

Discussions with States about Healthy Watersheds

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Questions for State Representatives on the Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

State ID Healthy Watersheds

What is the status of your state-identified healthy watersheds?

What is your organization doing to monitor and maintain their status?

How has the designation of healthy watershed impacted permitting processes and land use decisions in your jurisdiction?

How much additional land protection/conservation has occurred in SIHW since their designation?

CHWA 2.0

Can the CHWA 2.0 tool help you monitor watershed conditions or prioritize future monitoring campaigns?

Are there other ways that the CHWA 2.0 tool might be helpful to you?

HWGIT

How are you and/or your jurisdiction benefiting from participation in HWGIT meetings?

Do you like the current meeting format and frequency (every other month)?

Is the composition of the HWGIT membership appropriate and helpful?

What content would you like to see at meetings?

How can the GIT be more effective in helping you maintain the health of state-identified healthy watersheds?



West Virginia

Healthy watersheds: tier 3 waters, e.g., reproducing trout streams, exceptional IBI, within federal & state lands, all streams in wilderness areas.

Management strategy: focus on protection because WV healthy watersheds are minimally impaired.

Value of HWGIT participation: promotion of high-value resources, federal funding for protection

Value of CHWA 2.0 application: justifying state investments, communicating conservation values.

Mindy Neil, WV-DEP



New York

Healthy watersheds: waterbodies with no known impact after monitoring and fully supportive of designated uses (but 50% of waters unassessed).

Management strategy: focus on protection, reassess streams every 10 years

Value of HWGIT participation: sharing ideas and information?

Value of CHWA 2.0 application: to prioritize implementation of BMPs, sharing tool with land protection organizations (4 HUC12's prioritized in Chesapeake Bay basin); could inform updates to state wildlife action plans

Lauren Townley and Cassie Davis, NY-DEC



Delaware

Healthy watersheds: no Tier 2 or Tier 3 waters in Delaware, most streams in poor condition. DE has a Tier 1.5~ streams with recreational/ecological value but even these may have water quality impairments.

Management strategy: land protection activities are handled by Department of Agriculture

Value of HWGIT participation: sharing ideas and information?

Value of CHWA 2.0 application: to target areas for restoration, may inform sampling strategy.

Holly Walker, George Doumit, Joseph Schell, DE-DNREC



Pennsylvania

Healthy watersheds: high quality exceptional value watersheds.

Management strategy: focus on both restoration and protection. Reporting through state integrated water quality reports completed every 10 years.

Value of HWGIT participation: sharing ideas and information?

Value of CHWA 2.0 application: TBD. Need to develop use cases for the tool and compare with other tools/information to avoid duplication of effort. Concerned about mixed messaging- land use impacts provide limited perspective on impairments and health.

Kristen Wolf, Scott Heidel, Ashley Hullinger, Shane Kleiner, Taylor Trostle, Melissa Harrison, PA-DEP



Maryland

Healthy watersheds: Tier 2 and 3 waters monitored.

Management strategy: continued stream monitoring, conditioning permits to prevent loss of assimilative capacity.

Value of HWGIT participation: Issues discussed not always pertinent to decisions faced by members- particularly states. Joint meetings with other workgroups may be helpful if they are focused on SRS workplan goals. Current workplan has too many “goals”.

Value of CHWA 2.0 application: TBD. Data may not be actionable if not current. Not interested in finding additional healthy watersheds because that work has already been done. High-res land use data may be useful for monitoring permits.

Angel Valdez (MDE), Jason Dubow (MDP), Deborah Herr Cornwell (MDP)

