



THE ABSTRACT

A Monthly Update from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

February 2014

Recent STAC News

February 2014 Management Board (MB) Conference Call

**Annapolis, MD
February 13, 2014**

The MB held a two-hour conference call on February 13th in lieu of their monthly in-person meeting due to inclement weather. Key agenda items included: Discussion of the process for public comment review of the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) New Bay Agreement, a presentation by Nita Sylvester (EPA) on supplemental wastewater indicators, a presentation by John Kuriawa (NOAA) on Coastal Zone Management in the Chesapeake Bay, and an update from STAC's Carl Hershner (VIMS) on STAC recommendations for New Bay Agreement goal and outcome statements.

MB members were largely supportive of STAC's recommendations, but expressed concern that it is too late in the Agreement process to make these changes and still finalize the document in time for a mid-year signing at the 2014 Executive Council meeting. STAC Chair Kirk Havens (VIMS) said he, Hershner, and CBP Director Nick DiPasquale (EPA-Chesapeake Bay Program Office) will talk offline to decide how STAC and the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) can discuss this process at the March 2014 STAC Quarterly Meeting. MB and STAC members agreed that these recommendations should be treated differently from other STAC submittals in that STAC will not require a 60 day response, and that these recommendations can be considered and potentially incorporated more quickly if the CBPO Issues Resolution Committee (IRC) is used to move these issues to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) for approval.

Dr. Cynthia Jones (Old Dominion University) Joins STAC

Dr. Cynthia Jones, Director of the Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology at Old Dominion University (ODU), will join STAC as the newest gubernatorial appointee from Virginia. Her CV is attached with this newsletter. Please be sure to welcome Dr. Jones at our March 2014 quarterly meeting.

Future STAC Discussion Issues

* STAC is introducing a new section to our monthly newsletter. Beginning in March 2014, STAC Staff will ask STAC members to submit important upcoming issues for inclusion in the newsletter and discussion at future STAC meetings and other CBP-related meetings as necessary. The issues below were provided by STAC Executive Secretary Kevin Sellner (Chesapeake Research Consortium - CRC).

- Microplastics as a threat to regional waters and biota (suggested by A. Swanson, Chesapeake Bay Commission - CBC)
- Procedures for Expert Panel efficiency estimates (suggested by T. Jordan, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center - SERC)
- STAC guidance for partner use of oyster sanctuaries in light of recent STAC report on oysters in nutrient reduction strategies for the tidal bay (suggested by L. Kellogg, VIMS)

Upcoming Events

- **February 2014 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Call (1-3pm)**
Date: February 24, 2014
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21127/feb_2014_excomm_agenda.pdf
- **February 2014 Habitat GIT Winter 2014 Meeting**
Date: February 26, 2014
Location: North Point State Park – Edgemere, MD
- **February 2014 STAR Meeting**
Date: February 27, 2014
Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) – Annapolis, MD
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21530/>
- **February 2014 Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) Quarterly Meeting**
Date: February 27-28, 2014
Location: Hampton Inn & Suites - 131 E Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
- **March 2014 Management Board Meeting**
Date: March 13, 2014
Location: Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) – Annapolis, MD
- **March 2014 Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Quarterly Meeting**
Date: March 13-14, 2014
Location: Commonwealth Park Suites - 901 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219
- **March 2014 STAC Quarterly Meeting**

Date: March 18-19, 2014

Location: Westin Annapolis Hotel – Annapolis, MD

- **Management Effects on Water Quality Trends – Workshop Lead: Gene Yagow (Virginia Tech)**

Date: March 25-26, 2014

Location: Westin Annapolis Hotel – Annapolis, MD

- ***POSTPONED* STAC Workshop: The Peculiarities of Perviousness – Workshop Lead: Tom Schueler (Chesapeake Stormwater Network)**

Date: April, 2014

Location: Sheraton Hotel – Annapolis, MD

- **Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects Within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed – Workshop Leads: Bill Stack (Center for Watershed Protection), Neely Law (Center for Watershed Protection), and Rich Starr (USFWS)**

Date: May, 2014

Location: TBD

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

STAR Updates

The Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting (STAR) Team's monthly meeting was held on January 23, 2014. All STAR workgroups presented their 2014 work plans at the meeting. These work plans can be reviewed on the STAR meeting website: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21277/>.

STAR's Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) process is ongoing. Phase II of BASIN is in progress and includes the review, through panel discussions, of how other long-term monitoring programs conduct and fund their network activities.

The First BASIN International Long-term Monitoring Programs Panel was held on December 6, 2013. This panel included case studies from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Great Lakes Monitoring Program and the Puget Sound Partnership. More information can be found at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21128/>.

The Second BASIN International Long-term Monitoring Panel was held on Friday, January 10, 2014. This panel included case studies from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS), the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA), and the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.

Information can be found at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21275/>.

STAC and STAR will continue to collaborate on BASIN Phase II and Phase III work in 2014. In Phase II, STAR will focus on Chesapeake Bay tidal and non-tidal water quality monitoring programs, and in Phase III, STAC will take a detailed look at overall monitoring needs associated with tracking progress of the Chesapeake Bay Program's New Bay Agreement goals and outcomes. The Modeling Workgroup and Modeling Team continue to work on Midpoint Assessment Priorities.

