



Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

March 29th, 2016 Meeting

Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)

Chesapeake Bay Program Office

410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD

10 AM – 3 PM

Call-in#: (866) - 299 - 3188 Code: 4102675731#

Adobe Connect link: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/git4>

10:00 Welcome, Introductions

Mark Bryer

10:10 Updates

Mark Bryer

Our Chair, Mark Bryer TNC will review the current status of the Workplans as well as a summary of the comments received during the public input period. A more detailed workplan discussion related to near term shared priorities will take place later in the day.

Related documents:

[Draft Healthy Watersheds Workplan with Public Input Comments](#)

[Draft Land Use Metrics and Methods Workplan with Public Input Comments](#)

10:20 Presentation: Identifying Additional Healthy Watersheds in WV

Keith Fisher (TNC) and Misty Downing (TNC)

Misty will review the process employed by TNC and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a watershed assessment and delineate healthy watersheds in the Potomac watershed portion of West Virginia. This project was funded by the Healthy Watersheds GIT in 2014 and was completed in the fall of 2015. The methodology used was the same as the one applied in the West Virginia Watershed Assessment Pilot Project, which Keith presented on at a Goal Team meeting in the past. As part of this project Ms. Downing created a comprehensive 39 metric index of overall watershed health the results of this analysis will provide context for the “tracking” discussion.

11:00 Discussion: Building a framework for tracking healthy watersheds **Renee Thompson**

Representatives from each state will present on states’ methods of updating the healthy waters and watersheds list. By doing this we will better understand the timeframe that each state uses for providing those updates to the GIT. A “baseline” discussion will also take place to consider whether it is feasible to lock in the State-identified Healthy Watersheds dataset. Previously, we had agreed that new watersheds could be added, but not taken away.

Action: Develop method and timeline to determine *baseline* “State-identified healthy waters and watershed” map.

12:00 Lunch. Please prepare to bring your own lunch!

1:00 Discussion: Near Term (2016) GIT Workplan Priorities

Jason Dubow

Jason Dubow, MDP (Healthy Watersheds GIT, Vice Chair) will review a suggested approach to move forward with priorities outlined in the Healthy Watersheds workplan.

The idea is to develop a list of 1-3 actions from each of the 4 management approaches outlined that could serve as a starting point for tangible results based on collaborative work. Jason will present a proposed framework for shared Goal Team priorities. While we don't expect to have a complete list of shared actions as a result of this discussion we are hoping to solicit input, and get feedback and support for this idea. In addition, we will be forming a small "workplan action team" to further flesh out this idea and present their work to the Goal Team in May.

Related documents:

[Draft Healthy Watersheds Workplan \(please review prior to meeting\)](#)

[Draft Healthy Watersheds Workplan with highlighted priorities](#)

2:00 Presentation and Discussion: Local engagement activities at the Bay Program

Renee Thompson, Coordinator

Within the Bay Program Partnership there are multiple goals and ongoing efforts to engage with local officials, citizens, and other key local actors. This discussion will be devoted to brainstorming how we can link in our GIT priorities (see the 1 p.m. item) and coordinate with other local engagement efforts. The Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Methods and Metrics, and Land Use Options Evaluation Workplans all include actions related to local engagement. In addition so do both of the 2015 GIT funding projects: "Evaluation of Land Use policy options, incentives and planning tools to reduce the rate of conversion of agricultural lands, forest and wetlands" and the Phase II VA DOF project related to developing a suite of tools and information that can be used local officials to get land use policies and decisions that retain forestland in healthy watersheds implemented.

Presentation: Greg Evans, VA Department of Forestry

Greg will provide a brief project status update on the Phase II "Healthy Watersheds Forest TMDL" project. This project aims to negotiate with local officials to get land use policies and decisions that retain forestland in healthy watersheds implemented. Greg will provide some specific examples of the intended products of this project that will serve as a starting point to help the group understand how the results could be incorporated and can complement other local engagement efforts within the goal team and the CBP partnership.

Discussion: Renee Thompson, Coordinator

Renee will review a list of various Healthy Watersheds Goal Team and larger Chesapeake Bay Program partnership efforts related to local engagement. The idea of this overview is to make sure that various partners are aware of ongoing efforts and identify potential areas of collaboration and communication. This discussion will be devoted to brainstorming how we can link in our GIT priorities and coordinate with other local engagement efforts. Please note we have invited other key partners who do work related to local engagement to join our discussion.

Action: Determine best path to move forward with HW local engagement and Land Use Options Evaluation outcome work. E.g., workgroup, collaborate with other CBP efforts, periodic updates?

3:00 Adjourn