



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*A Watershed Partnership*

**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
March 8, 2018**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

March 12	WQGIT Conference Call
March 13-14	STAC Quarterly Meeting
March 21-22	Local Government Advisory Committee
March 22	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
March 26	Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting
April 12	Management Board meeting
April 25-26	STAC Fish Habitat workshop
May 3-4	Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting (Washington, DC)

**Updates**

**Principals Staff Committee Meeting**

On Friday, March 2, the CBP Principals Staff Committee (PSC) met at the Maryland Department of Environment (Baltimore) to follow up on several issues discussed during the PSC's retreat on December 19-20. The PSC was asked to make the following decisions: approve a revised Midpoint Assessment schedule; approve the Bay's assimilative capacity loadings; agree on the process for providing additional pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus to West Virginia and New York, and the resultant changes to the draft Phase III planning targets; approve a Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Framework; and adopt the 2025 climate change nutrient and sediment loads. Final decisions and actions agreed to during the meeting will be posted soon on the PSC meeting page at:

([https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/principals\\_staff\\_committee\\_meeting\\_march\\_2018](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/principals_staff_committee_meeting_march_2018)). The PSC also agreed to reconvene a planning committee for the 2018 Executive Council Meeting.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov)

**Communications Products in Support of the Midpoint Assessment**

The CBP Communications Team is working closely with Tetra Tech to develop communications products in support of the TMDL Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIPs. The first communications package – consisting of talking points, fact sheets, social media posts, PowerPoint presentations, a blog and a video – deals with the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools. Similar packages are in development for climate change, the Conowingo Dam and Phase III planning targets.

Contact: Rachel Felver, [rfelver@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rfelver@chesapeakebay.net), (410) 267-5740

**Updated management strategies and work plans available for public feedback**

Over the next two years on a quarterly basis, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Management Board will review the progress and challenges the partnership is having toward meeting the 10 goals and 31 outcomes identified in the CBP's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Quarterly meetings

began in May 2017 and now the first group of updated management strategies and work plans associated with each outcome are being made available for public comment. Updated work plans are now available for the following outcomes: Blue Crab Abundance, Blue Crab Management, Brook Trout, Citizen Stewardship, Diversity, Fish Habitat, Fish Passage, Forage Fish, Healthy Watersheds, Oysters, Public Access, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (Underwater Grasses), and Stream Health. Updated management strategies now available: Diversity and Public Access. Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the updated draft work plans by submitting an [online comment](#). Comments will be accepted from March 5 through March 27.

### **New Study Ties Rebounding Underwater Grasses to Recovering Chesapeake Bay**

A new study, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, analyzes the positive impact of nutrient reductions from the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Researchers found that a 23 percent reduction of average nitrogen levels and an eight percent reduction of average phosphorus levels in the Bay have resulted in four times the amount of underwater grasses. This represents the biggest resurgence of underwater grasses ever recorded, not only in the Chesapeake Bay, but in the entire world. The findings are from a collaborative effort among many institutions, including the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, U.S. Geological Survey, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and others.

For more information:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/rebounding\\_underwater\\_grasses\\_signal\\_recovering\\_chesapeake\\_bay](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/rebounding_underwater_grasses_signal_recovering_chesapeake_bay)

### **Advisory Committee Updates**

#### **Local Government Advisory Committee**

*The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.*

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York. Staff is working with a Board Member from the National Association of Counties to identify a nominee for appointment in New York.

The Pennsylvania LGAC members met with PA Department of Protection staff on February 9 to provide local government feedback on DEP's plan for the development of local area planning goals.

LGAC Vice Chair Ann Simonetti attended the EPA's Environmental Finance Advisory Board meeting in Washington, DC on February 20-21, 2018.

