

**Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 11-12, 2002
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA**

September 11, 2002

Attendance:

Members/Alternates: Mary Beth Adams, Joseph Bachman, Denise Breitburg, Robert Brumbaugh, Ted Graham, Kirk Havens, Carl Hershner, Ed Houde, Michael Kemp, Waldon Kerns, Ron Korcak, Les Lanyon, Doug Lipton, Jim Lynch, Gary Matlock, Catherine O’Riordan, Scott Phillips, Harry Pionke, Kevin Sellner, Dick Weismiller
Guests: Tilly Egge, Paul Kazyak, Jennifer Larson, Louis McDonald, Ron Ohrel
Staff: Melissa Bugg, Polly Tobin

Call to Order

Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. After introducing members, alternates, guests, and staff, the June meeting minutes were approved. Also at this time the September agenda was approved.

Ecological Health Assessment of Non-tidal Streams

Ted Graham, MWCOG, introduced Paul Kazyak, MD-DNR, who gave a presentation on ecological health assessment of non-tidal streams based on the results of the MD Biological Stream Survey study. Paul discussed the MD Biological Stream Survey program, which monitors over 2000 sites throughout the region. Volunteers collect data at these sites and send samples to the laboratory for analysis. The data are compared against certain criteria and each watershed and stream is given a rating that allows the team to determine which areas are doing well, which are doing poorly, and the general trends present throughout these watersheds and streams. This information can be used to establish biological goals and to monitor programs working towards achieving goals in watershed and stream restoration. In addition to this sampling survey, the MD Biological Stream Survey also offers training courses to outside groups and provides a testing program for training participants. Data and reports from the MD Biological Stream Survey are available at www.dnr.state.md.us/streams.

Scientific and Technical Needs Report

Kevin Sellner, CRC, updated the committee on the status of the Scientific and Technical Needs document. A draft version of the report was sent to the committee for comment and all appropriate comments received were incorporated into the final version of the report. The final report was included in the members’ meeting booklets. It was then discussed that the document’s length and structure would minimize the effectiveness of the document when presented to the Executive Council (EC) and to the Bay Program. Thus, each workgroup was given the opportunity during the afternoon session to select priority items from their contributions, which will be pulled together to create a

condensed, more effective version of the Scientific and Technical Needs document for presentation to the EC and other Bay Program committees. After the STAC workgroups met, each workgroup presented their priority items to the committee. Mike Kemp, UMCES, offered language to serve as an introduction to the condensed report.

Action: Each workgroup leader will submit their priority items to Melissa Bugg, STAC Staff, for compilation. In addition, Mike Kemp, UMCES, will submit introductory language to Melissa Bugg, STAC Staff.

Executive Council Meeting

Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, updated the committee on the status of the Executive Council (EC) Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2002 in Anacostia Park. The theme of the meeting will be the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. The private meeting will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. During this time, each of the advisory committees will have five minutes to brief the EC on their committee's activities. This will be followed by a 15-minute joint discussion period with the three advisory committee chairs. The public meeting will be held from 2:00-3:30 p.m. During the 5-minutes allocated to STAC in the private meeting, Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, will update EC members on STAC activities and will present them with the condensed Scientific and Technical Needs document formulated by the workgroups in the afternoon session.

Iterative Development of Technical Advice on CBP Management Goal Setting

Carl Hershner, STAC Vice Chair, gave a presentation on iterative development of technical advice on CBP management goal setting. Carl stressed that STAC should be looking towards the next set of commitments so that as they are being developed, STAC will be prepared to identify and advise the Bay community of critical issues and practical next steps from a scientific and technical perspective. STAC should use the quarterly meetings as a mechanism to start thinking critically and formulate ideas and recommendations that can help guide the Bay Program, especially during the development of the next bay agreement. STAC has already been conducting several activities that can be incorporated into this process such as the Bay *Futures* project, the Scientific and Technical Needs document, and an activity to prioritize the C2K commitments that the committee will be undertaking during the afternoon session of this meeting. Time at the quarterly meetings can be dedicated to forecasting upcoming issues and creating common recommendations or statements that can be presented to Rebecca Hanmer, CBP Director, at IC meetings, as well as to the BSC, the Water Quality Steering Committee, and other CBP subcommittees. In order for STAC to become a regular and influential presence throughout the Bay Program, members need to become engaged with the CBP subcommittees, and represent STAC at CBP meetings taking with them the recommendations and statements developed by the committee at quarterly meetings.

Action: Melissa Bugg, STAC Staff, will survey the membership to determine which subcommittee(s) each STAC member is currently involved with or would like to become involved with through meeting attendance and/or email updates.

