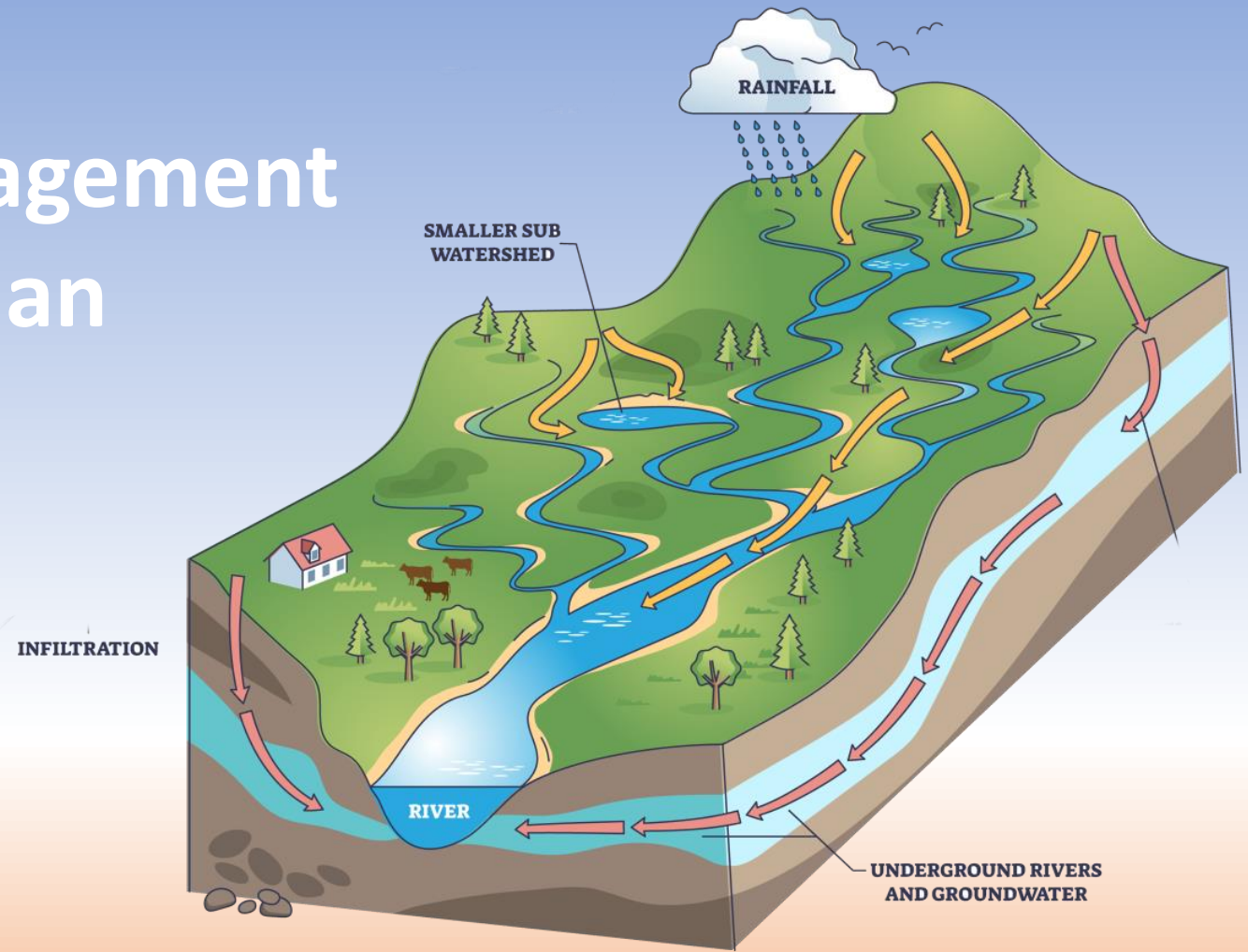


Revising the Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy and Workplan 2024 - 2025



August 12, 2024 Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting

Jeff Lerner, HWGIT Co-chair, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Peter Claggett, HWGIT Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey

Challenges

1. Regulatory programs, by themselves, are insufficient to maintain watershed health given their limited scope and expected changes in land use and climate.
2. The work needed to monitor and maintain watershed health overlaps with other workgroups, goal teams, and outcomes.
3. The CBP's Stream Health Workgroup has developed universal definitions and measures of stream condition whereas states define watershed health differently and have different levels of regulatory engagement that inhibit a consistent and comparable approach for characterizing and monitoring watershed health.
4. Progress in achieving this outcome cannot be reported given lack of monitoring and variable definitions of watershed health.

