



THE ABSTRACT

A Monthly Update from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

July 2013

Recent STAC News

June 2013 Quarterly Meeting – Annapolis, MD

June 11-12, 2013

STAC held its first quarterly meeting of FY 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The two-day meeting featured presentations on the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) New Bay Agreement, Climate Change and its incorporation into CBP Models, Monitoring Re-alignment Action Team II (MRAT II), Sustainability in Washington, D.C., Potential STAC and CBP collaboration with the Knowledge Systems for Sustainability (KSS), Shoreline Characteristics and their Effect on Habitat at the Land -Water Interface, updates from the Agricultural Workgroup (AGWG), discussions of STAC's message to the Executive Council, Oyster Aquaculture Review and various recent STAC workshops including: Lag Times Workshop, M3.2 Workshop, Coastal Habitats Workshop, and Nutrient Trading Workshop. Additionally, the STAC membership voted for new committee members to replace Michael Paolisso, Claire Welty, Dave Secor, Don Weller, and Jim Pease who cycled off the committee in June 2013. STAC Members elected Adel Shirmohammadi (UMD), Andy Miller (UMBC), Kathy Boomer (TNC), and Tom Ihde (NOAA) and voted to re-appoint Dave Sample (VT). To view the June 2013 quarterly meeting presentations, please visit the STAC meetings website:

http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/meeting.php?activity_id=217.

CBP Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) Meeting – Washington, D.C.

June 27, 2013

Members of the PSC met for the first time since December 5, 2012. Discussion of the new Chesapeake Bay Program Bay Agreement dominated the agenda, and the committee vetted more than 20 agreement outcomes and 9 goals developed by the CBP Management Board (MB) with input from partnership stakeholders. These goals and outcomes went through rigorous evaluation by the MB prior to being brought before the PSC, and will be made available to the public for comment: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page>. After the public comment period, these goals and outcomes were reviewed at the July 11th Management Board meeting. Hamid Karimi (DDOE) gave a presentation on the Sustainable Cities – Sustainable Urban Watersheds proposal. This proposal will require the support of the CBP partnership.

July 2013 Management Board Meeting – Annapolis, MD **July 11-12, 2013**

MB Chair Nick DiPasquale reviewed the draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed agreement and discussed the goals and outcomes that were approved at the PSC meeting on June 27th. A public stakeholder comment period was held and various attendees presented their perspectives and concerns about the agreement, restoration efforts, and current condition of the watershed. Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator) gave a presentation on near- and long-term funding needs for the CBP Tidal and Non-Tidal Monitoring Networks. Dan Nees (Environmental Finance Center) led a panel discussion on the need for an Environmental Finance Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Program, which included Leanne Tobias (Malachite LLC) and Mark Bowen (Kleinschmidt Associates). The Management Board revisited the goals and outcomes on Day 2 of the meeting, and discussed four potential timelines for the finalization of the agreement leading up to the 30th anniversary of the Bay Program later this year.

Upcoming Events

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) August 2013 Meeting

Date: August 22-23, 2013

Location: TBD, PA

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) September 2013 Quarterly Meeting

Date: September 17-18, 2013

Location: Maryland Inn – Annapolis, MD

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) September 2013 Meeting

Date: September 26-27, 2013

Location: National Conservation Training Center – Shepherdstown, WV

STAR Updates

STAR and all STAR-associated workgroups are in the process of adjusting the FY2013 monitoring program to accommodate a million dollar shortfall in federal funding. An emergency STAR session is scheduled for July 22nd to develop coordinated monitoring gap closure options. These options will be reviewed by the WQGIT between July 29th-August 5th, and another presentation on the current monitoring funding shortfall will be given at the August 8th MB meeting. If you have any questions regarding this 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

The Fisheries GIT held their biannual meeting on June 17-18 in Colonial Beach, VA. More information on this meeting, including agenda, meeting summary and presentation files can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/19244/>.

The Fisheries GIT also endorsed the CBSAC 2013 Blue Crab Advisory Report: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/CBSAC2013Figures_Final_June_25.pdf.

