

MELISSA MERRITT

Scientific, Technical Assessment and
Reporting (STAR) Staffer

This presentation will provide a preview of my work, and an update from the STAR workgroups that I staff.

- Personal Background
- STAR and its workgroups Update
- Professional Interests/ Projects
- Future Plans

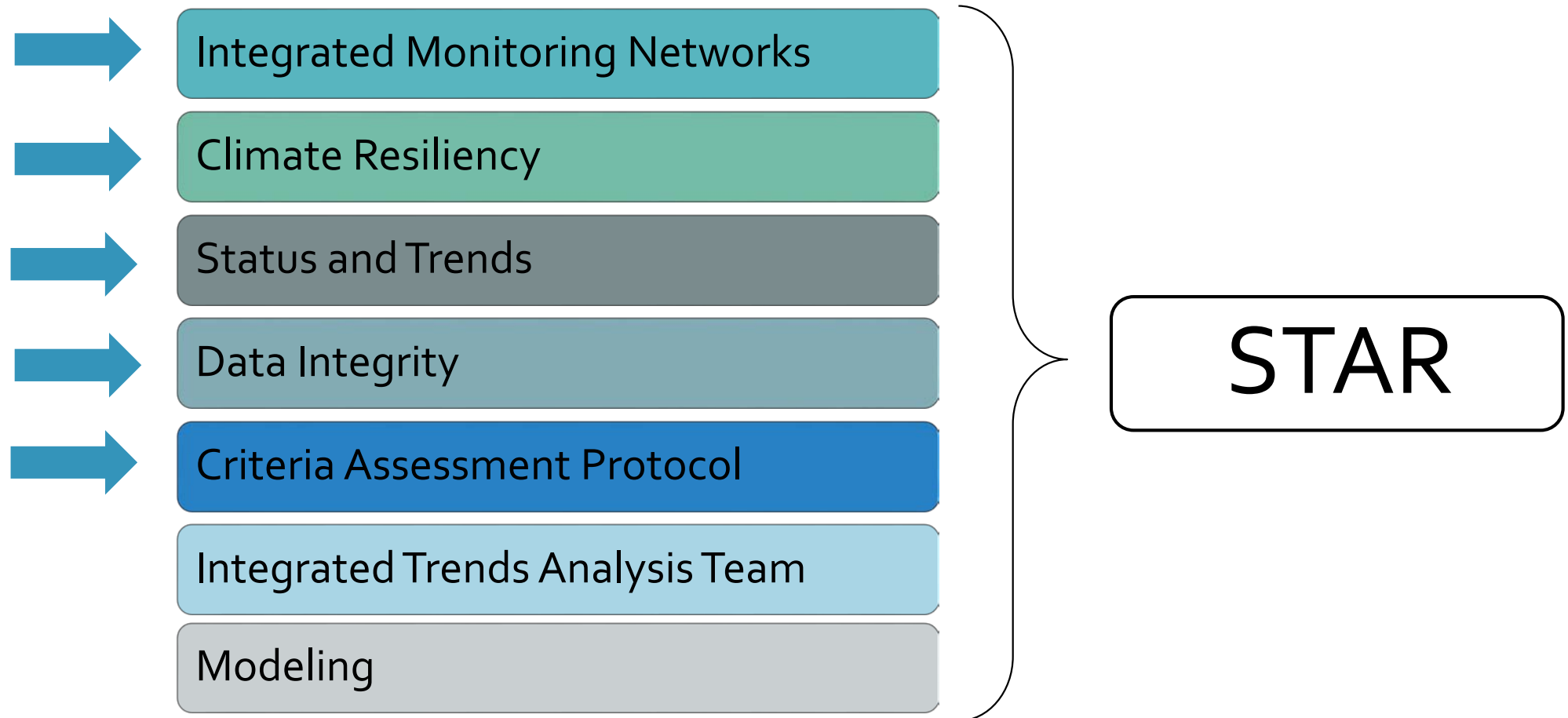
In my past experience, I worked to show the public why we keep the Bay clean.