Prioritizing the C2K Commitments from the Scientific Perspective

Carl Hershner, STAC Vice Chair, led the committee through an activity that prioritized the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement commitments from a scientific and technical perspective. Each member was sent an instructional letter from the STAC Executive Board as well as an activity table before the meeting. They were to come to the meeting having selected the top five most important commitments to be achieved for the overall restoration of the Bay, and for each of the commitments, members were to assess the uncertainties involved in achieving the commitment. The uncertainty was ranked on a 1-4 scale, with 1 being no/low uncertainty and 4 being high degree of uncertainty. The surveys were collected and compiled during the workgroups sessions, and the results were presented to the committee during the afternoon session. The top five commitments ranked by STAC are shown in the table below.

Number of Votes	Commitment	Average Uncertainty
14	3.1 Nutrients and Sediments	2.74
13	1.4 Multispecies Management	3.17
11	2.2 Watersheds	2
10	2.3 Wetlands	3.5
10	4.2 Development, Redevelopment, and Revitalization	2.25

Update on Implementation Committee Activities

Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, and Carl Hershner, STAC Vice Chair, updated the committee on recent activities of the Implementation Committee (IC). The IC has also conducted an exercise prioritizing the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement commitments. The results of the IC study were distributed and the committee noted that the results from the STAC prioritization were very similar to the results of the IC exercise. The IC will be addressing their prioritized list in future meetings to determine how the Bay Program will utilize their results. This presents an opportunity for STAC to insert scientific and technical advice into the process, and in turn, raising STAC's presence within the IC and other subcommittees.

STAC Membership

Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, updated the committee on STAC membership items. Rob Brumbaugh, CBF, and Kirk Havens, VIMS, have been appointed by the Governor of Virginia to serve on STAC as representatives from Virginia. It was then announced that Gary Matlock, NOAA, has been appointed to serve on STAC as a federal agency representative. Waldon Kerns then presented the committee with the Executive Board's recommendations for several at-large membership positions based on nominations submitted by committee members at prior STAC meetings. The Executive Board recommended Gerrit Knapp, UMD, for land use planning, Rob Hale, VIMS, for toxicology/environmental chemistry, Martin Shields, PSU, for socioeconomic land use, and Puneet Srivastava, ANS, for land use modeling. After a brief discussion, the committee voted to approve these candidates for membership.

September 12, 2002

Attendance:

Members/Alternates: Mary Beth Adams, Denise Breitburg, Robert Brumbaugh, Kirk Havens, Carl Hershner, Ed Houde, Waldon Kerns, Ron Korcak, Les Lanyon, Doug Lipton, Gary Matlock, Catherine O’Riordan, Harry Pionke, Kevin Sellner, Dick Weismiller
Guests: Tilly Egge, Jennifer Larson, Louis McDonald
Staff: Melissa Bugg, Polly Tobin

Call to Order

Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Review of Prior Day Activities

Carl Hershner, STAC Vice Chair, gave an overview of the prior day’s activities. STAC became reacquainted with the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement commitments through the prioritization activity. In addition, the Scientific and Technical Needs document was condensed by each workgroup pulling out priority areas from their respective sections. Each of these activities provided points of consensus that will enable Waldon Kerns to address Rebecca Hanmer, CBP Director, and the Executive Council, and well as prepare STAC members who will represent STAC at subcommittee meetings. A next step from this exercise may be to compare the assumptions in the Bay *Futures* report with the recommendations presented in the Scientific and Technical Needs document.

Chesapeake Bay *Futures* Report and Video

Kevin Sellner, CRC, updated the committee on the status of the *Futures* report. A draft of the report has been completed and is currently being reviewed by STAC members, contributors to the report, as well as IC members. The close of the comment period was August 30, 2002. The editor, Nina Fisher, and the authors, Jack Greer and Don Boesch, are currently reviewing all comments for consideration and incorporation. The final report will be completed for publication by October 1, 2002 and the report should be available for distribution by November 1, 2002. The video associated with the *Futures* report is scheduled to air on Maryland Public Television this fall. The committee discussed arranging a viewing of the video before it airs on television.

<p>Action: Any STAC member wishing to receive a copy of a particular chapter of the Bay <i>Futures</i> report will contact Kevin Sellner, CRC, or Melissa Bugg, STAC Staff.</p>
--

<p>Action: Kevin Sellner, CRC, will work with Jonathan Phinney and Maryland Public Television to arrange a viewing of the video, if possible, before the airing on television.</p>

STAC Activities Budget

Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, discussed the status of the STAC activities budget proposals. He briefly reviewed the FY03 base budget and activity budget allocations to provide STAC with examples of funded activities. STAC has submitted a placeholder for the FY04 budget cycle that will be decided by the Budget Steering Committee (BSC) in

December. STAC decided that they would submit an activity budget proposal and noted that for it to receive funding, STAC will need to have the support of the CBP subcommittees. The committee decided upon submitting a single, well-developed proposal and discussing it with the various subcommittees in order to receive their support at the BSC decision meeting. A suggested topic was to continue with the activities conducted at this meeting and perform an analysis to iteratively evaluate the uncertainties associated with the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement commitments.

