



**Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Executive Board (EB) Call  
April 24, 2020**

**Attendance:**

**Members:** Andy Miller (UMBC), Chanceé Lundy (Nspiregreen LLC), Kurt Stephenson (VT), Kathy Boomer (FFAR), Mark Monaco (NOAA), Ellen Gilinsky (Gilinsky, LLC), and Brian Benham (VT)

**Administration (CRC):** Denice Wardrop, Annabelle Harvey, Meg Cole

**STAC Quarterly Meeting Agenda: June 11, 2020 – Annabelle Harvey**

Annabelle Harvey updated Executive Board (EB) on the STAC June Quarterly Meeting taking place on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the meeting will be remote. STAC Staff is looking into various telecommunications platforms to ensure audio and visual capabilities are sufficient. The agenda will cover announcements, COVID impacts to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), and STAC's letter to the Executive Council (EC). In the interest of time, Ellen Gilinsky (Gilinsky LLC.) suggested SGA workgroups meet outside of the meeting and Kathy Boomer (FFAR) agreed, noting this time could be used for workgroup presentations.

The FY19 SAV Monitoring Working Steering Committee requested to cancel the final session of their workshop due to COVID-19. The Steering Committee plans to use findings and recommendations from sessions 1-3 to draft their report. Chanceé Lundy (Nspiregreen, LLC) moved to approve this request, followed by Gilinsky and Andy Miller (UMBC). EB approved the cancellation of the SAV Monitoring workshop's final session.

**ACTION:** **STAC Staff** will develop a pros/cons list of web conferencing and telecommunications programs to ensure the best technology is utilized for the June QM. This list will also be shared with STAC for their information.

**DECISION:** The EB approved the cancellation of the final session for the FY19 SAV Monitoring Workshop.

**Updates on STAC Business –**

STAC Letter to the Executive Council – *Andy Miller*

Beginning with updates on STAC business, Miller discussed STAC's letter to the CBP's Executive Council. STAC Staff started the current document and Miller, Boomer, and Brian Benham (VT) added comments. A draft will be circulated for STAC membership to review by the end of May. In an effort to be proactive, Miller proposed EB write two versions of the letter: one that discusses planned STAC activities under a business-as-usual scenario and one that acknowledges possible funding cuts. Denice Wardrop (CRC) stated it would be helpful to clarify which parts of science we can't afford to lose in the event of significant budget cuts. Miller said the overall need is to not fall backwards and Benham agreed, stating STAC should continue to be an advocate for monitoring as well as administrative funding for Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) staff. Members of EB are encouraged to send their thoughts to Miller so he can begin to integrate these suggestions into a first draft.

STAC's new process for workshops and reports – *Denice Wardrop and Annabelle Harvey (CRC)*

Management Board (MB) approved of STAC's new process for workshops and reports at their March meeting, requiring STAC Staff to add new language to Committee guidance documents. A new workshop protocol and guidance document will also be distributed to all FY2020 workshop steering

committees. This workshop protocol sheet does not have to be approved by the Executive Board (EB), but STAC guidance document changes require EB approval. Though EB agreed the added content was clear and straightforward, there was some discussion on the document's tone. Boomer stated she was uncomfortable with language describing the Bay Program as the end point for workshops findings. Boomer warned focusing on information delivery could prevent the broad collaboration critical to identifying key information gaps. To this point, Denice Wardrop (CRC) stated the intent of this new process is to fill those research gaps but clarified workshops do not need to follow a "characterization template." STAC is in a rare position to advise on the integration of science within a programmatic context and to better leverage the power STAC has at its disposal, Wardrop emphasized the need for workshop findings to identify a Program champion. Previous STAC workshop reports have waited five or more years for a response from Management Board, Miller pointed out. The modified workshop process is an effort to close the loop by providing program connections to workshop steering committees first so that workshop findings may be easier adapted. To better represent the entire Chesapeake Bay community and partnership, Boomer proposed an edit to the guidance document to include "key CBP partners". Gilinsky moved to approve the proposed language change, seconded by Lundy. The updated processes and formal documents is approved, conditional on language changes.

#### STAC Budget: Synthesis and SGA funding – *Annabelle Harvey*

Annabelle Harvey (CRC) discussed leftover funds from FY19 and FY20 workshops that are available for additional STAC-related efforts. Various STAC members have recommended allocating these funds toward the ongoing STAC effort, *Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Assessment of System Response* (STAC SGA), with a facilitated discussion, communication projects, etc. A longer conversation can be had at the upcoming June meeting. Brian Benham (VT) will reach out to other SGA Steering Committee members to brainstorm how best to utilize the extra resources. As an update to STAC Synthesis funding, Wardrop reported she spoke with Lew Linker (EPA) and additional synthesis funding is not expected. This change is mainly due to timing and needing two years for a full synthesis project.

**ACTION:** **Andy Miller**, along with a group of past STAC Chairs and experienced STAC members, will draft two versions of the STAC Letter to the CBP Executive Council. These drafts will be shared at the June QM.

**DECISION:** The updated processes and formal documents for workshops and reports was approved, conditional on language changes in the Operational Guidelines to highlight the broad partners of the CBP. STAC Staff will update the language and distribute to the EB.

**ACTION:** **The SGA Steering Committee** will meet to decide on use of budget surplus for the SGA effort (facilitator, communication products, etc).

#### STAC FY2020 Proposal Final Approval – *Annabelle Harvey*

At the STAC March Quarterly Meeting, RFP (#2) *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption* and RFP (#3) *Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens* were conditionally approved. STAC Staff worked collaboratively with both Steering Committees to differentiate and provide detail on coordination between the two proposals. Harvey presented a one-page summary proposers provided EB on how their proposals differ and will coordinate, as well as fit them into the SPURR framework.

Gilinsky appreciated the clarifications and liked how they addressed the new SPURR process. Mark Monaco (NOAA) agreed, stating the one-pagers spoke to the major problems on how they differ. Gilinsky moved to approve both workshop proposals, seconded by Benham. RFP #2 and RFP #3 are approved.

**DECISION: The Executive Board** approved both RFP (#2) *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption* and RFP (#3) *Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens*.