



Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife Goal Team Meeting

September 17, 2026
1pm - 4pm

Purpose: This meeting will convene Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife Goal Team members to review the Goal Team's membership and hear progress updates from each workgroup.

Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions

1:00pm – 1:15pm

Lead: Becky Gwynn (VDWR) & Kevin Schabow (NOAA)
Brief introduction of Goal Team members.

II. Goal Team and Workgroup Leadership Overview

1:15pm – 1:25pm

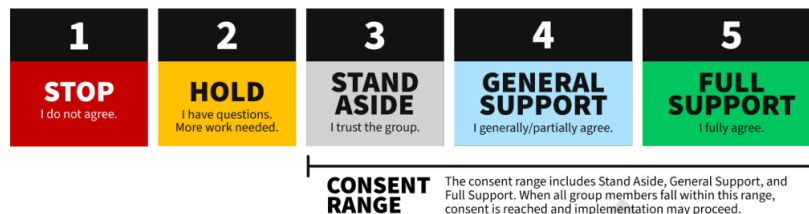
Lead: Becky Gwynn (VDWR) & Kevin Schabow (NOAA)
Review the results from the email voting process for At-Large GT Members & Workgroup Chairs.

Decisions: N/A

Actions: N/A

Discussion Notes:

Overview of consensus continuum and desire to include everyone in the decision making process. Voting to take place when consensus cannot be reached



Review of Governance Management Framework (GMF) and roles of voting members and non-voting members of the Goal Team (GT)

- Plan moving forward is to limit email voting - necessary in the past month due to quick turnaround
- Nonvoting members still have opportunity to participate in consensus and share perspectives

- GMF is new to Bay Program at large - not just in this GT
- Encouragement to GT members to assist in cross-team coordination and communications - benefit of having a large GT with diverse experts

III. Outcome Management Strategy Review

1:25pm – 3:00pm

Lead: Becky Gwynn (VDWR) & Kevin Schabow (NOAA)

Workgroup Chairs will provide summaries of draft management strategy subchapters and address questions of Goal Team Members

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

1. GT members to review the THFW GT Management Strategy and provide comments & feedback by COB Friday, September 25th
2. GT chairs to verify all signatory representatives for all workgroups
3. GT leadership team to standardize MS subchapters and how the “under sphere of influence” section is answered/interpreted across all subchapters, to provide answer to coordinators by September 25th

Discussion Notes:

1:25pm - 2:10pm	Fish Habitat, Oysters, Blue Crabs & Wetlands Workgroup
2:10pm - 2:20pm	Break
2:20pm - 3:00pm	Stream Health, Fish Passage, Brook Trout & SAV Workgroup

Refer to [presentation slides](#) for more information

Discussion on management strategy comments and draft deadlines. Comments are due a week from today’s meeting and the next draft deadline is the 19th.

Participating partners and signatory authorities were incorporated differently, what is the update?

- Initial responses from signatory partners has been received- CBP is in the process of standardizing all information
- Email will be sent to jurisdictions for their feedback - more conversation at FOD on October 1st
- GT will be sending out email for verification to catch any mistakes

Appreciation for Wetlands MS for focusing management approaches on things the team can influence. Encouragement for other workgroups to make more of a connection to strategies we can influence

- Additional encouragement to prioritize challenges in the situational analysis - no need to list *all* challenges

Discussion around excess sediments being listed outside of CBP influence for the Stream Health Outcome MS

- Confusion from workgroup regarding “sphere of influence” question - stream health approached this question based on what is in control of the workgroup, not CBP as a whole
 - Action Item: GT steering committee to standardizing MS subchapters and how the “under sphere of influence” section is answered/interpreted

Resource tradeoffs related to BMP implementation in relation to Stream Health

- Not enough research on quality of tradeoff between stream health and riparian buffers

DC sent in representative for Stream Health Workgroup

- Action Item: GT chairs to verify all signatory representatives for all workgroups

Fish Passage membership - none are from transportation agency?

- No additional membership from transportation

Risk of opening up barriers & potential for invasives - discussion within the workgroup?

- Different perspectives among jurisdictions regarding approach for invasives
 - Further discussions within the workgroup are expected for the creation of a baywide strategy
- Recommendation from GT member to include this challenge under Situation Analysis

How is Acid Mine Drainage incorporated as an indicator?

- Discussion between consistency between workgroups in tracking AMD
 - AMD makes up one of six priority threat assessments under the third outcome target for Brook Trout
 - Stream miles impaired versus number of impaired streams (Brook Trout vs Fish Passage quantification)
 - Brook Trout workgroup’s outcome target is reducing the overall number of stream miles AMD impaired in Brook Trout strongholds
- Differences between Brook Trout AMD indicator and Fish Habitat indicator
 - Confusion between goal team members on whether the indicator is to measure the impaired stream mile, is to measure the number of miles improved, or is changing the classification of if a stream mile’s impaired?
 - More discussion needed on this - need for streamline?
- Recommendation to more directly communicate connections between workgroups (AMD as example of shared indicator)

IV. Discussion

3:00pm – 3:50pm

Lead: Becky Gwynn (VDWR) & Kevin Schabow (NOAA)

Review next steps for Management Strategy development and process for achieving Goal Team consent. Brief update on the 2027-2030 workplan drafting process.

