

**Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Summary  
September 10-11, 2003  
Radisson Hotel Annapolis, Annapolis, MD**

**September 10, 2003**

**Attendance**

Members/Alternates: Denise Breitburg, Rob Brumbaugh, Kirk Havens, Carl Hershner, Bruce Hicks, Ed Houde, Mike Kemp, Les Lanyon, Doug Lipton, Gary Matlock, Saied Mostaghimi, Catherine O’Riordan, Scott Phillips, Cliff Randall, Bill Rickards, Larry Sanford, Kevin Sellner, Tom Simpson, Puneet Srivastava, Dick Weismiller  
Guests: Karl Blankenship, Steve Preston, Nita Sylvester, Susan Roberts, Jill Waite  
Staff: Melissa Bugg, Polly Tobin

**Call to Order**

Carl Hershner, STAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. After introducing members, guests, and staff, the May meeting minutes were approved.

**STAC Membership**

Carl Hershner discussed expanding the STAC membership to include one gubernatorial appointee from each of the three Headwater States: West Virginia, New York, and Delaware. STAC has received an appointment from West Virginia and expect to receive appointments from New York and Delaware in the near future. The STAC Bylaws have been modified to include this addition and have also been modified to include the rapid response workshop structure. The membership voted to approve these modifications.

**Subcommittee Support Staff Presentations**

Polly Tobin, CRC Fellowship Program Coordinator, gave the committee a brief overview of the CRC Chesapeake Bay Program Subcommittee Support Staff Program in which she outlined the specifics of the positions and discussed the staffers’ independent projects, professional development activities, and volunteer endeavors. She then introduced Jill Waite who updated the committee on the activities of the Information Management Subcommittee. Jill discussed the Chesapeake Information Management System (CIMS) Workshop and the future of CIMS and well as the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. In addition to supporting these two activities Jill also manages the innovative technology clearing house, has created a congressional district map of the watershed, and organizes computer trainings for the other subcommittee support staffers and Chesapeake Bay Program staff.

**TMAW and CBP Inshore Monitoring Program**

Steve Preston, USGS-CBP and member of the Tidal Monitoring and Analysis Workgroup (TMAW), updated the committee on the tidal water monitoring program and focused his talk on the criteria and designated uses, the tidal monitoring network design, the shallow

water monitoring effort, and the analytical framework for criteria assessment. He also highlighted current gaps in the existing monitoring network. After the presentation, Steve Preston invited STAC to comment on and develop questions with regards to his presentation and the general program.

**Action:** Carl Hershner, STAC Chair, will lead STAC in developing a list of follow-up questions for Steve Preston and TMAW, who will be invited back to STAC during the December meeting to continue this discussion and address the issues raised by the committee.

**Action:** Scott Phillips, USGS, will update the committee on the Non-tidal Water Quality Workgroup's activities at the December STAC meeting.

### **NAS *C. ariakensis* Report**

Susan Roberts, NAS, gave the committee an overview of the National Academy of Science's report on non-native oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. She highlighted the panel's findings, recommendations, and identified myths, and presented the research recommendations developed by the panel. Bill Rickards, VA Sea Grant, updated the committee on the recently held national Oyster Disease Research Program Workshop. He noted that no specific recommendations were made with regards to *ariakensis*, but there were three overarching themes that emerged from the workshop: a strain of oyster or non-native oyster is needed that will survive in Chesapeake Bay, once the strain is identified it must be maintained for breeding, and a web-based repository to disperse research information and restoration activities is needed to avoid duplicate efforts. The committee then discussed possible STAC involvement in the issue and noted that an appropriate role for STAC would be to prioritize and evaluate the NAS report research recommendations, while remaining non-confrontational and coordinated with other ongoing *ariakensis* activities.

**Action:** Denise Breitburg, ANS, with assistance from Jonathan Kramer, MDSG, and Mark Luckenbach, VIMS, will organize a STAC rapid response workshop to prioritize the NAS research recommendations.

