



# THE ABSTRACT

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

November 2014

## *Recent STAC News*

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

**Easton, MD  
October 9-10, 2014**

STAC and several other organizations, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cornell University/Cornell Local Roads Program, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), and the Nature Conservancy (TNC), funded a large workshop focusing on roadside ditch management practices throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The workshop, which was held at the Tidewater Inn on Maryland's Eastern Shore, aimed to bring together over 50 highway staff, county engineers and other water resource professionals from across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to discuss the challenges faced when designing and maintaining roadside ditches. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Secretary Robert Summers and Talbot County Councilman Dirck Bartlett delivered welcome addresses and stressed the importance of structurally efficient roadside ditches and their ability to transport and treat water runoff before reaching major waterways. Throughout much of the watershed, roadside ditches are utilized as inexpensive pollution filters, but only if they are operating properly. If left to disrepair, they can shunt surface water directly into small order streams, preventing nutrient and sediment loads from filtering naturally into the groundwater system, or back onto roads and nearby properties, potentially flooding them and causing costly erosive damage. The workshop steering committee will begin examining recommendations derived from breakout group discussions to include in the final workshop report, which will be submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Management Board (MB) by early January 2015.

### **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Summit**

**Linthicum Heights, MD  
October 14-15, 2014**

The CBP Forestry Workgroup held a Chesapeake Bay Urban Tree Canopy Summit at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute, gathering a group of urban reforestation experts to

develop a management strategy to achieve the goal of adding 2,400 UTC acres by the 2025 Goal Line. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Executive Director Al Todd served as facilitator at the workshop and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR) Secretary Joe Gill provided opening remarks. Presenters from around the watershed detailed their individual efforts to implement UTC goals. Many argued that tree planting efforts are especially important as urban development continues to expand, decreasing the amount of watershed tree canopy coverage by about 100 acres every year. Other presenters said it is most important to maintain the established forest acres we already have, as they will continue to replenish themselves with age and density. All attendees agreed that trees are accruing assets, which once planted, will only continue to grow in size and benefits for the surrounding community and environment. Breakout groups engaged in discussion on the second day of the workshop to develop potential management strategy language for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement's (CBWA) UTC goal.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary article (Kirk Havens, VIMS).
- CBP Modeling and the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment (from Gary Shenk, EPA-CBPO).
- CBP-proposed STAC activities, 2014-2016 (from Rich Batiuk, EPA).
- Innovative Water Quality Monitoring Work Session on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting (STAR)/STAC Collaboration on CBWA Activities – embedding social sciences into CBP processes now, by the 2017 MPA, and leading up to the 2025 Goal Line.

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

### ***Key Events***

- **November 2014 Wastewater Treatment Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** November 4, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21143/>
- **November 2014 Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Call**

**Date:** November 4, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21267/>

- **Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Kick-Off Meeting**  
**Date:** November 5, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22127/>
- **November 2014 Modeling Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** November 6, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22108/>
- **November 2014 Watershed Technical Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** November 6, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21402/>
- **Science for Solutions: Combating the Wicked Nutrient Problem**  
**Date:** November 7, 2014  
**Time:** 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
**Webinar Link:** <https://meeting.psu.edu/agenvpartnership>
- **November 2014 Water Quality GIT Call**  
**Date:** November 10, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21219/>
- **November 2014 Agriculture Workgroup Meeting**  
**Date:** November 13, 2014  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21228/>
- **November 2014 Communications Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** November 13, 2014  
**Time:** 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21443/>
- **November 2014 CBP Management Board Meeting**  
**Date:** November 13, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21461/>
- **2014 Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Workgroup Meeting**

**Date:** November 14, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21540/>

- **November 2014 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Call**

**Date:** November 17, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22003/>

- **November 2014 Citizen Stewardship Meeting**

**Date:** November 18, 2014

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22143/>

- **November 2014 Urban Stormwater Workgroup Call**

**Date:** November 18, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21159/>

- **November 2014 Trading and Offsets Workgroup Call**

**Date:** November 19, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21197/>

- **November 2014 Land Use Workgroup Call**

**Date:** November 20, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22155/>

- **November 2014 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Quarterly Meeting**

**Date:** November 20-21, 2014

**Time(s):** Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21407/>

#### **Upcoming STAC FY2014 Workshops:**

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

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

**Time(s):** **Day 1:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Day 2:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**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 held a meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss STAR's role in support of the CBP GITs and CBWA Management Strategies, updates on the Climate Change Workgroup and Climate Resiliency Management Strategy, the Climate Change Resiliency Index and how it will fit into the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Annual Report Card, a recap of the Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) work to date and next steps including best approaches to reduce uncertainty of measuring attainment of water quality standards, and a briefing on the two-day Water Quality GIT meeting on October 7-8. STAR and STAC will take part in an Innovative Operations of Water Quality Monitoring Work Session on December 8<sup>th</sup>, which will examine how to more effectively fund and operate Chesapeake Bay watershed monitoring systems. Bruce Vogt (NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office – NCBO) led the afternoon session with a seminar on the Delmarva/Choptank River Complex habitat focus area and STAR members discussed the potential design of a collaborative monitoring network to track changes in ecosystem health.

