



# THE ABSTRACT

*A Monthly Update from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee*

August 2014

## *Recent STAC News*

### **Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Management Board (MB) Meeting**

**Annapolis, MD  
July 10, 2014**

The CBP MB met in-person on July 10<sup>th</sup> for the first time since March 2014. Agenda topics included presentations on the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), STAC's Nutrient Trading Report (provided by Marc Ribaldo (USDA-ERS)), funding opportunities through the Large Landscapes Conservation Initiative and USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program, results of the Riparian Forest Leadership Summit, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) Certification, new Governance and Management Framework document, and the Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Chairs' July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Marc Ribaldo's presentation on the STAC Nutrient Trading report was followed by discussion of the CBP's initial response to the report, which was submitted to STAC in May 2014. STAC representatives agreed that the CBP misinterpreted some of the recommendations in the formal CBP response, and STAC suggested that Ribaldo re-submit an explanatory document to the CBP as soon as possible. STAC noted that the report cannot be revised after receiving CBP's response. Instead, Ribaldo's explanatory addendum can serve that purpose. Andy Zemba (PA DEP) said the report was well-written and voiced the opinion that the Nutrient Trading report should be seen by EPA Region III.

The Management Board's next meeting will take place on August 14<sup>th</sup> (see the *Key Events* section below and view the August meeting agenda here:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/21458/mb\\_agenda\\_8-14-14\\_final.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21458/mb_agenda_8-14-14_final.pdf)).

### **STAC's Role in Developing New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Management Strategies**

STAC is committed to assisting the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) with development of new Management Strategies to meet the goals and outcomes outlined in the new Chesapeake Bay

Watershed Agreement, signed into effect at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Council meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.

A STAC *ad hoc* group, the Scientific Comments on Agreement Team (SCAT), will review the draft Management Strategies Elements document, distributed by STAC Coordinator Natalie Gardner on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and submit comments to the CBP MB, via MB Coordinator Greg Barranco ([barranco.greg@epa.gov](mailto:barranco.greg@epa.gov)), by COB August 4<sup>th</sup>.

STAC also met with the Scientific, Technical, and Reporting Team (STAR) on August 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss and delineate the groups' roles and responsibilities in helping the GITs develop their management strategies (more details below in the *STAR Updates* section).

STAC will invite CBP GIT leaders to the September 2014 quarterly meeting to discuss future plans for collaboration between the GITs and STAC on management strategy development. The GIT leaders will organize into breakout groups with STAC members to address preliminary issues and develop next steps to begin developing strategies with necessary scientific rigor.

### **Future STAC Discussion Issues**

Important upcoming issues for inclusion in the newsletter and discussion at future STAC meetings and other CBP-related meetings (please submit topics to STAC Staff as soon as possible).

The issues below, identified from recent communications, include:

- *Bay Journal*: STAC News Column (from Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal, and Kevin Sellner, CRC).
- Climate Change Network and Roles/Responsibilities of new CBP Climate Change Coordinator (from Rich Batiuk, EPA).
- CBP-proposed STAC activities, 2014-2016 (from Rich Batiuk, EPA).
- Best Management Practice (BMP) Verification Protocols – Evaluation of CBP BMP efficiencies by confronting multiple (competing) models with field data (suggested by Kathy Boomer, TNC).
- STAC role in BASIN (Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks) Phase III activity within STAR (suggested by Kevin Sellner, CRC from STAR).
- STAR/STAC Collaboration on Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Activities.
- Social science in the future CBP, 2017 and after (Kevin Sellner, CRC from STAR).

Please submit your suggestions to STAC Staff Matt Ellis ([ellism@si.edu](mailto:ellism@si.edu)) in the coming weeks.

## Key Events

- **August 2014 Water Quality GIT Call**  
**Date:** August 11, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21216/>
- **August 2014 Land Use Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** August 12, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21241/>
- **August 2014 Agricultural Workgroup Meeting**  
**Date:** August 14, 2014  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21225/>
- **August 2014 CBP Management Board Meeting**  
**Date:** August 14, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21458/>
- **August 2014 Sustainable Fisheries Executive Committee Call**  
**Date:** August 18, 2014  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21836/>
- **Trading and Offsets Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** August 20, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21194/>
- **August 2014 Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**  
**Date:** August 21-22, 2014  
**Time(s):** **Day 1:** 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; **Day 2:** 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21406/>
- **August 2014 Scientific, Technical and Reporting (STAR) Meeting**  
**Date:** August 27-28, 2014  
**Time(s):** **Day 1:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; **Day 2:** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**Details:** [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity\\_id=233](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=233)
- **August 2014 Scientific, Technical and Reporting (STAR) Meeting**  
**Date:** August 28, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21551/>