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will hold a conference call on July 22nd from 1:00-3:00pm. The agenda can be found at the link below, along with other meeting materials including an abridged Bay Agreement draft, stakeholder comments regarding fisheries, and a summary of the June 17-18 meeting:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/sustainable_fisheries.

Habitats Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT's FY2013 workshop proposal to STAC, entitled "Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed," was approved and will receive funding. A steering committee is currently being assembled. The workshop will seek to bring practitioners, regulators, and scientists together in agreement over common language and methods for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that "improve the functional elements of stream health to address water quality, climatological impacts, physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone."

The Habitat GIT also held their most recent meeting on June 25th via webinar. Discussion revolved around the goals and outcomes of the new Bay Agreement, and approval of Technical Synthesis III and an upcoming SAV research project. More information and meeting materials can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/20794/>.

Maintain Healthy Watershed Goal Implementation Team

The Healthy Watersheds GIT supplied a briefing document on the diversity of state programs that support healthy watershed identification and protection to the Management Board meeting on July 11th at the request of Anthony Moore (VA Secretary of Natural Resources). That document can be found here:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/18756/cbp_partners_healthy_waters_watersheds_programs.pdf.

The Healthy Watersheds GIT will meet with the EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds on July 25th to discuss the possibility of funding for a pilot healthy watershed assessment project in the Chesapeake Watershed as part of the National Healthy Watersheds Initiative.

FY2013 Approved STAC Workshops

***The STAC membership voted to fund four workshops for the 2013 fiscal year. These are the workshops that were approved for funding with a brief description of their proposed objectives and scope. More details will be provided as the respective steering committees begin discussing and planning these workshops.**

Management Effects on Water Quality Trends

This workshop plans to investigate connections between trends in human activities (including management actions in the watershed), watershed loads, and estuarine water quality and living resources.

Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The objective of this workshop is to create agreement among practitioners, regulators and scientists on a common language and methods for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health to address water quality, climatological impacts, physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.

In my Backyard: An Innovative Look at the Advances of Onsite Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems

This workshop will be an open forum to further discuss decentralized systems issues to bring the watershed as a whole into a new era of management. The workshop will focus on potential measures addressing state management of existing onsite septic systems and new technologies that may be used in new installations of onsite septic systems.

The Peculiarities of Perviousness

This workshop plans to define, measure, and model the nutrient dynamics from the land cover known as pervious land.

For additional information about the workshops, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

Welcome New Members

*** STAC members voted for four new members to join the committee in September 2013. Please be sure to greet our newest STAC colleagues, and wish good luck to our departing members in their future endeavors.**

Kathy Boomer (The Nature Conservancy); kboomer@tnc.org

Research Interests/Experience: Interdisciplinary background in watershed science and modeling to help mitigate human impacts on the environment, inform decision-makers engaged in resource management, and facilitate scientific synthesis.

Adel Shirmohammadi (University of Maryland); ashirmo@umd.edu

Research Interests/Experience: Experimental and theoretical evaluation of the hydrologic and water quality responses of agricultural watersheds, TMDL assessments, design of water table management systems, and the impact of various agricultural management practices on water quality, overall watershed management, and ecosystem and human health.

Thomas Ihde (NOAA – Chesapeake Bay Office); tom.ihde@noaa.gov

Research Interests/Experience: Background in fisheries/marine science with focus on fisheries and ecosystem modeling and software experience with Atlantis Ecosystem Model, Ecopath with Ecosim, S-PLUS/R, SAS, AD Model Builder, MATLAB, etc. Involved in development of methodologies for Integrated Ecosystem Assessments for the Chesapeake Bay and assisted in development of statistical and process models of ecological and environmental systems that influence the living resources of the Bay.

Andy Miller (UMBC); miller@umbc.edu

Research Interests/Experience: Professor at UMBC in the Department of Geography and Environmental Systems. Background in geography, hydrology, geology, and environmental engineering.