



Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Executive Board (EB) Call July 26, 2016

Members: Adel Shirmohammadi, Andrew Miller, Brian Benham, Donna Bilkovic, Kirk Havens, Marc Ribaldo, Mark Luckenbach, Lisa Wainger

Administration: Rachel Dixon and Renee Kelly

Updates

STAC staff, Renee Kelly (CRC) proposed dates for the 2017 quarterly meetings. The dates suggested were based on the academic calendars of many participating STAC members, the CBP calendar, and federal holidays. The dates proposed for approval on the call were: March 14-15, June 13-14, September 12-13, and December 5-6. Following review, the dates were approved.

DECISION: The EB approved the 2017 quarterly meeting dates: March 14-15, June 13-14, September 12-13, and December 5-6.

Next, STAC Coordinator, Rachel Dixon (CRC) provided an update regarding STAC's suggested revisions to the Workshop Protocol documents that were submitted after the March 2016 quarterly meeting. Dixon agreed to incorporate the suggested edits and send the revised documents to EB members for approval prior to the September quarterly meeting.

ACTION: **Dixon** will incorporate STAC suggested edits into the Workshop Protocols. The revised document will be distributed to EB members prior to the September quarterly meeting.

Dixon then presented a request from the "Modeling Beyond 2018" workshop steering committee, who requested that the funds for their workshop be held until FY17. The steering committee believes that the timing of the workshop would be more appropriate in winter 2018, rather than spring 2017, due to delays in the deadline for final management models for the 2017 Midpoint Assessment, from January 2017 to June 2017, which creates a conflict with the proposed workshop dates and anticipated low participation from the CBP modeling community. Dixon proposed two options to the EB: either holding the funds until FY17 or allow the workshop to re-compete in the FY17 RFP process. EB members discussed the options and approved the holding of funds until FY17. They agreed that due to the timeline of the Mid-Point Assessment (MPA), many of the important modelers would not be able to participate in the workshop due to previous MPA commitments. STAC staff will present this request to the full STAC membership for final approval.

DECISION: **STAC staff** will present the EB's decision to hold funds for the "Modeling Beyond 2018" workshop until FY17. **NOTE: Approval pending final confirmation from EPA Grants Officer.**

Dixon provided an update from the Microplastics review panel. The review panel is currently drafting a policy brief for Environmental Science & Technology (ES&T). Dixon mentioned that the panelists have not requested additional honoraria. STAC staff will update the EB if any requests arise. Dixon will also alert the EB if there are any page charges that might apply to this policy brief.

Finally, Dixon provided an update of the STAC-sponsored peer reviews. The Criteria Addendum review panel will work with CBP to produce a new and improved document incorporating the panel's comments. The Nutrient Inputs to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (Scenario Builder) review panel are

working to complete to develop their final report, and is on track to complete their review by August 31st. The James River Chlorophyll *a* review has been approved by STAC and has a firm deadline of mid-September. An initial call was scheduled for August 1st. The Phase 6 Watershed Model and GAMS reviews are both in the process of developing panels, and will be seeking STAC approval on receipt of complete documentation. Finally, the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) requested Boat Wake review has a panel selected and is progressing towards a completed review.

STAC Executive Council (EC) Report

The EC meeting is scheduled for September 27th. STAC's annual report to the EC is due no later than September 13th. A group of STAC members developed a list of key topics that should be included in the annual report. These suggestions were discussed at the June quarterly meeting and distributed to EB members prior to the call. Wainger recommended that these topics be used for the report, with the exception of using the exact term "Food, Energy, Water Nexus." Wainger expressed concern that this terminology would not impact policy makers in the right way, however, the subject matter in the Nexus will still be included in the report. Wainger also suggested that the report should tell STAC's story of how we helped this year. Topics will include anecdotes that specifically show how we were receptive to requests (e.g., Microplastics, adaptive management) and how our work has prompted regional groups to respond and take action (ex. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) action plan to improve coordination and information sharing to better manage our regions' ocean ecosystems and living resources). Wainger requested that EB members email additional specific STAC anecdotes that would be beneficial in the report.

