



THE ABSTRACT

A Monthly Update from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

January 2014

Recent STAC News

December 2013 STAC Quarterly Meeting

**Annapolis, MD
December 3-4, 2013**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee held its December 2013 STAC quarterly meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Annapolis, MD. New STAC Chair, Kirk Havens (VIMS) led the meeting proceedings for the first time. STAC members voted for a new Executive Board (EB) member to replace Denice Wardrop (PSU). New EB candidates included Gene Yagow (VT), Bob Hirsch (USGS), Brian Benham (VT), and Kurt Gottschalk (US Forest Service). STAC elected Yagow to fill the EB position. The December 2013 meeting agenda featured a panel discussion between the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), and STAC representatives; Gary Shenk (EPA-CBPO) presented on how the STAC Phosphorous Review will inform Phase 6 of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model; Kathy Boomer (TNC) presented a proposal for a Conowingo Dam workshop/review; Alix Fink (Longwood University) discussed the Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER) program and opportunities for civic engagement in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Implementation Team representatives Jennifer Volk (GIT 3) and Amy Handen (GIT 5) provided updates on GIT activities; Carl Hershner (VIMS) presented his plan for STAC's review of new Bay agreement goals and outcomes and how to better engage Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) GITs; Bill Dennison (UMCES) and Mark Bennett (USGS) provided an update on the BASIN program and Dennison discussed his monitoring comments for the December 5-6 LGAC/CAC joint meeting; Lewis Linker (EPA-CBPO) presented CBP's response to STAC's Multiple Management Models (M3.1) workshop report; Marc Ribaud (USDA-ERS) presented details of a USDA-ERS report examining the efficiencies of alternative approaches to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sites/practices to achieve TMDL requirements and also updated STAC on the progress of the Nutrient Trading workshop report; and Nita Sylvester (EPA-CBPO) finished the meeting with a presentation on changes to CBP indicators.

December 2013 Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council (EC) Meeting

Washington, D.C.
December 12, 2013

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley joined D.C. Mayor/EC Chair Vincent Gray, and representatives from Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Chesapeake Bay Commission, US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the 2013 CBP EC meeting at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The jurisdiction representatives met with their federal counterparts to discuss key Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership concerns and the new Bay agreement, expected to be signed in 2014. After the private meeting, the representatives sat down for an hour press conference. Questions were focused on key omissions from the new Bay agreement, like toxic contaminants and climate change, and the issue of governance that could allow some jurisdictions to opt out of certain management strategies.

STAC/NAHB Workshop - "In My Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems"

Washington, D.C.
December 17-18, 2013

The National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) hosted and co-sponsored with STAC an onsite septic system workshop to examine the latest innovations in localized wastewater treatment technologies and formulate methods for incorporating these technologies within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to attain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) nutrient reductions. The workshop featured a lineup of expert panelists from locations across the United States, offering an unprecedented opportunity for collaboration and discussion among industry specialists and local/state wastewater representatives. STAC member Denice Wardrop (PSU) acted as moderator for the workshop panel and open discussions. Workshop lead Glynn Rountree (NAHB) and a collection of workshop steering committee members will begin drafting the workshop report in January 2014. Presentations from the workshop can be found on the STAC website: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws_arc.php.

January 2014 Management Board (MB) Conference Call

Annapolis, MD
January 9, 2014

The MB held a two-hour conference call on January 9th in lieu of their monthly in-person meeting. Key agenda items included announcement of the March 2014-2015 MB meeting schedule, discussion of recent Modeling Laboratory Action Team (MLAT) recommendations, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) investments in Bay restoration and protection, and highlights from the December 2013 EC meeting.

2014 Management Board Meetings are as follows: February 13th, March 13th, April 9th, May 14th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 17th, October 15th, November 13th, and December 11th.

The MLAT presented three recommendations: (1) MLAT reached consensus on a recommendation that a Chesapeake Bay Modeling Laboratory be established to take on research, research-oriented development, and some operational development of Chesapeake Bay Program models; (2) the state representatives on MLAT strongly recommended that the Modeling Laboratory should also assemble and calibrate the operational models. Under this recommendation, an existing portion of Modeling Team at the CBPO office would be incorporated into the Modeling Lab; (3) a Modeling Laboratory Board of Directors appointed by the MB should be created from a re-constituted Modeling Workgroup. The appointees must have both the technical expertise and the authority to make the technical decisions related to modeling at the CBP.

Virginia and Maryland supported all three of the above recommendations with most other MB members supporting the general concept of developing a Modeling Laboratory. The second recommendation was especially important to the MB, who felt it would allow for more partner-based involvement in the laboratory, rather than have it evolve into an EPA-dominated endeavor. Prioritization of modeling laboratory funding and activities will be paramount as discussions move forward because the laboratory is estimated to require \$2 million per year. Some MB members worried that should a Modeling Laboratory receive funding, monitoring funding will suffer.

