

Enhancing STAC's Effectiveness within the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

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As an advisory committee to the Partnership, STAC has a select, yet effective set of tools and mechanisms to be used to supporting its mission of providing independent scientific and technical advice: quarterly meetings, workshops, papers, reviews, and interactions between STAC members and the larger CBP partnership. The key to enhancing effectiveness lies within how to further improve the utilization of these existing tools and mechanisms in carrying out STAC's mission.

- Give more thought to how STAC decides on and uses its proactive and reactive workshops—these are a very effective force for moving an issue/topic forward within the Partnership and putting focus on a priority and emerging scientific issues.
- Use the development of white papers/issues papers/syntheses, crafted by small groups of well recognized experts, to direct the Partnership's attention towards topics which must receive priority attention such as emerging issues.
- Use independent reviews to direct the Partnership's attention towards program areas which need to be re-examined from a scientific and technical perspective and adapted to reflect changes in understanding.
- Ensure there is real follow-up on the subjects of past peer reviews, workshops, white papers—don't let go until STAC feels there are been a true response and real changes made by the Partnership.
- Heed the call by a growing number of partners that there is life beyond water quality in truly restoring the Bay ecosystem and its surrounding watershed.
- Watch for crossing over the line into management decision making—keep STAC focused on its mission of providing independent scientific and technical advice.