Action: Carl Hershner, STAC Vice Chair, will chair a group tasked with the development of a STAC activities budget proposal. A completed proposal must be delivered to Waldon Kerns, STAC Chair, by December 1, 2002 for delivery to the BSC. Members included in this group include Gary Matlock, Denise Breitburg, Kevin Sellner, and Mike Kemp. Any other STAC members wishing to participate should contact Carl Hershner.

Marine Protected Areas

Ed Houde, UMCES, addressed the committee regarding the STAC MPA activity and presented them with a timeline. He will organize an expert panel comprised of STAC representatives, regional experts, and stakeholders in the fall and early winter. In January of 2003, a workshop will be conducted with panel members and other interested parties to establish a basis for moving forward and to create a plan of action. Early within the next fiscal year (June 2003), a proactive workshop will be conducted to develop a plan on how to move forward with recommendations resulting from panel activities and the January workshop. The STAC MPA activity will be completed within a two-year time frame. Denise Breitburg, ANS, Rob Brumbaugh, CBF, Gary Matlock, NOAA, and Doug Lipton, UMD, agreed to assist Ed Houde with this activity.

Action: Any STAC member wishing to serve on the STAC MPA expert panel, or would like to nominate someone from outside of STAC to serve on the panel, should contact Ed Houde, UMCES, as soon as possible.

CRC/CBP Subcommittee Support Staff Presentations

Polly Tobin, STAC Staff and CRC Subcommittee Support Staff Program Coordinator, introduced the two CRC/CBP Subcommittee Support Staffers giving presentations at the meeting: Jennifer Larson, Modeling Subcommittee, and Tilly Egge, Living Resources Subcommittee. Jennifer Larson stated that the Modeling Subcommittee is currently focusing on two primary tasks. The first is analyzing the current phase of the model by going through "what if" questions. Results of this analysis inform managers of how far management programs need to go. The second activity of the Modeling Subcommittee is developing future phases of the model. Tilly Egge stated that the Living Resources Subcommittee is primarily focusing on completing three tasks: the comprehensive oyster plan, the SAV strategy, and the aquatic health guidelines. Other activities being pursued by the subcommittee are wetlands tracking, assembling an expert panel on zebra mussels, discussing acid mine drainage and chemical blockages in relation to fish passage, and the shallow water directive.

STAC Bay Journal Articles

Kevin Sellner, CRC, updated the committee on the status of the *STAC Bay Journal* articles. Karl Blankenship is still interested in collaborating with STAC on these articles and would like the first article to appear in the November issue. He is working with Don Boesch, UMCES, and Jack Greer, MDSG, who will be producing an article on the Bay *Futures* project. Future topics for STAC articles include air, Jim Lynch, PSU, sediments, Larry Sanford, UMCES, dissolved oxygen and nutrient loading implications on feeding behavior, Denise Breitbart, NAS, and the feasibility of nutrient reduction technologies, Cliff Randall, VA Tech. Once the first article has been submitted and approved by Karl Blankenship, it will be distributed amongst the membership to serve as a model for future articles. In addition to the articles, Karl Blankenship will be accepting highlights of upcoming events, new discoveries, etc. to appear on the science page.

Action: Kevin Sellner, CRC, will continue to work with Karl Blankenship, *Bay Journal*, to organize this activity.

STAC Workshops and Expert Panels

The committee discussed several proposed additions to the workshop protocol. The first would emphasize that the report writing responsibilities would be assumed by the entire workshop steering committee, not solely the STAC representative and that a deadline would be established for the completion of all workshop reports. In addition, the proposing subcommittee should indicate in their workshop proposals the timeline in which they need the specified workshop products.

Action: Kevin Sellner, CRC, will revise the workshop protocol and workshop guidelines to reflect these discussions. A revised protocol will be put before the Executive Board and the general membership for final approval at the next meeting.

In addition to the review of the STAC workshop protocols, it was suggested by the membership that the Executive Board should review the STAC bylaws, specifically in the areas of membership numbers, quorums, and a process for amending the bylaws if needed.

Action: The STAC Executive Board will review the STAC Bylaws at the next STAC Executive Board Meeting to address concerns brought up by the general membership.

December STAC Meeting

The next STAC meeting will be held December 11-12, 2002 in the general Washington, D.C. area.