



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

## **Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting**

**October 12, 2021, 11am-1pm**

[Meeting Materials](#)

**Webinar:** <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/91328436332?pwd=akFLVGVqWTN4ZnZiOHFYRktCV3cudz09>

**Meeting number:** 913 2843 6332 **Password:** GIT4

OR

**Join by phone:** +1-408-418-9388 **Access code:** 826729

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,91328436332#,,,,\*826729# US (New York)

*This meeting will be recorded for internal use to assure the accuracy of meeting notes*

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**11:00 am Welcome, Introductions and Updates** - Renee Thompson, USGS CBP, HWGIT Coordinator

**11:05 am New Chair nomination** - Jeff Lerner, Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Consortium

Jeff is currently a consultant to the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities managing the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program, a national partnership with EPA and NRCS aimed at accelerating the protection of watersheds in good condition since 2015. The program has supported several watershed protection efforts in the Chesapeake Bay and EPA Region 3. He has also managed projects in the Chesapeake Bay including a strategy for marsh migration and sea level rise around Blackwater NWR and green infrastructure planning to build resilience in central Maryland as part of the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition (GBWC). Previous experience includes working with The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Much of this work has been in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies focused on proactive and strategic conservation. Jeff still serves on the Steering Committee for GBWC and for the past several years he has participated in the Healthy Watersheds GIT meetings.

**Requested Actions:** The GIT members will discuss the nomination and make a recommendation to the Management Board.

**11:15 am Draft Healthy Watershed GIT Storymap(s)** – John Wolf, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program

The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT has been working proactively to determine the best way to communicate the work of the goal team to CBP partners, cross goal teams, stakeholders and to general interests. John has been working behind the scenes to compile and present the umbrella of resources developed through the years by our GIT. Using ESRI Storymaps and additional visualization tools, a comprehensive set of storymaps has been compiled that not only describe the history and importance of our goal team, our work, and the adaptive management framework, but also embeds the Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment, cross outcome coordination, and emerging climate, DEIJ and administration priorities. In addition, John will reveal some prototypes for displaying and visualizing Interim healthy watersheds outcome indicators that are part of the story maps, including development pressure, protected lands, brook trout, and DEIJ.

**Requested Actions:**

- The goal team will discuss a process for providing feedback and refinements moving forward.
- The goal team will discuss/approve the interim indicator format, pending a comment and review period.

**12:00 pm Review of CBP SRS and GIT funding status and next steps - Renee Thompson**

**Review of proposed updates and changes to Healthy Watersheds Outcome Management Strategy and Logic and action table**

Requested Actions: Review Amended 2021 HW GIT management materials and provide input by October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to [rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)

**Review 2021 GIT Funding Table 1 projects submitted**

- Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment 2.0 (Healthy Watersheds Outcome)
- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership – Scoping to Update Priority Habitat dataset of the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas (In partnership and support of the Protected Lands Outcome)

**1:00 pm Closing comments / Adjourn**

**Next meeting scheduled early December 2021 TBD based on GIT and Chair input**

Proposed upcoming topics include (more ideas welcome!):

- Updates on the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Outcome: Interim Indicator Development
- Updates on Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment: Maryland Update