ACTION: EB members should email Wainger at wainger@umces.edu any additional STAC anecdotes that would be useful in the annual STAC report to the EC.
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Quarterly Meeting Agenda: September 13-14 2016 STAC Quarterly Meeting

Wainger began the conversation with an overview of the water quality trends theme which was determined at the June quarterly meeting. This theme influenced the decision to invite speakers discussing the following issues: Nitrogen: Phosphorus (N:P) ratio inputs, the spatial and temporal differences of N:P ratios, how N:P ratios cascade through the food web, and the observed biological effects associated with contaminant concentrations and sources of endocrine disruptors. In addition, STAC member Tom Ihde (ERT) reached out to STAC staff requesting time on the agenda to present an existing tool called the Chesapeake Atlantis Model (CAM). Ihde will present this tool and tailor his presentation to its potential impacts on water quality trends. In addition, Wainger suggested a few edits to the length of presentations.

Kelly reviewed day two of the agenda. It featured a topic suggested from the STAC volunteer hours survey requesting a more in-depth presentation on the remaining reviews. STAC Executive Secretary, Bill Ball (CRC) and Gary Shenk (USGS) discussed and agreed that this would be a great opportunity to share background details regarding ongoing and upcoming reviews, and encourage STAC member participation. EB members agreed that this would be useful to STAC members, however, requesting a more focused and targeted discussion. Specifically, the EB suggested an overview of the 1) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, 2) Scenario Builder/Nutrient Inputs, and 3) Land Use Methodology – how these three STAC reviews are related, their current status, and background into each. In addition to these reviews, EB members discussed the timeliness of discussing P's effects on the nutrient component of the Phase 6 Watershed Model. Ken Staver (UMD Wye Research Center) was mentioned as a potential speaker to discuss his work on P as it relates to Agro-ecosystems. STAC staff agreed to relay the message to Ball and Shenk and explain the EB's request for a more well-defined approach. STAC staff

will follow-up with Wainger regarding Ball and Shenk's response to this request and continue planning the panel discussion.

Finally, Kelly presented the remaining agenda items including: normal STAC business at the beginning of the meeting, a worksession at the end of Day 1 followed by a report-out the next morning, and a follow-up discussion regarding the five identified priority scientific issues from the September 2015 STAC retreat. In addition to these items, Wainger suggested adding a brief update regarding the final EC annual report that will have been distributed to the EC at this point.

ACTION: Wainger and STAC staff will revise the September quarterly meeting agenda based on the EB suggestions. Please send any additional comments to Wainger (wainger@umces.edu) and Kelly at (kellyr@si.edu).

ACTION: STAC staff will update Wainger regarding the structure of the Mid-Point review discussion after presenting the EB's request to Shenk and Ball.

STAC Member/EB Vacancies: Update

Due to a tracking error, EB member Gene Yagow (VT) served an extra term on the EB. Yagow should have rotated off in December 2016. Kelly contacted the EB nominating committee to obtain a nomination for this vacancy. The EB nominating committee suggested Andrew Miller (UMBC), who was previously nominated to the EB. Miller accepted the nomination again. Miller was present on the call but signed off so EB members could officially discuss his appointment. No members were opposed to Miller's nomination. STAC staff will announce the nomination and request STAC's final approval at the September quarterly meeting.

In addition, Kelly updated the EB on the status of the federal appointment process for Martin Lowenfish (USDA-NRCS) and J.K. Bohlke (USGS). Chesapeake Bay Program Director, Nicholas DiPasquale has received the letters. No response has been received.

ACTION: STAC staff will request official approval of Miller's EB nomination at the September STAC quarterly meeting.

ACTION: STAC staff will update the committee once a response has been received from DiPasquale regarding the two STAC federal vacancies. **UPDATE:** Response received from DiPasquale on 8/2/16. Approval has been granted for STAC to appoint Lowenfish and Bohlke.