### **STAC Review Update**

Carl Hershner updated the committee on the status of two STAC reviews: the review of the proposal "How Oxygen and Windmills Can Save the Bay," and the NOAA CBPO Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The review of the windmill proposal is continuing. An environmental engineer is being sought to assist in determining the number of windmills actually needed to clean the Bay. Once that has been completed, a draft copy will be circulated for STAC member comment before being submitted to the Bay Program. The FEP Review is now underway. The reviewers have all been issued the report and once the comment period has expired, the reviewers' comments will be synthesized by Doug Lipton, UMD, and Gary Matlock, NOAA, for submission to the NOAA CBPO.

### **Scientific and Technical Needs Assessment**

Carl Hershner presented the completed Scientific and Technical Needs Document and the Priority Scientific and Technical Needs Document and requested that STAC members complete a final review of the document. Once all comments have been incorporated the document will be posted to the STAC website and will be updated annually in March by the committee. The documents could be used to support the *Chesapeake Futures* effort as well as the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement and beyond. The priority needs document will be taken to the Implementation Committee and the CBP Subcommittees so that they can be made aware of what STAC's priorities are.

**Action:** Any STAC member wishing to submit comments on either Scientific and Technical Needs Document should submit comments to Carl Hershner by September 15, 2003.

### **Requests for STAC Input and Assistance**

The committee reviewed to requests from the Chesapeake Bay Program for technical assistance. The committee noted that the proposals were very brief and did not provide a specific question or enough supporting information to be considered at this time. The committee also discussed creating a mechanism for receiving and acting on these rapid response requests. It was decided that the STAC Executive Board would initially review the proposals, and if deemed acceptable and appropriate, would be passed onto specific STAC members for action.

**Action:** Rich Batiuk, EPA-CBP, will be contacted to develop specific proposals for the activities for which he is requesting STAC assistance. As soon as the proposals are received they will be reviewed by the STAC Executive Board.

### **September 11, 2003**

#### **Attendance**

Members/Alternates: Don Boesch, Denise Breitburg, Rob Brumbaugh, Ted Graham, Kirk Havens, Carl Hershner, Bruce Hicks, Ed Houde, Mike Kemp, Les Lanyon, Doug Lipton, Gary Matlock, Saied Mostaghimi, Cliff Randall, Bill Rickards, Kevin Sellner, Tom Simpson, Puneet Srivastava, Dick Weismiller

Guests: Nita Sylvester, Julie Trask

Staff: Melissa Bugg

#### **Call to Order**

Carl Hershner, STAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### **STAC Workshop Update**

The committee heard updates on several STAC workshops. The Integrated Habitat Workshop, lead by Carl Hershner and Mike Kemp, is currently in the planning stages and a steering committee is being formulated. Ed Houde updated the committee on the status

of the MPA workshops designed to develop a strategy for implementation of MPAs in Chesapeake Bay. A panel consisting of Ed Houde, Denise Breitburg, Greg Ruiz, Doug Lipton, Rob Brumbaugh, Gary Matlock, and other experts outside of STAC will hold their first meeting in October to begin planning these workshops. Nita Sylvester updated the committee on the workshop regarding behavior change in the Chesapeake Bay. Overall the workshop was a success and will be followed up with a second workshop next fall once the Mass Media Campaign is completed. Mike Kemp presented and overview of the STAC model coupling workshop scheduled for January and noted that it will be a discussion based workshop rather than focusing on plenary talks. Tom Simpson noted that a white paper was being developed based on his May workshop on innovative non-point source control technologies. The paper is scheduled for completion in October 2003.

### ***Chesapeake Futures Update***

The *Chesapeake Futures* report is being distributed once again after STAC was able to obtain funding for a second print run. Requests are still coming into the STAC office for the report and STAC Staff will be distributing the report to state legislatures and local library systems. Don Boesch, UMCES, also noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee would like to become involved in the promotion of the report. He also noted that after the STAC meeting, there will be a meeting with representatives from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to discuss the innovative technologies chapter.

### **Land Growth and Stewardship Subcommittee Update**

Ted Graham, MWCOG, updated the membership on the activities of the Land Growth and Stewardship Subcommittee. He reviewed the new organization and goals of the subcommittee now that the restructuring has taken place and identified upcoming issues for the subcommittee and areas where STAC could provide assistance.