- **September 2014 STAC Quarterly Meeting**

**Date:** September 9-10, 2014

**Time(s): Day 1:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; **Day 2:** 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Details:** [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/meeting.php?activity\\_id=228](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/meeting.php?activity_id=228)

**Upcoming STAC FY2014 Workshops:**

- **Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Watershed: Improving roadside ditch management to meet TMDL water quality goals**

**Date:** October 9-10, 2014

**Time(s): Day 1:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; **Day 2:** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Details:** [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity\\_id=235](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=235)

- **Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities**

**Date:** November 12-13, 2014

**Time(s): Day 1:** TBD **Day 2:** TBD

**Details:** [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity\\_id=234](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=234)

\*Please see the Chesapeake Bay Program Calendar for more specific event times and CBP conference line information: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar>.

## ***STAR Updates***

STAR met with STAC on August 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps for working with the GITs to identify needs based on the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, as well as activities related to the customer expectations portion of BASIN and the BASIN phase III: monitoring beyond water quality. An update on the STAC/STAR discussion of GIT needs and management strategies will be provided at the September 2014 STAC quarterly meeting (the discussion session is tentatively scheduled for 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on September 9<sup>th</sup>).

STAC will invite STAR representatives to the September 2014 STAC meeting to continue the dialogue started on August 7<sup>th</sup> and work closely together on projects related to implementation of new management strategies.

STAR last met on June 26<sup>th</sup> but did not meet in July 2014. Peter Tango (USGS) presented the final “Evolution of STAR” document at the June 26<sup>th</sup> STAR meeting. Also at that meeting, Bill Dennison explained the purpose of customer expectations for the CBP monitoring networks, and Scott Phillips (USGS) provided an overview of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, highlighting specific STAR-related goals and outcomes.

If you have any questions regarding the BASIN process, or other STAR activities, please contact STAR Coordinator Peter Tango at [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net).

## ***GIT Updates***

**\*The following updates are provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Some GITs do not have recent updates to provide at this time.**

### **Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT 1)**

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee met on July 21<sup>st</sup> to hear presentations on soft-shell crab disease mortality, a blue crab bay-wide allocation management system white paper, key elements for management strategies, and an update on overall CBP GIT funding. With regard to the discussion of management strategies, the Sustainable Fisheries GIT determined that GIT staff would discuss possible approaches and reorganization ideas to address their specific management strategy needs. GIT staff will present these ideas on the August 18<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee call (see *Key Events* for call details).

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT Invasive Catfish Task Force submitted a final report to STAC on April 11, 2014 for peer review. STAC's review of that report began in July 2014 with a deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>. STAC also agreed to fund the Fisheries GIT's FY2014 workshop, "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities." STAC member Tom Ihde (NOAA) will join Ed Houde (UMCES-Chesapeake Biological Laboratory) to co-chair this workshop. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 12-13, 2014 in Solomons, Maryland.

If you have any questions regarding Fisheries GIT activities, please contact Fisheries GIT Coordinator Bruce Vogt at [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov).

### **Habitats Goal Implementation Team (GIT 2)**

Habitat GIT Chair Mike Slattery (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS) provided a presentation at the June 2014 STAC meeting in Annapolis. He highlighted a number of habitat-related outcomes included in the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, like improvement of stream health, brook trout population, fish passage, wetlands, and black duck habitat, and the expansion of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), forest buffer, and tree canopy acreage.

Members of the Habitat GIT participated in the STAC-sponsored workshop, titled "Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed," on May 6-7, 2014 at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel and the steering committee members are now in the process of drafting a workshop report. The workshop attendees considered expanded spatial and temporal scales for habitat restoration/conservation actions, identified in Management Strategies to be developed under the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, and the potential identification of pilot landscapes. The workshop was chaired by Bill Stack (Center for Watershed Protection - CWP) and Rich Starr (USFWS). The workshop report will aim to further expand on the objective to create agreement among practitioners, regulators, and scientists on a common language and assessment method for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health in order to address water quality,

climatological impacts, and physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (North Atlantic LLC) is working with the CBP, USFWS Chesapeake Bay Program Field Office (USFWS-CBPO), and other contractors and partners to organize a project to assess brook trout habitat and create a pilot model for brook trout habitat prioritization in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A presentation on the Pilot Brook Trout Habitat Prioritization model for the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be made at the November 1-6, 2014 Restore American Estuaries (RAE) Summit in Washington, D.C.

The Habitat GIT Wetland Workgroup appointed Amy Jacobs (The Nature Conservancy) and Erin McLaughlin (MD DNR) as workgroup co-chairs, and coordinator Neely Law is currently operating the Wetland Expert Panel.

