

Habitat GIT Steering Committee—April 2013 Call

Thursday, April 18th

9:00-10:30AM

Conference Line: 866-299-3188 **Code:** 267-985-6222

Draft Agenda

2:00 Welcome, Introductions

2:10 Updates

- STAC Coastal Habitats Workshop—follow ups and next steps
- BMP Verification protocols(Streams and Wetlands)—review yourself or send to appropriate contact to be reviewed by May 2nd
- Wetland Prioritization Meetings—MD and VA

2:40 Discussion

- Decision Frameworks—use them to drive workplans
- Cross GIT Collaboration—priority issues for GIT members and possible geographic targets
- Spring Meeting—Agenda Items, Location

3:20 Wrap Up/Next Call

Participants: Jeff Horan (FWS), Jennifer Greiner (FWS), Hannah Martin (CRC), Denise Clearwater (MDE), Gwyn Brewer (MDNR), Rob Gano (DE DNREC), Bob Greenlee (VDGIF), Sally Claggett (USFS), Deb Hopkins (FWS), Sadie Drescher (CWP), Julie Winters (EPA), Jim Hedrick (WVDNR)

Action Items:

- Deb Hopkins to look at the BMP acreage goals based on Phase II WIPs, put together two sentences to explain them, and send to Hannah to send to the entire GIT to support the BMP Verification Protocols and define the goals for each state.
- Hannah to send Sally the BMP Verification Protocols
- Hannah to schedule BMP call two weeks from this call.
- Sally Claggett/Anna Stuart Burnett will share May 1st Forestry Workgroup/Land Use workgroup meeting agenda with Hannah to share with Habitat GIT steering committee members
- **ALL—send Hannah proposed agenda items for Spring GIT meeting by early next week**

Discussion:

Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats workshop was co-hosted by STAC and the Habitat GIT. It was a two day workshop on April 16th and 17th at the Tidewater Inn in Easton, MD. The workshop looked at numerous types of coastal habitats, targeting tools, and ways to catalyze wetland restoration within those ecosystems. STAC requires an outcome of a report or proceedings within 90 days of the workshop and a set of recommendations will be compiled based on the workshop discussion.

BMP Verification Protocols (Streams and Wetlands) have been sent out to the entire Habitat GIT for a review period of three weeks. The GIT Steering committee is encouraged to circulate these documents to appropriate staff that would have any value added input. Please provide Hannah Martin (martin.hannah@epa.gov) any comments by the deadline, May 8th.

- Denise and Deb—the goal statement of 30,000 acres is different from the goals laid out in the Phase II WIPs. Good to reference the WIP numbers because those are the goals

the states agreed on for the BMPs. These numbers will be sent out to support the wetland BMP verification protocols.

Wetland Initiative Meetings have been scheduled for April/May in Maryland and Virginia. Maryland meeting will be held Monday, April 22nd from 9:00-11:00AM at the Chesapeake Bay Trust office and will be facilitated by Jana Davis. Jennifer Greiner is leading the Virginia discussion on May 1st from 10:00AM-Noon at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation office in Richmond, Virginia. The goal of these meetings is to initiate discussions on wetland priorities in each of the states to hopefully target areas for a NFWF grants. Deadline for NFWF proposals is May 30th.

- Denise—suggestion to promote these meetings as an example of early coordination to get through hurdles with permitting process, especially with recent focus on regulatory aspects.

Committee Member Updates:

-Gwen Brewer, Maryland—There are currently discussions and studies on marsh restoration and ditch plugging. There are preliminary data and trials looking at differences for biological and physical parameters, but no clear cut answers yet on when and where to ditch marshes. There will be another meeting soon before fall/winter period to make decision on where to ditch and not ditch. The studies and discussions are taking into account sea level rise sensitivity, marsh migration, and are the practices helping or hurting.

-Sadie Drescher, CWP, Stream/Sedimentation Coordinator Group—Urban stream restoration expert panel will finalize around May 2013. Sadie will be attending a VIMS Coastal resource management workshop next Thursday, which will most likely have discussions similar to STAC Coastal Habitats workshop.

-Sally Claggett, USFS, Forestry Workgroup—There will be an all day joint meeting on May 1st for the Forestry Workgroup and Land use workgroup in the Fish Shack at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office. The meeting will focus on mapping projects and discussions on new forested lands modeled in CBP model.

-Denise Clearwater, MDE, Wetland Workgroup Co-Chair—Planning to have a wetland workgroup meeting soon. A new workplan has been drafted with new tasks to see if we can move forward or areas with need for additional help.

- **Possible Meeting Agenda Items**—1)Updated NWI Maps, Ralph Kiner worked on that and is seeking expert review 2)Email from Rich Batiuk on collaboration on data sharing agreements and what that means for Ag practices and possibly wetland practices 3)Wetland Initiative meeting outcomes 4)Permitting Issues

-Steve Perry, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV)—Doug Besler (EBTJV, Chair) just sent out letter to Northern State fisheries chiefs requesting data that would help complete catchment scale assessment in northern states. A genetics workshop is being planned for early June 2013 at Frostburg, MD. It is anticipated that 1.5 day workshop will be on current genetics studies for managers to gain an understanding on how to use the findings from the studies for brook trout management strategies. The EBTJV is also comfortable supporting the new Chesapeake Bay Program Brook Trout goal/outcome.

-Julie Winters, EPA, CBP—The Chesapeake Bay Program office is planning a meeting of all stream and wetland restoration practitioners and regulators at the state and federal levels along with other stakeholders from the GITs and expert panels. The meeting will be an informational summit to identify issues in restoration community that are outstanding and need to be addressed. The meeting will probably be in late May.

Spring Meeting Planning

- Date: early June 2013
- Location: Annapolis, MD area
- Two day meeting involving a site visit
 - Howards Branch (suggested by Julie)—wetland restoration site
- Agenda items?
 - Tech Syn III, Lee Karrh and SAV workgroup
 - Wetland Initiative
 - Stream related issues
 - Forestry related requests, Sally Claggett and Forestry Workgroup
 - EBTJV issues