The next LGAC meeting will be held in Laurel, Delaware on March 21-22, 2018. The Committee will hear presentations on economic development, infrastructure and public health/safety projects and discuss the connections to watershed protection and restoration. The presentations and discussion are specifically intended to help inform Phase III WIP developers and those responsible for Watershed Agreement Outcomes. If you are interested in attending the meeting please contact Jennifer Starr at [jestarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jestarr@allianceforthebay.org).

Questions about LGAC or the Local Government Engagement Initiative should be directed to Mary Gattis at [mgattis@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:mgattis@allianceforthebay.org) or 717-475-8390.

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee**

*The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.*

On February 22nd and 23rd, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council met in Annapolis, MD to learn updates on water quality, stewardship and diversity, and BMP verification and to set their 2018 priorities for meetings and recommendations. On the first day, CAC met in the Chesapeake Bay Program headquarters and had the opportunity to hear from staff that work there – Rachel Felver, director of the Communications Office, the acting director Jim Edward and Darius Stanton, the Diversity Workgroup coordinator. In addition to CBP staff, CAC heard from Mayor Gavin Buckley of Annapolis, Liz Chudboa from the Alliance, the EPA Region 3 Administrator Cosmo Servidio, and Secretary Ben Grumbles of the MD Department of the Environment. On the second day, CAC was briefed by the Associate Director of Science at the Chesapeake Bay Program, Rich Batiuk and Emily French from the Oyster Recovery Project. Following the presentations, CAC sub-committees brainstormed topics and members voted on their priorities for 2018.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray [abray@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org)  
For program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

*The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.*

#### ***Upcoming Meetings:***

STAC will hold its fourth quarterly meeting of FY2017 on March 13-14, 2018 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Visit the [March meeting webpage](#) for additional information. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, [hinrichse@chesapeake.org](mailto:hinrichse@chesapeake.org).

#### ***Workshops:***

STAC is planning for two workshops this spring. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision – **April 25-26, 2018**
- Revising Coastal Land-Water Interactions: The 'Triplet' Connection – **May 23-24, 2018**

#### ***Upcoming and Recent Reports:***

STAC released four reports in the last month. All STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) CBP Partnership’s Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts (*Review*)

Accessible at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/386\\_Herrmann2018.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/386_Herrmann2018.pdf)

- 2) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM) (*Review*)

Accessible at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/388\\_Brady2018.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/388_Brady2018.pdf)

- 3) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation (*Workshop*):

Accessible at: [http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/390\\_Stephenson2018.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/390_Stephenson2018.pdf)

- 4) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design (*Workshop*)

Accessible online after March 8, 2018

With these final two review reports, STAC completes its series of 8 independent peer reviews to help inform the Partnership’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment, and the CBP's evolving suite of modeling and management tools. A complete list of the review requests, links to relevant documentation/review materials, reports, and CBP responses (as available) can be found on the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org).

STAC is working to finalize the following eight reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2025
- 2) Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond
- 3) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 5) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay’s Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 6) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 7) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 8) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at [dixonr@chesapeake.org](mailto:dixonr@chesapeake.org)

## **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

### **Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup**

#### **Indicators**

The following indicators were updated since the February Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Sustainable Schools	In 2017, 14% of public and charter schools in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—a total of	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-">http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-</a>

	610 schools—were certified sustainable. (up from 501 in 2015)	<a href="#">communities/sustainable-schools</a>
Student MWEE	Of school districts responding to ELIT survey in 2017, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41% reported providing system-wide MWEEs to at least one grade level in elementary school.</li> <li>• 43% reported providing system-wide MWEEs to at least one grade level in middle school.</li> <li>• 32% reported providing system-wide MWEEs in at least one required course in high school.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.chesapeakeprogr ess.com/engaged-communities/student">http://www.chesapeakeprogr ess.com/engaged-communities/student</a>

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Public Access
- Environmental Literacy Planning

NOTE: an asterisk\* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, [free.laura@epa.gov](mailto:free.laura@epa.gov)

### **Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

*The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.*

Throughout the month of February, Fisheries GIT staff continued to develop the 2018-2019 workplans. On February 9, all four workplans were distributed to the Sustainable Fisheries GIT, workgroups, and interested parties to solicit feedback. The workplans will be shared with the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee for a final review at the next conference call.