In Kirk Havens summary of the MB call, Havens suggested upcoming Modeling Laboratory discussions as a good opportunity for STAC to communicate to the CBP partners that monitoring and modeling are inextricably linked, and implementation without monitoring is neither adaptive nor transparent.

January 9th MLAT Presentation Link -

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21203/mlat_mb_presentation_20140109_2.pdf

Dr. Cynthia Jones (ODU) Joins STAC

Dr. Cynthia Jones, Director of the Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology at Old Dominion University, 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.

Upcoming Events

- **Sustainable Fisheries GIT (GIT 1) Executive Committee Call** – January 13, 2014; 1:00-3:00 p.m.

- **Water Quality GIT (GIT 3) Conference Call** – January 13, 2014; 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- **Principals Staff Committee (PSC) Conference Call** – January 16, 2014; 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- **Enhancing Partnership, Leadership GIT (GIT 6) Meeting** – February 4, 2014; 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- **STAC Workshop: The Peculiarities of Perviousness – Workshop Lead: Tom Schueler (Chesapeake Stormwater Network)**
Date: February 12-13, 2014
Location: USGS Water Science Center – Baltimore, MD
- **February 2014 Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) Quarterly Meeting**
Date: February 27-28, 2014
Location: TBD
- **March 2014 Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Quarterly Meeting**
Date: March 13-14, 2014
Location: Virginia (TBD)
- **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
- **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 will be held on January 23, 2014. All STAR workgroups will present their 2014 work plans at the upcoming meeting. STAR is currently conducting the Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) process. Phase II of BASIN 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 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/>. STAR Chair, Bill Dennison, and Vice-Chair, Mark Bennett, provided an update on BASIN to STAC in December 2013. 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 new Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals and outcomes. The Modeling Workgroup and Modeling Team continue to work on Midpoint Assessment Priorities.

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 met for their biannual meeting December 3-4, 2013 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, MD. The agenda covered a wide range of topics, including the GIT's recent priorities of blue crabs, oyster restoration, and invasive catfish. The team also discussed ecosystem-based management, forage fish, and striped bass, which are important issues to address in the near future as the New Agreement is signed and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission considers new striped bass fishery regulations.

The agenda, meeting materials and the meeting summary can be found at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21025/>.

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 met on December 19th to discuss the Habitat GIT membership, BMP Expert Panel reports, and other updates. Mike Slattery (USFWS) talked about how to improve connections between GIT priorities and available NFWF funds. GIT 2 also discussed removing fish passage barriers

where fragmentation is the main contributor to Brook Trout habitat loss and where riparian stressors will be focused. GIT 2 will work to identify priority areas for targeted action.

The next GIT 2 call will take place on January 16th and its next in-person meeting will occur on February 26th at North Point State Park in Baltimore, Maryland.

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 January 13th. Agenda topics included: discussion of EPA Milestone evaluation and progress tracking for 2013 milestones; a decision on where to post the new Wastewater Supplemental Indicator information and who will perform the indicator calculations; an update on the Agriculture Workgroup's progress towards the Midpoint Assessment priority of model data processing; and the potential formation of a GIT workgroup to address the June 2013 STAC Crediting Conservation Report.

The next GIT 3 call will be February 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)

GIT 4 met in person on December 19th. GIT 4 members from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, and West Virginia updated the team on state management strategies for healthy waters and watersheds protection. GIT 4 reflected on collective management strategies, and identified the following key strategies for GIT 4 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.

GIT 4 will form an *ad hoc* workgroups to work directly on local engagement, communications, and tracking strategies in 2014. GIT 4 members heard presentations on two Case Studies:

- Ruth Thorton (TNC) and Keith Fisher (TNC) presented West Virginia's Watershed Assessment Pilot Project. The purpose of the pilot was to develop and test a watershed assessment methodology that will eventually be replicated for all of West Virginia's watersheds.

- Shannon Moore (Frederick County Office of Sustainable and Environmental Resources) gave a presentation on Frederick County's (MD) Green Infrastructure project. The project is a multi-year effort to identify and protect environmentally rich and valuable areas in Frederick County.

On December 5th, the EPA Office of Water released a Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program. The document describes a new long-term vision that focuses on goals such as prioritization, assessment, protection, and integration.

For a link to the vision statement, visit:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21119/vision_303d_program_dec_2013.pdf

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 instead wait for additional guidance from the MB and PSC (Principal Staff Committee) on program governance. The PSC will hold a call on January 16th and 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 will also 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 Issues Resolution Committee.

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