- **2010:** B.S. Environmental Science, University of Mary Washington
 - Fluvial Geomorphology, Hydrology, Aquatic Ecology
- **2011-2015:** West Virginia Conservation Agency (State Govt.)
 - Utilizing Chesapeake Bay Grant Dollars for Outreach and BMP implementation



STAR Workgroup Updates

I staff five of STAR's seven workgroups.



STAR Workgroup Updates

Integrated
Monitoring Networks

Efforts to engage volunteer monitoring groups

Climate Resiliency

Status and Trends

Data Integrity

Criteria Assessment
Protocol

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Review/Update of: Chesapeake Bay Tidal Waters Benthic Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI)

STAR Workgroup Updates are provided monthly in the STAR newsletter.

- Sign up on the STAR team webpage on www.chesapeakebay.net.



STAR Update

This newsletter will serve as the source for progress and news from STAR and its Workgroups.

This email will also be archived. To review, go to: [STAR page on Sharepoint](#)

INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORKS

The review of the the Status of the Nontidal Water Quality Monitoring Network, with state monitoring representatives providing an update of their monitoring routine, has been completed.

Coordinator: [Peter Tango](#), USGS

Past Meeting: [February 15, 2017 1:00pm-3:00pm](#)

Next Meeting: [March 15, 2017 1:00pm-3:00pm](#)

STATUS AND TRENDS WORKGROUP

CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

Phase I of the climate change monitoring needs analysis for the Stream Health, Fish Habitat, and Forage Fish workgroups and the Black Duck Action Team is complete. The purpose of the project is to identify needs, priorities and solutions to address climate monitoring gaps for individual workgroups. See process document [here](#).

Coordinator: [Zoë Johnson](#), NOAA

Past Meeting: [February 21, 2017 1:30pm-3:30pm](#)

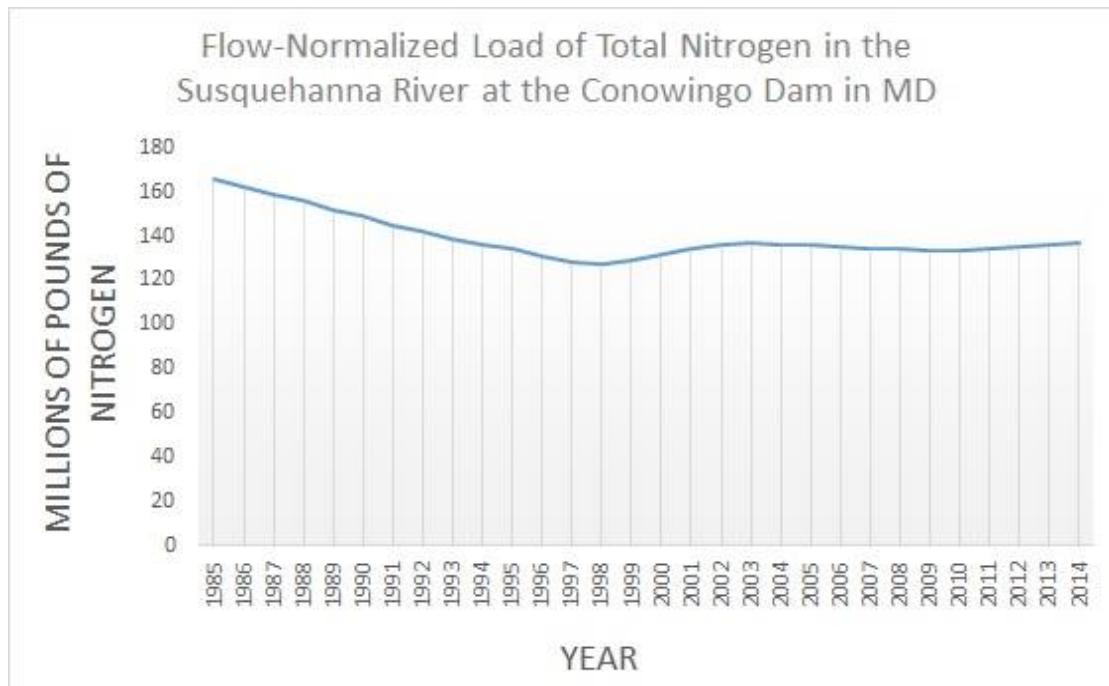
Next Meeting: [March 20, 2017 9:30am-4:00pm](#) The focus of this

