAC activities.

Urban Stormwater Sediment Workshop – Ted Graham, MWCOG, noted that the workshop was very well attended and received. A workshop report is currently being developed. A follow-up workshop will also be proposed during the next STAC RFP period.

Spatial Management II Workshop – Carl Hershner noted that the workshop is currently being planned for the fall and will build upon the results from the first

stakeholder's workshop to define what is currently known and what needs to be known before moving an initiative forward to the public.

Nutrient Trading – Doug Lipton noted that several experts working on nutrient trading were contacted since the March STAC meeting. He will continue working with Tom Simpson and Gerrit Knaap to pull these experts together to flesh out issues and recommendations. It was suggested that Cliff Randall engage with this group to provide his expertise.

Action: Doug Lipton, Tom Simpson, and Gerrit Knaap will continue to engage experts on the subject of nutrient trading and will present their recommendations at the September STAC meeting.

Scientific and Technical Needs Update

Carl Hershner informed the committee that additional updates to the documents are being accepted. At the September meeting, Bay Program subcommittee chairs will be invited to share their thoughts on the identified needs as well as additional needs that they feel should be included. The 2005 versions of the documents will be released in advance of the December meeting. Many STAC members offered suggestions on how to improve the readability of the documents such as adding pictures and tables and refine and tighten up the recommendations. It was also suggested that progress on meeting each of these needs be included and that a separate science implementation plan be developed as a companion document.

Review of Workshop Proposals

The committee did not review the proposal “Technical Review of the Revised Toxics of Concern List” since there was no one to update the committee on the changes made to the proposal since the March meeting. The STAC Executive Board will contact the workshop representatives and will evaluate the modified proposal on behalf of the larger committee. The committee review the proposal “Assessing Cumulative Costs of Shoreline Modification.” Gary Matlock, NOAA, discussed what changes to the proposal have been made and the committee approved the revised proposal. Michael Paolisso, UMD, volunteered to assist the steering committee in developing the social aspects of this workshop topic.

Request for STAC Support

Rich Batiuk, EPA-CBPO, on behalf of the Monitoring and Analysis Subcommittee, requested expert technical support to develop a statistical basis for analytical methods designed for applying the cumulative frequency distribution approach and to refine the algorithms used for spatial interpolation of water-quality monitoring data for use in criteria attainment assessment. STAC would be involved in two ways. First, STAC would identify several statisticians to review the methods and approaches that the Chesapeake Bay Program partners and collaborators have developed and published over the past several years. Once this process is completed the Chesapeake Bay Program Staff will use the recommendations from the team to further refine the criteria attainment assessment methodology. Upon completion of this refinement, STAC will organize an

expert team to review the revised analytical procedures and assessment tools. The committee discussed this request and agreed that there was a role for STAC in this process. Members were identified and will coordinate with Rich Batiuk and Steve Preston, USGS – Monitoring and Analysis Subcommittee Coordinator, to refine the scope of work for STAC involvement.

Action: Carl Hershner, Kevin Sellner, and David Secor will coordinate with Rich Batiuk and Steve Preston to identify statisticians who can provide expert opinion on (1) deriving error structure for the cumulative frequency distribution approach and (2) test and evaluate algorithms used for spatial interpolation of water-quality monitoring data.

Action: Any STAC member with candidates for expert statisticians to participate in this activity should forward names and contact information to Kevin Sellner.

STAC Website Preview

Melissa Fagan, CRC, presented the newly redesigned website to the committee. The new site will be on-line by the end of June at the current web address (www.chesapeake.org/stac). Members are encouraged to take a look at the site once it is available and forward any comments and suggestions to Melissa.