



Chesapeake Bay Program

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Stream Health Workgroup June 2024 Meeting

Friday, June 21, 2024, 10:00-12:00 ET

[Link to the Meeting Materials](#)

ATTENDEES:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Alana Hartman, WVDEP | • Gregory Zuknick, EAEST Inc. | • Matthew Baker, UMBC |
| • Alison Santoro, MDNR | • Jena Smolko | • Matthew Cashman, USGS |
| • Breck Sullivan, USGS | • Katherine Brownson, USFS | • Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech |
| • Brittany Sturgis, DNREC | • Katheryn Barnhart, EPA | • Peter Claggett, USGS |
| • Derrick McDonald, PA DCNR | • Katlyn Fuentes, CRC | • Randah, |
| • Diego Henriquez, | • Kelly Maloney, USGS | • Rosemary Fanelli, USGS |
| • Elizabeth Mckercher, VA DEQ | • Labeeb Ahmed, USGS | • Sadie Drescher, CBT |
| • Emily Young, ICPRB | • Lindsey Boyle, USGS | • Sandra Davis, USFS |
| • Gabriella Vailati, DNREC | • Marina Metes, USGS | • Sara Brzezinski, EPA |
| | • Mark Hoffman, CBC | • Sara Weglein, MDNR |
| | • Mark Southerland, AKRF | • Sean Emmons, USGS |
| | | • Taylor Woods, USGS |

10:00 – WELCOME, ROLL CALL, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presenters: *Alison Santoro and Sara Weglein (MDNR)*

- Updates on the current FY22 GIT Funded Project “Literature Review: Building Climate Resilience in Stream Restoration Practices”
- **FY2024 GIT FUNDING CYCLE:** The workgroup’s proposal, titled “*Phase 3B - Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators - Physicochemical Metric Analysis*”, has been selected for funding by the Chesapeake Bay Program Leadership. More information to follow regarding next steps and developing the scope of work.
- **COMINGS/GOINGS:** After three years on the CBP’s Habitat Goal Implementation Team, **Katlyn Fuentes** (CRC) is finishing her term as the Stream Health Workgroup Staffer on July 1st. The advertisement for her position is now live and will be sent out shortly. We anticipate that the next staffer will begin mid-August. In this interim period, **Dede Lawal** (fellow Habitat Staffer) and **Chris Guy** (Habitat Coordinator) will be providing workgroup support.

10:15 - TRACKING STATUS AND TRENDS IN SEVEN KEY INDICATORS OF RIVER AND STREAM CONDITION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

Presenter: *Rosemary Fanelli and Lindsey Boyle (USGS)*



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- **LINK TO THE PRESENTATION:**
<https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.06.21-SHWG-June-Meeting-PRESENTATION-Boyle-Fanelli.pdf>
- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** This presentation summarized the initial results from a multi-year effort to quantify status and trends in seven indicators of stream health in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (aquatic communities, streamflow, water quality, hydromorphology, water temperature, salinity, and toxic contaminants).
- **MENTIMETER FOR THE STATUS & TRENDS WORKGROUP QUESTIONNAIRE:**
<https://www.menti.com/blku1fwzprfo>
 - **Access Code:** 9140 0374
 - **ACTION:** Please fill out the following questions by June 28th.
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:**
 - **Alana Hartman:** I'd be interested to see the maps with the 4 long-term WV sites circled or highlighted; they are so close to the MD border (Potomac River), it is hard to see WV's trends just looking at the maps as they are. For example, our local watershed groups are interested in salt pollution, and the "departure from background" slide seemed to show some concerning results around that region, but I think the WV sites were coded as "no data available."
 - **Kelly Maloney:** The data Rosemary and Lindsey presented on for trends were taken from much larger data sets. Lots of assembled and QA/QC'd data beyond what was presented. Our USGS team is interested and working on development of indicators and watershed wide assessments for each (e.g., biology, specific conductance, physical habitat, etc.) which ties to the earlier mentioned GIT funded projects. We would be happy to discuss this with the groups funded with the GIT proposals.

11:00 – STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM (SRS) DISCUSSION

- As part of the Healthy Watersheds Cohort, the Stream Health Workgroup is currently undergoing the Strategy Review System (SRS) process. This process involves in part, updating our Outcome's workplan and management strategy. A presentation on the current status and needs of the Stream Health Outcome was provided to the CBP's Management Board at the [June 13th Management Board Meeting](#). More information on the CBP's SRS cycle can be found at [this link](#), and our current two-year workplan can be found on the [Stream Health Workgroup webpage](#) or at [this link](#).
- **LINK TO THE PRESENTATION** (*this is the presentation provided to the Management Board on 6/13*): https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/SRS-PRESENTATION-Stream-Health-June-2024_UPDATED_2024-05-30-213141_bvgx.pdf.
- **DEVELOPING THE WORKPLAN AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:** **If you are interested in helping draft the workgroup's workplan and management strategy, please contact Sara Weglein (sara.weglein@maryland.gov) and Alison Santoro (allisona.santoro@maryland.gov).**
 - Elizabeth Mckercher volunteered to help draft the workgroup's updated management strategy and workplan.



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- **ACTION:** Katlyn will add Elizabeth to the workgroup's listserv and will send her a list of the VA Representatives on the workgroup.
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:**
 - **Peter Claggett:** Over the next two years, can we integrate our healthy watershed indicator and Chessie Bibi, and some of the additional metrics presented today to communicate a more holistic story of stream and watershed conditions, how they are changing, and why?

11:45 – MEMBER & INTERESTED PARTY UPDATES: If you have any additional announcements to share with the workgroup, please send them to Workgroup Co-Chairs Sara Weglein (sara.weglein@maryland.gov) and Alison Santoro (allisona.santoro@maryland.gov).

- **Sean Emmons:** USGS looked at BMP effects on instream biological conditions, and I presented a version of this to the Stream Health Workgroup in February of this year.
 - **Journal article:** <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479724012209?via%3Dihub>
 - **Recent USGS article on BMPS:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/chesapeake-bay-activities/science/agricultural-and-urban-management-practices-have-hidden>
- **WHOLE WATERSHED ACT:** Maryland recently passed the Whole Watershed Act, which includes several actions related to stream health and stream restoration.
 - **LEGISLATION:** <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/SB0969>
 - **CBF ARTICLE:** <https://www.cbf.org/news-media/newsroom/2024/maryland/whole-watershed-act-approved-by-maryland-general-assembly.html>

12:00 – MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Meeting: Friday, August 16th, 2024 from 10:00-12:00 ET