- The Forage Action Team agreed that creating an indicator to assess the forage base is one of the most important actions for the 2018-19 workplan. Fisheries GIT staff met with Laura Free, EPA Indicators Coordinator, to discuss the process of developing an indicator or suite of indicators. Another major action will be examining the Forage Fish management strategy, potentially changing some language to better reflect the diversity of the forage base.
- The blue crab Winter Dredge survey is underway and the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee plans to meet in April to begin analyzing the results. CBSAC members are also working on a review of the report “Economic and Ecological Effects of Derelict Fishing Gear in Chesapeake Bay” to be presented to the Executive Committee.

The Fish Habitat Workshop Steering Committee is continuing to plan for the upcoming workshop, to be held April 25-26, 2018 in Richmond, Virginia. The workshop will compile datasets on habitat condition and stressors in freshwater and estuarine habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, develop a strategy to assess the watershed habitat condition using these prioritized datasets, and identify use and users for

a regional fish habitat assessment. The NOAA Facilitator Network will provide two facilitators, which will keep workshop participants on task and allow for a more productive meeting.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov)

### **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

*The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.*

The Wetland Workgroup is experiencing a leadership transition as Chair and Co-Chairs Amy Jacobs and Erin McLaughlin have stepped down from their roles. The Habitat GIT is now soliciting nominations for these positions. Please email Christine Conn ([Christine.conn@maryland.gov](mailto:Christine.conn@maryland.gov)) and David Whitehurst ([david.whitehurst@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:david.whitehurst@dgif.virginia.gov)) with any nominations by COB March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The STAC fish habitat workshop entitled *Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions* has been scheduled for **April 25-26, 2018 at the Maymont Estate in Richmond, Virginia**. The primary goal for the workshop is to inform the development of a Regional Fish Habitat Assessment, and identify information needs on the quality and quantity of fish habitat and its sensitivity to stressors. This fish habitat workshop will work to refine the National Fish Assessment with more local data sets and improve its utility for local decisions. In order to answer the question regarding the utility of an assessment, we have developed a questionnaire to get **input from government staff, planners and conservation land-use folks**. This input will help inform workshop participants on local needs and guide the agenda for the technical workshop. Please contact Gina Hunt if you have contacts in your jurisdiction that you think are appropriate to participate in the questionnaire: [gina.hunt@maryland.gov](mailto:gina.hunt@maryland.gov). You can access the questionnaire at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDY8WCY>. For more information on the workshop, visit: [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity\\_id=288](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=288).

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, [hobaugh.paige@epa.gov](mailto:hobaugh.paige@epa.gov)

### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**

*The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.*

**The WQGIT held conference calls on February 12 and February 26. A subset of topics discussed included:**

- The WQGIT was briefed on changes to the Current Zoning and Historical Trends 2025 forecasting scenarios. The WQGIT recommended no change to the decision reached in fall 2017 to use the Current Zoning scenario in the base conditions for development of the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the Forestry Workgroup's materials to assist WIP developers to address forest and tree cover concerns in the Phase III WIP development process.
- The WQGIT was briefed on new trend results from nutrient and sediment monitoring in the Chesapeake watershed.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the scope of the FY 2018 WIP Assistance proposal to support the development and implementation of the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs.

- The WQGIT was briefed on the WWTWG recommendation to forecast 2025 conditions for wastewater loads. The results of the forecast analysis will be reviewed for approval to include in CAST in April 2018.
- The WQGIT discussed the upcoming Strategy Review System quarterly presentation to the Management Board on the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's progress on outcomes and management strategies.

