

USGS-CESU Stream Health Assessment Workshop Update

Matthew Baker
UMBC

Presentation to the SHWG
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Background

March 2021 PSC requested a study about how to improve monitoring networks

The deliverable with monitoring recommendations is provided in the PSC Monitoring Report:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/files/documents/Enhancing_the_Cheseapeake_Bay_Program_Monitoring_Networks_A-Report_to_the_Principals_Staff_Committee.pdf

Working with SHWG, original goal was to increase sampling of underrepresented catchment types, but subsequently identified 3 priority needs and needed help prioritizing. Decided on a multi-day workshop.

USGS-CESU Workshop Call

facilitate a stream health monitoring workshop to assess gaps and deficiencies in the current monitoring network: sampling design and stream health characterization

What are the stream health monitoring network's vulnerabilities?

How should stream health monitoring be enhanced to reach the Chesapeake Bay Program Stream Health Outcome and jurisdictional priorities (i.e., spatial monitoring, temporal monitoring, restoration monitoring)?

What types of streams and physiographic settings are currently under and over sampled?

Where should monitoring of stream health be prioritized (e.g., MBSS sentinel sites), and how may jurisdictions move current sites or add additional sites to meet these prioritizations?

Are current metrics, such as the Index of Biological Integrity, sufficient to characterize stream and watershed health and what other assessments are available for consideration?

Updated priorities

Due to unforeseen delays, CBP was also going through a reevaluation of the work performed by the Program which includes assessing changes to the outcomes in the Agreement and workgroups.

Therefore, the Workgroup needed to consider how the goals of the workshop could support their efforts in revising the Stream Health Outcome.

Plans then included returning to working with Stream Health Workgroup Leadership, share feedback from the monitoring managers, and discussion around the potential benefits to be gained from such a workshop.

Planned Workshop

June 29-30Th, 2026 National Conservation Training Center

Objective: Synergize assessment needs of the Bay program and local jurisdictions to understand patterns and trends in stream condition.

Explore potential for new/alternative assessment approaches leveraging existing data and/or new technologies developed by the Bay program to augment the work, needs, and priorities of local jurisdictions, develop actionable recommendations for the Partnership.

Planned Workshop

June 29-30Th, 2026 National Conservation Training Center

Day 1: Review challenges faced by state and local jurisdictions in assessing existing and emerging stressors. Synthesize recommendations from various GIT Funded efforts that reviewed possible metrics to assess stream health.

Day 2: Determine whether and how jurisdictional and Bay Program needs might be augmented by a suite of new tools; discussion surrounding the needs, practical constraints, and technical abilities.