Considerations in Revising Healthy Watersheds Workplan

- **Set realistic expectations:** focus on measurable actions, achievable by the HWGIT
- **Add value:** focus on actions that complement and enhance state and local activities and those of other CBP workgroups and goal teams.
- **Capitalize on diversity of strengths and capabilities of HWGIT members:** focusing on activities that the HWGIT is in a unique position to achieve relative to our individual organizations.

Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy v4: 2022-23

- 1. Tracking Healthy Waters and Watersheds**
- 2. Local Leadership: Strengthen local commitment and capacity to protect their healthy watersheds**
- 3. Federal and State Leadership: Increase communication within the federal family, so that federal programs and agency decision-making are more protective of state-identified healthy watersheds**
- 4. Support state-based efforts: Encourage and recognize important activities within states**
- 5. Cross-Outcome Collaboration, cooperation and integration to work towards achieving multiple benefits**

Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy v5: 2024-25

1. Tracking Healthy Waters and Watersheds

Track the status of healthy waters and watersheds

2. Local Leadership: Strengthen local commitment and capacity to protect their healthy watersheds

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4. Support state-based efforts: Encourage and recognize important activities within states

5. Cross-Outcome Collaboration, cooperation and integration to work towards achieving multiple benefits

Align outcomes, science, data, policies, and management approaches related to healthy waters and watersheds

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Strengthen state and local capacity to maintain healthy waters and watersheds

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Strategically inform land conservation decisions to maintain healthy waters and watersheds

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Align outcomes, science, data, policies, and management approaches related to healthy waters and watersheds

Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy v5: 2024-25

- 1. Align outcomes, science, data, policies, and management approaches related to healthy waters and watersheds**
- 2. Track the status of healthy waters and watersheds**
- 3. Strengthen state and local capacity to maintain healthy waters and watersheds**
- 4. Strategically inform land conservation decisions to maintain healthy waters and watersheds**

Healthy Watersheds Workplan v4: 2022-23

- **13 Actions; 51 Performance Targets (sub-actions)**

Healthy Watersheds Workplan v5: 2024-25

- **14 Actions; no sub-actions (as of yet)**

Align outcomes, science, data, policies, and management approaches related to healthy waters and watersheds

