



**Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Executive Board (EB) Call
January 30, 2017**

Attendance:

Members: Brian Benham, Donna Bilkovic, Mark Luckenbach, Andrew Miller, Adel Shirmohammadi, Lisa Wainger

Administration: Bill Ball, Rachel Dixon, Elaine Hinrichs, and Renee Kelly

Updates

STAC Coordinator, Rachel Dixon (CRC) gave a quick update on the status of the Maryland Gubernatorial Appointee replacing Russ Brinsfield (UMD Wye Research Center). STAC Staff were notified of the nominee several months ago, but require an official letter of appointment before they are able to welcome them to the committee. Donald Boesch (UMCES) is looking into the letter's status. EB members discussed potential actions STAC could take to encourage the Maryland Governor's office to expedite the appointment. STAC Executive Secretary, Bill Ball (CRC) and Dixon agreed to draft a letter to Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, Ben Grumbles (MDE) urging action on the Maryland Gubernatorial Appointee. STAC Chair, Lisa Wainger (UMCES) and STAC Vice-Chair, Brian Benham (VT) agreed to revise and approve the letter before it is sent.

An updated version of the STAC Midpoint Review Timeline/Status document was distributed to the EB prior to the call. Dixon explained that four reviews are ongoing and three more are expected by May 2017. Wainger requested that Dixon provide a detailed update on the Midpoint Assessment (MPA) reviews at the March STAC quarterly meeting. Dixon agreed, and offered to provide this update in place of a former MPA item on the draft quarterly meeting agenda.

The revised timeline for the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Request for Workshop Proposals (RFP) was outlined for the EB prior to the call. All the deadlines have been pushed back by about a week, with initial proposals now due February 1, 2017. STAC Staff, Renee Kelly (CRC) explained the reasoning behind the revised timeline, confirmed that STAC Staff will be able to review the proposals on an accelerated deadline, and clarified the proposal review and scoring process.

ACTION: Ball and Dixon will draft a letter to Secretary Grumbles encouraging action on the Maryland Gubernatorial Appointee and send the letter to Wainger and Benham for approval.

ACTION: Dixon will give a detailed update on the MPA reviews at the March quarterly meeting.

Discussion of Next Steps Regarding Toxic Contaminants

Benham recapped STAC's discussion of toxic contaminants at the December quarterly meeting. Benham shared four takeaway messages from the discussions: 1) the need for a networking workshop to promote social capital among people working on toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay region; 2) emerging contaminants, particularly in reference to brominated compounds associated with ballast water disinfection in the Bay and chlorine as the primary method of water disinfection in the Bay watershed; 3) the synergistic impacts of toxics; particularly reduced nitrogen loads potentially leading to increased mercury loads, and the potential for best management practices (BMPs) that target nitrogen,

phosphorus, and sediment to also address toxic contaminants; and 4) the Toxic Contaminants Workgroup's request for STAC input on atmospheric deposition of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Wainger then began a discussion on possible actions STAC could take to help address toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Wainger agreed to first ask Denise Wardrop (PSU), then Charles Bott (HRSD) to lead a breakout group focused on next steps for toxic contaminants at the March quarterly meeting.

ACTION: Wainger will ask first Wardrop, then Bott to lead a breakout group on next steps for toxic contaminants at the March quarterly meeting.

STAC Quarterly Meeting Agenda: March 14-15, 2017

STAC Staff, Elaine Hinrichs (CRC) and Wainger introduced the draft March agenda and potential presentations. EB members voiced support for a quarterly meeting focused on comparing and contrasting the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed with outside watershed perspectives, and agreed to plan the June meeting based on that theme. Potential presenters for the June meeting include Denise Reed (The Water Institute of the Gulf) and Lee Norfleet (USDA-NRCS). Wainger then provided an overview of the draft March quarterly meeting agenda, explaining the two big-picture talks planned: Walter Boynton (UMCES) on pioneering Chesapeake Bay ecosystems research and Paul Ferraro (JHU) on applying behavioral economics to improve environmental programs. Boynton's topic would fit well with the June meeting theme, but Wainger is hesitant to delay with his impending retirement this summer. STAC Staff agreed to check Boynton's availability for the March or June meeting and to prioritize inviting Ferraro to the March meeting.

Wainger suggested moving Dixon's update on MPA reviews closer to the closing group discussion at the end of day two and Ferraro's talk to day one. Wainger asked EB members for topics worth including in the agenda that may have been ignored. Andrew Miller (UMBC) and Dixon noted that March would likely be slightly early for a presentation on outcomes of the Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (CBWM) Review, but that presentation would be worthwhile at a later quarterly meeting. EB members discussed how a potential presentation from Charles Bott (HRSD) on the Hampton Roads Sustainable Water Initiative (SWIFT) would fit into the agenda. The EB agreed to keep the presentation, but suggested revising the March quarterly meeting agenda to specifically include fifteen minutes for STAC discussion after each presentation. With the change in schedule, Wainger suggested moving lunch on day two forward to noon.

Wainger then opened up discussion on breakout group topics and leaders for the afternoon work session on day one. Wainger, Ball, and Benham reiterated the need for more engagement and communication between STAC and the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT), especially to ensure the WQGIT has considered the details of STAC recommendations during critical MPA decisions. Ball, who is unable to attend the March quarterly meeting, offered to talk to Cross Program Coordinator, Kristin Saunders (UMCES), Gary Shenk (USGS), and Lew Linker (EPA) about who on the WQGIT could assist in establishing a process for engaging with STAC. EB members discussed the impracticality of STAC members attempting to attend every GIT call and meeting to try to keep track of STAC-related items. Wainger suggested the possibility of setting up occasional meetings between a few STAC members and key GIT representatives, such as WQGIT Chair, James Davis-Martin (VADEQ). Benham noted the need for ongoing awareness and identification of issues so that STAC members can be alerted in advance of important GIT decisions. Ball noted that he and STAC Staff should pay more attention to GIT meeting agendas and alert interested STAC members about relevant agenda items. Benham then suggested

developing a process where STAC Staff could alert two or three STAC members who are interested in a particular topic to attend GIT meetings and circle back to STAC between quarterly meetings. Wainger suggested that STAC Staff could also engage authors of review reports when relevant conversations pop up on GIT meeting agendas. Benham recommended having either a full membership discussion at the March meeting about how to engage with the GITs, or designating a breakout group to begin developing a plan for GIT engagement. Benham will follow up with Wainger on his ideas for GIT engagement. Wainger requested time on the agenda for explaining the breakout groups before the work session. Ball offered to collaborate with Saunders and Benham on developing a draft plan for the breakout session, pending Saunders' availability to attend the March quarterly meeting.

DECISION: **EB members** agreed to plan the June quarterly meeting around comparing and contrasting the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed with outside watershed perspectives.

ACTION: **Wainger and STAC Staff** will revise the March quarterly meeting agenda based on the EB suggestions. Please send any additional comments or topics to Wainger (wainger@umces.edu) and Hinrichs at (hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

ACTION: **STAC Staff** will invite Ferraro and Boynton to speak at the March quarterly meeting. Pending his availability, STAC Staff will ask Boynton if he can present at the June meeting.

ACTION: **Ball** will talk to Saunders, Shenk, and Linker about who STAC should engage with on the WQGIT.

ACTION: **Benham** will email Wainger his ideas about developing a GIT engagement plan.

ACTION: **Ball and Benham** will collaborate on developing a draft plan for a breakout session on GIT engagement at the March quarterly meeting.