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 October 20<sup>th</sup>. Meeting agenda topics focused on Fisheries/Land Use Language Comparison, the new Virginia Sea Grant/NCBO Post Doc appointment, management strategy participation, and planning for the December 2014 full Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting. The GIT Executive Committee also discussed CBP funding for GITs, updates on STAC's Forage Base workshop and Invasive Catfish Review, and the Sustainable Fisheries GIT poster presentation at Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) Summit in November 2014.

STAC's review of the Invasive Catfish Task Force's final report was completed on October 31, 2014. The STAC workshop, "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities," will be held at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland on November 12-13, 2014 (see "Upcoming STAC FY2014 Workshops" under *Key Events*).

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)**

The Habitat GIT met on October 21-22, 2014 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Chesapeake Bay Field Office and CBP Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room in Annapolis, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to engage state fish and wildlife experts in a Chesapeake Bay watershed landscape conservation planning and design effort to demonstrate scalable, strategic habitat conservation in action. The meeting also aimed to inform participants about the opportunity to influence CBWA management strategies related to habitat outcomes.

Participants heard presentations on a Chesapeake Bay watershed framework for prioritizing habitat needs, a brook trout prioritization model for the Chesapeake Bay, brook trout management strategy development, black duck habitat prioritization maps, black duck management strategy development, Harvell Dam Removal, fish passage management strategy development, fish habitat outcome and management strategy development, and more.

The RAE Summit will feature a presentation on the Pilot Brook Trout Habitat Prioritization model for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The summit will take place in Washington, D.C. on November 1-6, 2014. The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture met on September 8-10 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

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 an in-person meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> and a follow up call on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Water Quality GIT members utilized the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to identify priorities and establish a timeline of work moving towards the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment (MPA). Key topics included discussion of modeling workgroup efforts and revision of the modeling system structure, use of monitoring data to measure progress and analyze trends, improvement of land use classifications, trapping capacity of dams and local impoundments, James River chlorophyll-*a*, modeling baselines and data processing, model calibration methods, historic data cleanup, atmospheric deposition, and climate change.

The October 20<sup>th</sup> Water Quality GIT call featured presentations on climate change and how to incorporate climate change into Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), a Federal Facility Targets proposal up for approval during the November 10<sup>th</sup> Water Quality GIT call (see *Key Events*), BMP lifespan considerations, and preparations for the December 2014 Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) meeting.

If you have any questions regarding general 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 Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT is working to identify key stakeholders that should be involved in the development of management strategies for the CBWA Healthy Watersheds outcome and Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome. The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT leaders presented a Healthy Watersheds session at the September 26-28, 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Forum in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT held a work session for management strategies at the CBP Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room. The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT is responsible for one Healthy Watersheds Outcome and two Land Use Outcomes. The work session was used to begin brainstorming next steps to construct multi-year plans to address, implement, and measure outcomes within the CBWA.

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

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

The Fostering Stewardship GIT will hold a November 18<sup>th</sup> kick-off meeting to begin discussion of citizen stewardship as it relates to the CBWA goals and outcomes. The Fostering Stewardship GIT will use this meeting to begin developing a management strategy for the Citizen Stewardship Outcome, which aims to increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with necessary knowledge and skills to enhance local watershed health.

The Fostering Stewardship GIT will follow-up on the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with a December 1<sup>st</sup> in-person meeting at the CBP National Park Service (NPS) office.

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 Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT met on October 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss management strategy development timeline and issues in preparation for an October 9<sup>th</sup> GIT Chairs meeting that was held in place of the October 2014 Management Board meeting. The GIT specifically focused on the Local Leadership Management Strategy and determined that Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)/Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Coordinator Jessica Blackburn will serve as liaison between the Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT and Fostering Stewardship GIT. Greg Allen (CBP) updated the group on the FY 2014 GIT Funding Process.

There is \$862,000 available in FY 2014 funding to support 17 projects proposed by the CBP GITs. Two projects proposed by the Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT

will be funded using that money. The Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT proposed the formation of a new Financing Workgroup to provide guidance on a range of issues related to funding with the purpose of continually improving coordination, innovation, and expert peer review of budgets throughout the CBP. This workgroup will consider all funding issues at the state and federal level, and not just EPA funding.

The Enhancing Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT is also in the process of developing a set of options for future CBP MB consideration on the concept of an annual program performance review meeting. The options will be presented to the MB in fall/winter 2014. The GIT has also been maintaining a list of potential revisions to the PSC-approved governance document, and will consider those revisions during a December 2014 review of GIT governance.

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).