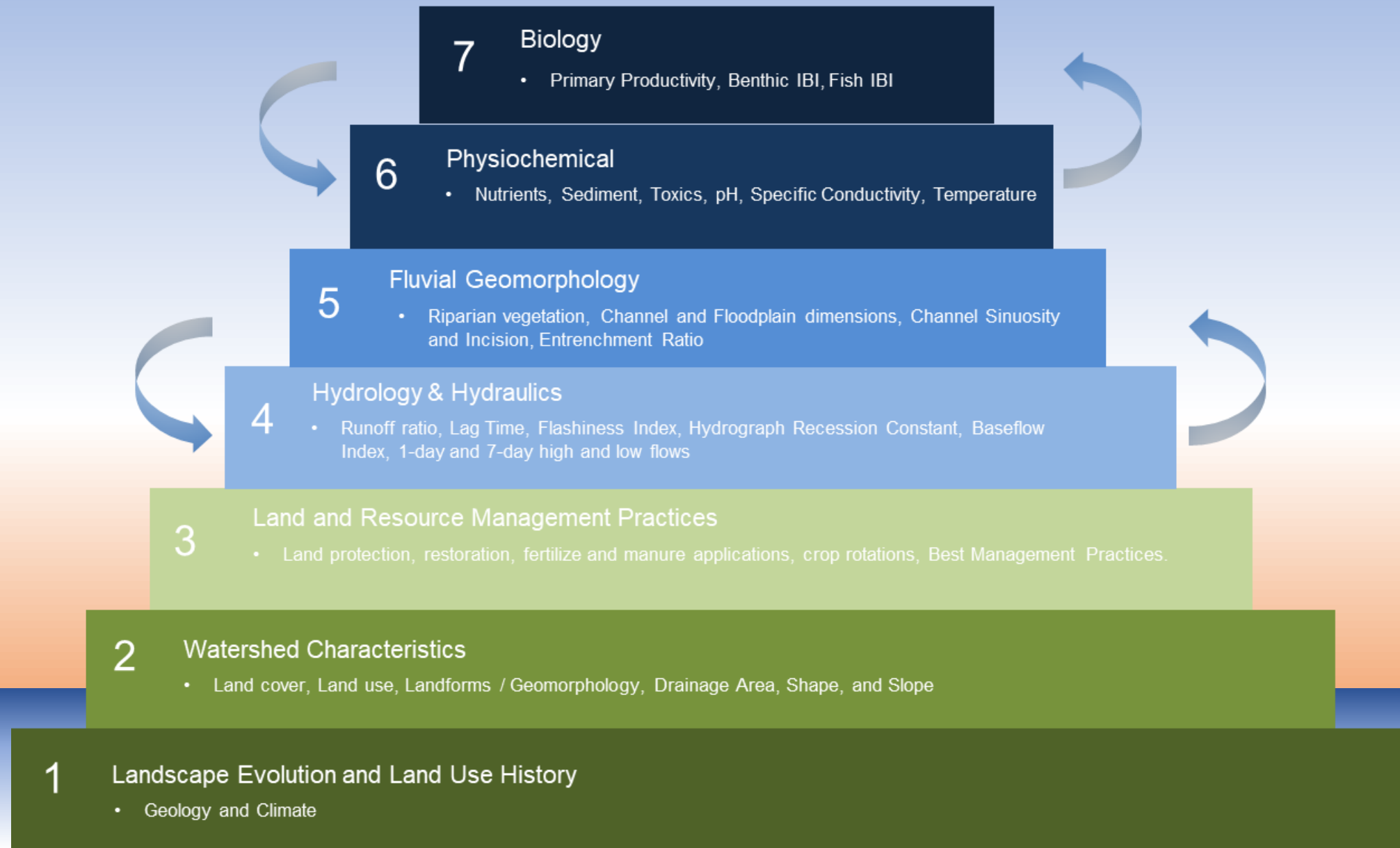
1.1 Expand the scope of the healthy watersheds outcome to include all healthy waters and their watersheds based on a holistic accounting of stream and watershed conditions.

1.2 Convene joint workgroup meetings to identify shared goals, strategies, and information sources; including the SHWG, PLWG, FWG, LUWG, CRWG, WWG, and BTAT.

1.3 Convene joint GIT meetings to identify shared conservation, public access, and habitat goals and strategies.

1.4 Develop a better understanding of the relationship between watershed and stream conditions.

Watershed-Stream Functional Pyramid



Track the status of healthy waters and watersheds

2.1 Track changes in stream and watershed conditions every 4-5 years using a common scale and combination of metrics and sampling techniques

2.2 Populate a “date of establishment” field for 90% of all protected lands records in each jurisdiction.

2.3 Update the CWAHA when new LULC data are available.

2.4 Update the CHWA vulnerability assessment informed by high-res LULC, sea-level rise data, and hyper-temporal spectral indices from satellite data.

Strengthen state and local capacity to maintain healthy waters and watersheds

3.1 Prototype an approach to assess local land protection and planning capacity to maintain stream and watershed health.

3.2 Leverage the value-added capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Partnership to improve local capacity to plan for green infrastructure, protect and maintain stream and watershed health.

3.3 Disseminate information on Healthy Watersheds Consortium (HWC) grant opportunities. Build capacity for watershed protection within CBP using HWC approach.

Strategically inform land conservation decisions to maintain healthy waters and watersheds

4.1 Provide information on stream and watershed health to elected officials, land use planning staff, state agencies, local governments, and conservation organizations.

4.2 Encourage conservation in healthy watersheds by altering the incentive structure affecting land conservation decisions.

4.3 Provide data and information relevant to proposed legislation impacting the management and protection of healthy waters and watersheds.