If you have any questions regarding Habitat GIT activities, please contact Habitat GIT Coordinator Jennifer Greiner at [Jennifer\\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov).

### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3)**

The Water Quality GIT held a conference call on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The agenda included updates from the Modeling Workgroup, details for the October 2014 full Water Quality GIT meeting, Watershed Model Work Plan for 2017, BMP protocols and transparency, approval of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems BMP Report (approved by the Wastewater Workgroup and Watershed Technical Workgroup), Coastal Zone Management in the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Assessment Scenario Tool (MAST) applications as an implementation tool for local Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and considerations when approving updates to the CBP Partnership modeling tools. The next Water Quality GIT call will be on August 11<sup>th</sup> (see *Key Events* section).

If you have any questions regarding Water Quality GIT activities, please contact Water Quality GIT Coordinator Lucinda Power at [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov).

### **Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4)**

The full Healthy Watersheds GIT met on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Virginia State Arboretum at Blandy Farm. The meeting included reports from the Tracking *ad-hoc* group and Local Engagement workgroup, a discussion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, cross-GIT coordination/collaboration/funding, a local presentation from Clarke County Natural Resource Planner Alison Teetor highlighting efforts to protect healthy watersheds, and a work plan roadmap for development of GIT management strategies.

Healthy Watershed GIT leaders and other select GIT members are organizing 2014 Watershed Forum Conference sessions related to healthy watersheds. The Watershed Forum Conference will take place on September 26-28, 2014 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Healthy Watersheds GIT is also working with the other

CBP GITs to develop coordinated proposals for potential EPA funding that would advance the development of management strategies to support multiple goals in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

If you have any questions regarding Healthy Watershed GIT activities, please contact Healthy Watershed GIT Coordinator Renee Thompson at [rthomps@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthomps@chesapeakebay.net).

### **Fostering Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT 5)**

LandScope and Land Conservation Progress:

- A proposal was submitted for a LandScope session at the Restore America Estuaries conference this fall. The proposed session will demonstrate the LandScope system and provide attendees with information on how existing LandScope Chesapeake capabilities can be used to identify priority geographic locations for collaborative conservation.
- Chesapeake's LandScope website is preparing for an architectural change to streamline data publishing workflow, scale up content by accessing already published material by federal, state, and non-government organization (NGO) partners, make the map viewer compatible with mobile browsers, expand interoperability with cloud-based platforms, and redesign the map viewer to make key usability improvements.
- The Healthy Watersheds Data layer generated by the Healthy Watershed GIT will be incorporated into the LandScope data layers.

Public Access:

- The Public Access team evaluated 19 project proposals submitted to one source of public access development funding, the National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Bay Office for Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails financial assistance awards. NPS will make 8-10 awards by end of summer, and those awarded projects will contribute to the goal of adding 300 more public access sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by 2025. For more information, contact [john\\_davy@nps.gov](mailto:john_davy@nps.gov).

Environmental Literacy:

- The Environmental Literacy Workgroup is Beta testing the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Tracking Tool in school districts across the watershed and will complete testing by August.
- The Environmental Literacy Workgroup will edit the MWEE definition this fall.

If you have any questions regarding Stewardship GIT activities, please contact Stewardship GIT Coordinator Amy Handen at [AHanden@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:AHanden@chesapeakebay.net).

### **Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)**

The Partnering and Leadership GIT developed an overarching GIT governance document that was presented to the PSC in July 2014. At the August 5<sup>th</sup> Partnering and Leadership GIT meeting, GIT members discussed a process for incorporating future edits.



Also at the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, GIT members discussed the FY2014 GIT funding process and proposed projects status updates, formation of a GIT Funding Workgroup, Management Strategies, and the STAR Seminar Series.

Partnering and Leadership GIT members are also involved in the re-design of the ChesapeakeStat website. Re-design activities include gathering extensive input from potential ChesapeakeStat users to define the target audience and the needs of that group. An outside consultant was helping the GIT to determine how to best present scientific and technical information online, and there will be another information gathering session to better improve the website. The redesign effort will continue through 2014.

Partnering and Leadership GIT Chair Mike Foreman said it would be helpful for the GITs to conduct a call with STAC members to discuss best methods for the development of management strategies. Foreman said the GITs want to ensure that a management strategy development process is consistent across all GITs. STAC will identify key members to assist with this process, and assign them to a specific GIT based on STAC expertise (see Havens' e-mail of June 12, 2014).

If you have any questions regarding Partnering and Leadership GIT activities, please contact Partnering and Leadership GIT Coordinator Greg Allen at [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov).