



Making the Connection:

Engaging Communities in Watershed Restoration and Protection

With this theme in mind the Forum Planning Committee is now accepting workshop proposals for the 9th Annual Forum taking place September 26 - 28 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.

Please respond to this request with proposals that will expand our thoughts and ideas towards engaging all citizens in Bay watershed activities.

Attached are the guidelines and instructions in how to submit a presentation proposal. **Deadline is June 27, 2014.**

Please assist us in spreading the word about this great opportunity to share one's expertise and experience with over 350 Forum attendees who come from all over the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond. Thank you!

(For further information or questions about the guidelines please contact [Lou Etgen](#), or (443) 949-0575.)



Chesapeake Bay Program

A Watershed Partnership

Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT

- The Goal of Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT4) is to maintain local watersheds at optimal health across a range of landscape contexts.
- Strategies:
 1. provide a forum for mutual learning and exploration of scientific and management issues;
 2. develop information resources, including health and protection status tracking capabilities, and other communications in support of healthy watershed identification and protection; and
 3. enhance the science that supports better characterization of healthy watershed functional values.

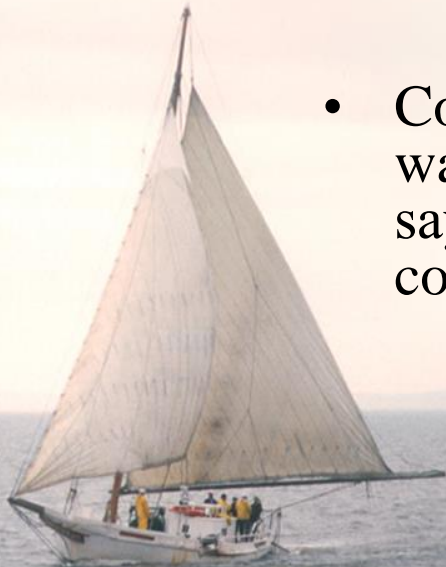
Review of Public and Stakeholder Comments on Draft Agreement



- 17 comments total from 18 groups or individuals
- Comments came from CBPO partners (e.g. STAC, CBF), NGOs, nonprofits, wastewater associations, and individuals working in the environmental field.

General Themes of Comments

- Changes to GIT goal and outcome language
 - E.g., delete “By 2025”.
- Addressing specific topics relevant to healthy watersheds
 - E.g., increasing population, offsetting of new loads
- Concerns regarding the process of identifying and/or tracking healthy watersheds
 - E.g., potential changes to water quality standards
- Concerns regarding the exclusion of high or good quality waters and watersheds in part of the goal language that says “...recognized for their *exceptional* quality...” (5 comments total)



Maintain Healthy Watersheds

Goal and Outcome



- Revised: **Goal**: Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds, recognized for their ~~exceptional~~ **high** quality and/or high ecological value.
- Revised: **Healthy Waters Outcome**: ~~By 2025,~~ 100% of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.



Agreement Timeline Review



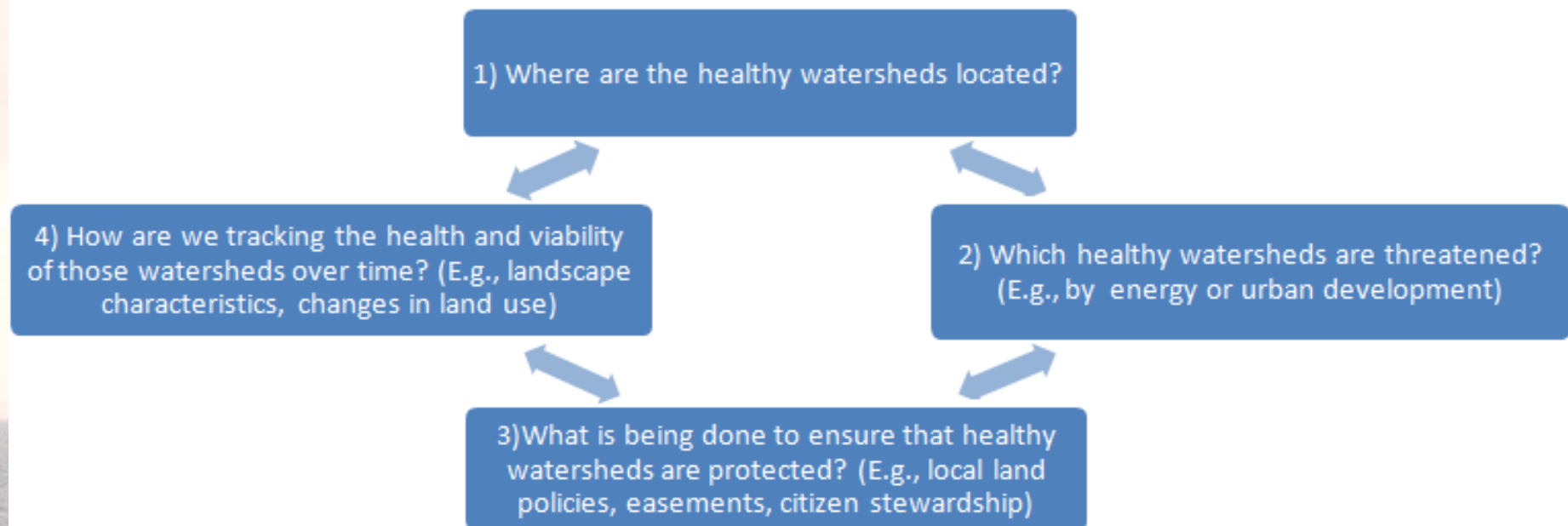
- Draft Agreement release for public comment January 29, 2014
- Public comments received through March 17, 2014
- GIT review and response to comments April 3, 2014
- Issues Resolution Committee (IRC) reviewed and made edits/recommendations to the Principal's Staff Committee throughout April with GIT input.
- The Agreement was finalized and will be signed by the Executive Council on June 16th in Annapolis.

Executive Council Meeting

- **Chesapeake Executive Council** will be held on **June 16 in Annapolis, MD** EC members are expected to sign the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- You are urged to attend the press event at 1:30pm – City Dock, Annapolis
- EC meeting day will include a public business meeting (10am-noon), after which the EC will adjourn for a private lunch. They will reconvene for the press event and signing at 1:30 in downtown Annapolis.
- **Visit the EC meeting page** for more details and up-to-the-minute information as we get closer to the date -
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/about/ecmeeting/2014_executive_council_meeting
- If you plan to attend any part of the day, an **RSVP is requested** in order to help us know how many people to expect. You can **RSVP [here](#)** or from the meeting page

Tracking Workgroup

- Purpose - Develop a method to track and report watershed health and protection.



Tracking Workgroup



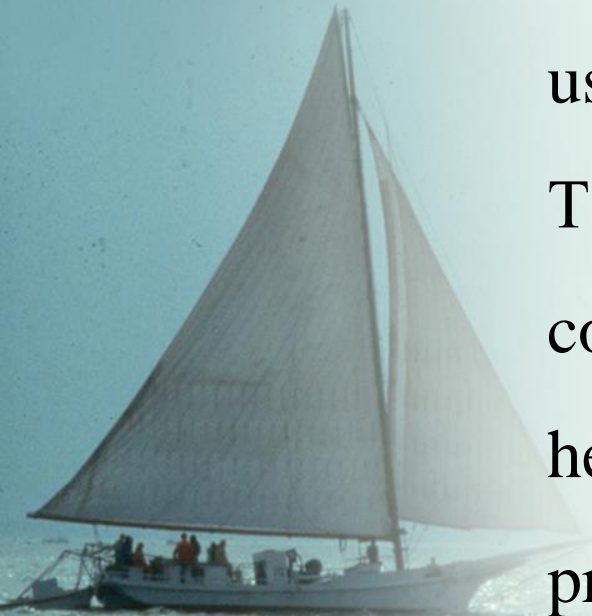
Guiding Principles and Recommendations:

- Establishing a baseline for Healthy Waters and Watersheds is essential for moving forward.
- New watersheds as they become healthy can be added to the tracking list/map. We recommend developing a process to do that.
- The focus of the workgroup will be to measure progress in terms of available data, indicators, identify gaps, as well as investigate the (presence of policies), recognizing that it is not possible to comprehensively track land use policies or protective zoning across the watershed.
- Efforts will be made not to duplicate efforts or add additional reporting burdens on to the states.
 - It would be helpful to have a list of current reporting that jurisdictions make to the Bay Program or other data they collect that could be used for developing an indicator.



Local Engagement Workgroup

Charge: The Local Engagement Workgroup will use the Maintain Healthy Watershed Goal Team's roles as aggregators, supporters, and conveners to build capacity for local actors and help further healthy watershed and water protection at the local level.



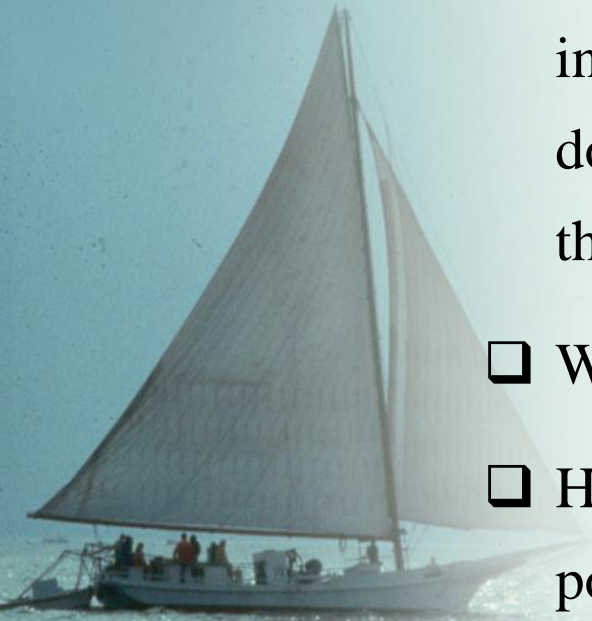
The Situation

- Cumulative impact of land use change = primary threat
- Land use change driven by local decisions and factors
- The status quo is loss of healthy watersheds.
- To get the change we want: “local engagement”



Initial workgroup ?'s

- ☐ Who are the Bay's leaders (organizations, individuals) in local engagement— what they are doing, where they are focusing, what needs have they identified?
- ☐ What are other GITs doing on local engagement?
- ☐ How do strengths and capacity of CBP and GIT4 position us to join these efforts? What does GIT4 have that is unique to add to efforts?



DRAFT Funding ideas for GIT4



- Identification of additional healthy waters, (for example make use of the USGS NAWQA methodology to identify additional high quality waters (reference sites) in the watershed)
- Leveraging local lessons (white paper summarizing local lessons learned from healthy waters protection)
- Updating the Resource Lands Assessments (Update maps of resource lands and values; areas threatened for conversion)
- Connecting Land Trusts and Chesapeake Water Quality (curriculum guide; service map)
- Demonstration Project Designed to Test Incentives for Forestland Retention through the TMDL Model (pilot demonstration project in the Rappahannock River Basin (contingent on adequate funding) to demonstrate how positive forest retention actions)

GIT 4 STRATEGY

1/22/2013

[This version edited per 1/17/2013 GIT4 conference call]

Purposes of this document:

1. to present a 2013 GIT 4 strategy using the CBP's adaptive management approach, including a review of prior-year GIT4 activities;
2. to articulate a specific, measurable outcome with which to manage and account for progress toward the GIT's overarching goal;
3. to list 2013 healthy watershed protection activities including:
 - a. specific actions that GIT 4 member agencies will take *separately* in 2013 toward achievement of the GIT's overarching goal and specific outcomes;
 - b. specific actions that GIT 4 will take *collectively* toward achievement of the GIT's goal and outcomes.