**The WQGIT will hold a conference call on March 12. A subset of planned topics includes:**

- The WQGIT will review preliminary communication products to assist jurisdictions in local watershed planning and Phase III WIP development.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the latest results from the jurisdictions' 2017 progress data.
- The WQGIT will discuss and approve up to three new priority data needs from STAR for 2018. STAR has requested that all 2017 data needs be updated and 2018 data needs be submitted by COB March 15.
- The WQGIT will continue preparation for the SRS presentation to the Management Board in May 2018, including review of a detailed timeline for SRS tasks to prepare for the May 10 Management Board presentation, review of management strategies and workplans, identification of future management strategy and workplan priorities, and coordination with other outcomes under the WQGIT (Toxic Contaminants and Forestry outcomes).

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

**Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

The MHWGIT is working on creating their 2018-2019 Workplan and Logic Table. They are currently working with GIT state leads and representatives to develop action items to include in the workplan. They are still waiting on jurisdiction action items from DC, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia. Virginia action items are expected in Mid-March after necessary departmental meetings. While Pennsylvania is no longer a participating outcome member MHWGIT staff are working with the Stream Health and Brook Trout teams to incorporate any PA relevant action items into the Healthy Watersheds workplan.

Tetra Tech is in the middle of the MHWGIT GIT Funding Project, Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessments for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. They are currently soliciting MHWGIT data leads for additional information and datasets that be can incorporated in the assessment; they have so far received contributions from New York, Pennsylvania, and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Both Maryland and Virginia will be submitting requested data tables later in March.

Contact: Katherine Wares; [kwares@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:kwares@chesapeakebay.net)

**Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve*

*restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.*

Contact: Drew Pizzala; [drew\\_pizzala@partner.nps.gov](mailto:drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov)

### **Diversity Workgroup**

EPA Region 3 and Bowie State University Memorandum of Understanding Signing took place on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The Chesapeake Bay Program was mentioned in this MOU for the following: Strengthen BSU staff and student connection to Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and coastal resources through interaction with Chesapeake Bay Program partners or hands on learning experiences.

The Diversity Workgroup has partnered with the Audubon Naturalist Society to celebrate Black History month by organizing and leading the green career fair portion of their “Taking Nature Black” Event. Held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, This event will be centered around supporting environmental careers, environmental justice and promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within the environmental movement. Other CBP partners that have partnered on this initiative include MD-DNR and Choose Clean Water Coalition. Other CBP partners such as the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of the Environment have committed to either sponsor this event or serve as exhibitors. To register or learn more, please see the following link: <https://anshome.org/taking-nature-black/>

Contact: Darius Stanton; [stanon.darius@epa.gov](mailto:stanon.darius@epa.gov)

### **Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.*

### **GIT 6 Work Plan**

The GIT has completed an updated workplan for calendar year 2018. The document can be found under the “Projects and Resources” section of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **CBP Biennial Strategy Review System**

The SRS team has incorporated final guidance on updating management strategies and workplans into the SRS Quarterly Progress Meeting Guide. The team will be presenting draft guidance for revising Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes to the full GIT in March, and will present a final recommendation to the Management Board in April 2018.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found under the “Project and Resources” section of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **FY2017 GIT Funding**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is in the process of collecting and processing external reviews for all scopes of work in the FY2017 GIT Funding RFP. The Trust will finalize a contract template, which will be distributed

to awardees by the end of March 2018. In the case of projects that were delayed or received insufficient bids, a second RFP may be released for those projects. If deemed necessary, the timeline for the release of a second RFP is mid-March 2018.

Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov)

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, [freeman.emily@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.emily@epa.gov)

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

#### **STAR**

STAR workgroups and leadership are focused on updating the science needs of the Goal Teams for 2081-19. The results will help focus science resources and identify gaps that could be addressed by collaborating with additional partners or targeting Goal Team funding.

STAR also provided support for multiple STAC workshop proposals this year linked with climate change, criteria for developing factors influencing outcomes, and adaptive management support for the GITs.