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

1. GT steering committee to send editable draft of MS to GT members eligible to comment after this meeting

2. GT Signatory representatives brief their PSC member or designee about the MS prior to November 5th PSC meeting
3. GT Leadership to send out poll to members in order to schedule our next few meetings, in alignment with deadlines we will have for actions/materials that go to the PSC
4. GT Chairs/staffers to help GT signatory representatives identify PSC representatives
5. Re: Action Item from Section III (GT leadership team to standardize MS subchapters and how the “under sphere of influence” section is answered/interpreted across all subchapters, to provide answer to coordinators by September 25th)

Discussion Notes:

Comments and feedback on MS due by September 25th - GT Chairs & workgroups will address comments for the following weeks (2 weeks time). GT members will be notified by the second week of October for consensus

- Format for receiving comments on the MS
 - Can include comments directly to the document
 - **Action Item: GT steering committee to send editable draft of MS to GT members eligible to comment after this meeting**
 - Encouragement to be clear and specific on your comments (ex: not just ask “what did you mean by this?”)
- Stops or holds need to be communicated quickly so that workgroups can renew consensus on MS subchapter
 - **Action Item: GT Signatory representatives to communicate with their jurisdictions and brief PSC member before providing approval of MS**
- Internal THFW GT MS Timeline:
 - 09/25: GT Members provide feedback on the MS document.
 - 09/25 - 10/09: GT Chairs and workgroups will address comments.
 - 10/09 - 10/18: GT Members will review revised MS sub-chapters.
 - 10/19: GT Members consensus via email on status of MS draft.
 - 10/22: Compiled and reviewed MS document submitted to the PSC.

Review of Timeline for remainder of MS process:



Workplan development will begin Fall 2026

- Public comment might influence workplan development
- Review of comments will be assisted by AI

- EPA CBPO will attempt to turn around results ASAP but unclear timeline in this moment
- Workplan review by THFW GT in early 2027

Discussion around plan for GT meeting

- Quarterly meetings
- Planning to get meetings on the calendar soon for the next 6 months
- Next meeting may be early December
 - Plan meetings around timeline and deliverables

Action Item: GT Leadership to send out poll to members in order to schedule our next few meetings, in alignment with deadlines we will have for actions/materials that go to the PSC

Action Item: GT Chairs/staffers to help GT signatory representatives identify PSC representatives

Snapshot of Programs

- Preceding without the updated information
- Should be finalized in early October 2026

Re: Discussion of Situational Analysis “outside of CBP influence” vs “within CBP influence”

- Agreement to find consensus among Chairs from all 4 GTs on how to answer this section
 - Action Item: THFW GT Chairs to start conversation this week via email with other GT chairs and provide answer to coordinators by September 25th
- Suggestion to change template of situation analysis to distinguish inside workgroup influence, inside CBP influence, & outside of CBP influence

Discussion around Goal Team Funding & Management Strategy Development

- When answering questions within MS, assume there will be no GT funding
- Power/Influence of CBP, Goal Teams, and workgroups identifying the need for funding and as a tool for achieving funding for our goals/targets

V. Wrap-Up

3:50pm – 4:00pm

Lead: Becky Gwynn (VDWR) & Kevin Schabow (NOAA)

Decisions: N/A

Actions: GT leadership team to develop and clarify internal GT deadlines for completing updated MS drafts and workplans between now and June 30, 2027.

Discussion Notes:

Discussion questions for GT members to think about as they review the management strategy

- Are there any red flags?
- Any parts that require clarification or more detail?
- Information or details missing?

- Any details that seem unnecessary?

Action Item: GT leadership team to develop and clarify internal GT deadlines for completing updated MS drafts and workplans between now and June 30, 2027.

VI. Adjourn

4:00pm

Next Meeting: TBD

Attendees: Kevin Schanow (NOAA), Becky Gwynn (VADWR), Ashley Barnett (DEREC), Reese Cloyd (DOEE), Laurinda Serafin (MDNR), Greg Kozlowski (NY DEC), Tylerr Neimond (PA), Callie Sams (WVDEP), Maggie Woodward (CBC), Gina Hunt (MDNR), Kelly Maloney (USGS), Chris Guy (USFWS), Amy Jacobs (Nature Conservancy), Lori Maloney (EBTJV), Brandy Nevelndine (Ducks Unlimited), Ingrid Braun-Ricks (PRFC- Blue Crab), Dan Goetz (MD DNR- Brook Trout), Chris Moore (CBF- Fish Habitat), Ray Li (FWS- Fish Passage), Shannon Boyle (Fish Passage), Bruce Vogt (NOAA- Oysters), Keith Lockwood (USACE- Oysters), Brock Reggi (VA DEQ- Stream Health), Brooke Landry (MD DNR- SAV), Nancy Schumm (City of Gaithersburg MD - Wetlands), Brent Murry (WVU- STAC), Jessica Blackburn (Stakeholders Advisory Committee), Elizabeth Grant (Cumberland County, PA- Local Gov Advisory Committee), Keith Boltt (EPA), Christina Garvey (CRC), Kami Lentzch (CRC), Aleyna Loughran-Pierce (CRC), Olivia Caretti (ORP), Amy Jacobs (TNC), Sarah Brezenski (EPA), Alison Santoro (MDNR), Andrew Button (VMRC), Coral Howe (USGS), Troy Tuckey (VIMS), Ward Slacum (ORP), Erin Shields (VIMS), Emily Young (ICPRB), Holly Haught (NCBO), Shelby Reisinger (PA DEP), Jeffrey Horne (MDNR), Doug Bell (EPA), Claire Buchanan (ICPRB), Cassandra Davis (NY DEC), Ashley Hullinger (PA DEP), Cass Klingaman (NY DEC), James Spatz (PA DEC), Katie Brownson (FS), Tess Danielson (DOEE), John Lancaster (PA DEP), Anna Kilius (CBC), John Wolf (USGS), Laura Cattell Noll (ACB)