Consensus guiding principles:

1. manage adaptively: reflect on the GIT 4 goal, identified key factors affecting achievement of the goal, selected strategies, and progress toward desired outcomes; consider lessons learned from prior-year activities;
2. proceed incrementally; this is not intended to be a comprehensive or perfect strategy;
3. include both the key actions that individual partner agencies (state, federal and NGO) will

Comments we agreed to address in our Management Strategy



Regarding new collaborative efforts:

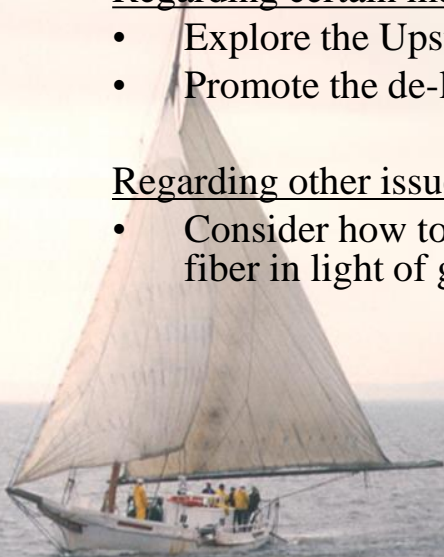
- Work with STAC to explore incorporating how to provide the best possible water quality and habitat services.
- Work with WQ GIT's LUWG to evaluate existing and planned land uses within healthy watersheds, where data is available.
- Work with Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to identify an appropriate staff member to serve on the Goal Team.

Regarding certain methods to advance healthy watershed protection:

- Explore the Upstream Reduction Policy tool for offsetting new loads.
- Promote the de-listing of streams that are 303(d) through a formal process.

Regarding other issues:

- Consider how to balance the need for healthy watersheds with the need to supply food and fiber in light of growing population and the conversion of farmland and forest to development.



STAC Recommended Goal/Outcome Changes



(not approved but will be incorporated into management strategies to the extent feasible).

Goal: Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds, recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value.

Healthy Waters Outcome: 100% of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy. (?) (We are unable to structure this to reflect the desired positive change to the Bay watershed resulting from this outcome. We suggest the following outcomes as a substitute or addition).

Tracking Healthy Watersheds Methods and Metrics Development Outcome: Continually improve the information available for identification and assessment of healthy watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. By 2016, develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide methodology and local-level metrics for characterizing healthy watersheds, and assessing their vulnerabilities.

Local Engagement Outcome: Continually improve the capacity of local governments to track and manage healthy watersheds. By 2016, launch a public awareness campaign to assist local governments or their representatives in their efforts to strategically track, manage, and continually increase the number of healthy watersheds in their localities.

STAC comments related to Management Strategy

- Assess the level of knowledge and understanding of “service capacity potential” throughout the Chesapeake region.
- Develop and implement a protocol to estimate the attainable service capacity for small watersheds given their geographic setting and the existing/intended human use(s) of the watersheds.
- Develop and implement a protocol to identify watersheds where management strategies reach or nearly reach the identified attainable service capacity.
- Develop and promulgate guidance on service capacity conservation and enhancement for each type of small watershed throughout the region (forest, agriculture, rural residential, urban, etc.).

(Continued) STAC comments related to Management Strategy

- Establish a program for transferring knowledge and skills from exemplary watersheds to similar watersheds throughout the region.
- Develop guidance on how to place BMPs for maximum effectiveness and understand the multiple benefits of alternative practices.
- Provide training and peer-to-peer mentoring on management options to enhance service capacity.
- Assess the effectiveness of efforts to increase service capacity through outreach in a changing system.