STAR continues to provide SRS support in 2018 through pre-management board meeting reviews of presentations and their content. A 12-month planning calendar lists themes for the upcoming meetings including:

*March-* Review of GIT Needs for 2018/2019. Status and Trends Issues and Progress: discuss remaining indicator gaps (based on Goal Team needs), opportunities to address and timelines support needs.

*April-* SRS Preparation: Toxics Policy, Toxics Research, WIPS, Standards Attainment, Forest Buffers

*May-* Modeling Issues and Priorities: Discussion between the Modeling WG leadership and Goal Teams to develop priorities and opportunities to address non-water quality related needs.

#### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling Workgroup met on February 6 with presentations that included a detailed assessment of the Chesapeake assimilation capacity for nutrient loads in order to accommodate, to the extent possible, the special conditions of the New York and West Virginia basins. There was also a discussion of addressing modeling needs of other Goal Teams after the Midpoint Assessment is completed by early 2019. Click here for [presentations and meeting summary](#).

### **Integrated Trends Analysis Team**

ITAT Synthesis groups convened for a STAC workshop December 2017, to share insights from their efforts with each other, as well as with synthesis groups from the USGS and a group of invited managers from the CBP's WQGIT. Participants engaged in a productive and stimulating discussion, and a workshop report is currently being drafted. Workshop organizers are happy to share workshop insights and outcomes with any interested parties. Additionally, selected results from ITAT efforts were presented to the PSC on March 3.

#### **Status and Trends**

The Status and Trends Workgroup has moved to a quarterly meeting format with the focus this year on GIS and Bay Barometer support. The next meeting will occur April 10, 2018 from 1-3pm.

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup met on February 12 to initiate the CBP Strategy Review System (SRS) process by reviewing progress to date, identifying factors influencing goal attainment, and completing the climate resiliency logic table. The CRWG also spent the month preparing briefing materials and communication/outreach related to climate change and the midpoint assessment for the March 2 Principals' Staff Committee meeting. The PSC is expected to finalize the policy approach for addressing climate change in Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans at this meeting. The CRWG submitted a proposal to STAC for a workshop to examine the results of the climate change modeling component of the midpoint assessment and recommend next steps to complete the next phase of the modeling effort by 2019. Implementation plans for the suite of 21 climate change indicators are under development and will be circulated to technical reviewers in mid-March. Zoe Johnson, the Climate Coordinator is moving to a new position and will be missed.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; [mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Communications Workgroup**

*The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.*

The February Communications Workgroup meeting focused on creating shared messaging, sharing partner content and learning from analytics. The workgroup heard a recap of the Bay Barometer release as well as survey results from the workgroup's January retreat. They discussed shared messaging for the months of February and March and guidelines for a new shared calendar. Lastly, they heard an overview of 2017 analytics for chesapeakebay.net.

The Communications Office has been working on a presentation for the jurisdictions that gives an overview of the WIP outcome templates and shows examples of how BMPs can be used to meet water quality goals as well as other local priorities. This is a part of the project led by Nicki Kasi to add consideration of 12 additional Bay Program outcomes in WIP development.

The office's multimedia specialist has also begun working on a video that will show that signs of progress in the Chesapeake Bay. At the end of February, Rebecca Chillrud began as the new communications staffer.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; [jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:jsmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Recent Meetings and Events**

Feb. 12	Climate Resiliency Workgroup Quarterly Meeting
Feb. 12	Water Quality GIT Conference Call
Feb. 14	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Conference Call
Feb. 15	Agriculture Workgroup Face-to-Face Meeting
Feb. 22	STAR Meeting
Feb. 22	Education Workgroup Meeting
Feb 22-23	Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Feb. 26	Water Quality GIT Conference Call

Feb. 28	Budget and Finance Workgroup Meeting
March 2	Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
March 5	Diversity Workgroup Conference Call
March 6	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management (GIT 6) Quarterly Meeting
March 8	Management Board Meeting