I have been able to grow and improve my interests of communication and coordination with STAR.

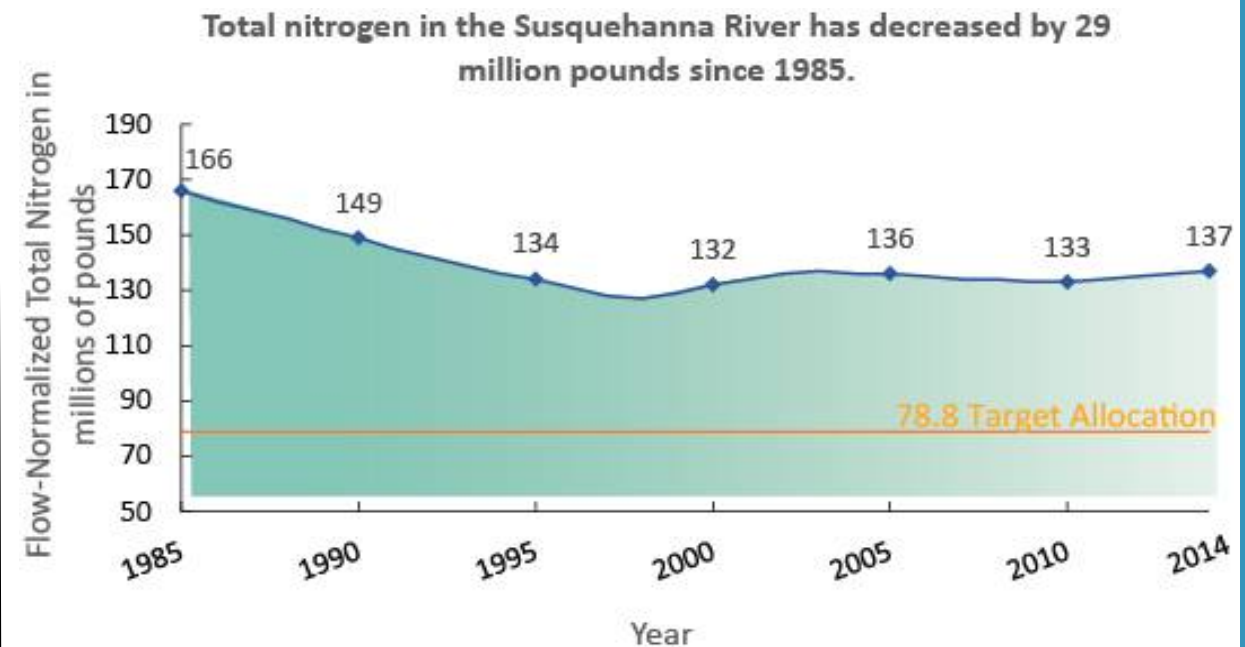
- **STAR newsletter**
- **Statistics Course**
- **Science Visualization Course**

The Science Visualization Course focused on telling stories to best showcase the data.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



I'd like to continue to develop these communication and coordination skills.

- **Independent Project:**

- To Facilitate a Process to Engage Staffers In Cross-Goal Team projects/research
- To provide a forum for staffers to engage each other on the work they're doing.

- **Future Plans:**

- Graduate school
 - Environmental Management?
 - Information Visualization?

Questions?

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Reporting Team Staffer

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