STAR also held a seminar on February 21st titled, "STAR Seminar: Human Impacts on the Nitrogen Cycle."

- Seminar agenda:
(http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21499/final_agenda_oedc_session_feb_21.pdf)
- Project background:
(http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21499/background_paper.pdf).

If you have any questions regarding the BASIN process, or other STAR activities, please contact STAR Coordinator Peter Tango at 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)

GIT 1 held a meeting January 13, 2014. The agenda covered a wide range of topics, including a request for a Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) Review of winter dredge fishery triggers in Virginia. The CBSAC will review the management trigger options proposed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) by May 2014.

Other agenda items included: Debrief of the December 2013 Full GIT 1 meeting; updated GIT work plans for 2014; updates from the Invasive Catfish Task Force process; and discussion of 2014 meeting dates and science presentation topics. More information can be found in the GIT 1 January 2013 meeting minutes:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/19246/jan_2014_excomm_meeting_minutes.pdf.

The next GIT 1 call will take place on February 24th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. An agenda and conference line information can be found here:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21127/feb_2014_excomm_agenda.pdf.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 1 activities, please contact GIT 1 Coordinator Bruce Vogt at bruce.vogt@noaa.gov.

Habitats Goal Implementation Team (GIT 2)

GIT 2 will meet at North Point State Park in Edgemere, Maryland on February 26th for their winter 2014 meeting. The meeting will “focus on a theme of finding synergies among efforts of partners engaged in habitat work around the watershed.” The agenda for that meeting can be found here:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21281/winter2014_habitatgitmeeting_agenda_%281%29.pdf.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 2 activities, please contact GIT 2 Coordinator Jennifer Greiner at Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov.

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3)

GIT 3 held a conference call on February 10th. Agenda topics included: A review of draft GIT 3 governance protocol; a presentation by Urban Stormwater Workgroup Coordinator Tom Schueler on the workgroup’s proposal to credit homeowner Best Management Practices (BMPs) (currently pending Watershed Technical Workgroup and GIT 3 approval); an update on the Midpoint Assessment Schedule and path forward; presentation of GIT 3 workgroup priorities; and Phase 6.0/Modeling Quarterly Review updates.

The next GIT 3 call will be March 10, 2014 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 3 activities, please contact GIT 3 Coordinator Lucinda Power at power.lucinda@epa.gov.

Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4)

At GIT4’s face-to-face meeting on December 19th, GIT4 members affirmed that the following strategies are important for GIT4 moving forward:

- Develop a method to track and report watershed health and protection.
- Engage with local governments, land trusts, and other local stakeholders.
- Develop outreach and communications tools.
- Improve policy and program efficiency.

Renee Thompson, a former CRC Fellow at the CBP, joined the leadership of GIT 4 as Coordinator in January 2014. Renee is a geographer with USGS at the CBPO. She holds a B.S. degree from University of Hawaii at Manoa in Global Environmental Science, and a Master’s degree at the University of Maryland in Urban Studies and Planning with a focus on land use and the environment.

Thompson and GIT 4 Staff Tuana Phillips (CRC) are in the process of forming and convening a Local Engagement Workgroup and a Tracking *Ad Hoc* Group to address GIT 4’s strategic priorities. The two groups will meet for the first time in March or April, 2014.

GIT 4 is currently preparing for a meeting in March 2014. This meeting will include two case study presentations – one related to local engagement, and the other to tracking healthy watersheds. Also at this meeting, GIT 4 members will collectively reflect on management strategies and workgroup and *ad hoc* group progress to date.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 4 activities, please contact GIT 4 Staff Tuana Phillips at Phillips.tuana@epa.gov.

Fostering Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT 5)

GIT 5's upcoming focus areas include protecting 2 million acres and measuring coverage with Landscape to aggregate land conservation, land prioritization, and recreation data, increasing public access sites by 300 locations by 2025 through implementation of the Public Access Strategy which sets the baseline for public access sites, potential locations, demand for these sites, and challenges to developing an increased amount of sites.

GIT 5 is also examining Environmental Literacy. The current metric for measuring environmental literacy is the MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience) but GIT 5 is trying to develop a new metric/indicator for the Environmental Literacy goal. GIT 5 is also considering development of a behavior metric index to measure successes in public behavior changes, but could not reach consensus to propose the metric for consideration within the new Bay agreement.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 5 activities, please contact GIT 5 Coordinator Amy Handen at AHanden@chesapeakebay.net.

Partnering and Leadership Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)

GIT 6 cancelled its January 7th meeting to wait for additional guidance from the MB and PSC on program governance. The PSC held a call on January 16th to provide GIT 6 with a charge and timeline for re-evaluating the CBP governance document and the definition of a full CBP “partner.”

GIT 6 also held a call on February 4th. Agenda items included: Discussion of ChesapeakeStat, discussion of the general public comment process and public comment meetings schedule (the first will occur on March 13th) for the CBP New Bay Agreement, discussion of governance, and an update from the Evaluator Function workgroup.

GIT 6 will track all comments during the public comment period and discuss/incorporate new suggestions to the new Bay agreement, along with the help from the CBP Editorial Board and IRC.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 6 activities, please contact GIT 6 Coordinator Greg Allen at allen.greg@epa.gov.