

Steering Committee Call  
February 7, 2013

Participants: Hannah Martin, Callie McMunigal, Mary Ann Ottinger, Doug Besler, Julie Winters, Steve Perry, Bernie Marczyk, Jeff Horan, Denise Clearwater, Sadie Drescher, Mary Andrews, Albert Spells, Jennifer Greiner, Deb Hopkins, Jana Davis, Bill stack, lee karrh

Updates from SC:

- Doug Besler and Steve Perry-EBTJV and Callie. Doug new chair and Steve is the coordinator.
- Fish Passage—Mary, no updates. We are working on spring meeting scheduled. Wrapping up on data calls and submitting to EO and Bay Program order. Fish passage tool is online. Working on resident portion that would include BT but isn't complete. Eric Martin best persn for that update
- Denise—could someone send a link around for the tool
- Denise and Bernie—Wetland workgroup—ongoing problem of wetland acreage reported and discrepancy and multiple sources of gain goal and BMP tracking. That will be sorted out. Get with Bernie to get group up to date on whats going on. Bernie—share same issues with acreage, swamped with internal budget issues, not dedicated time to the group. Discussions to talk about wetland restoration ideas in the bay. Coming togethehter, hopefully moving forward. Talked back in fall about talking to individual states, we have not started this, haven't joined any meetings. Jeff hoping to start state action teams to move forward. Feb 19<sup>th</sup> discussion with David o'neill.
- Albert Spells—exercise identifying projects as a result of Sandy. Potential for funds for fish passage projects.
- Mary Ann—still focusing on internship idea, pursuing grant opportunities. Focusing on water and climate. Overlap with Habitat GIT. Head of MEES program, interested in doing coordinated efforts with this. Maybe jeff Jennifer Hannah and mary ann get together in spring to get specific action items and move forward. Reach out to mary ann if you have any ideas

Update on permitting restoration letter

- Julie—MDE and FWS pilot-streamline aspects of site selection and permit application process. Rich starr. The expert panel has done report on the BMP piece asked to do by local jurisdiction, stormwater workgroup will be briefed on that. Summary of latest science on stream restoration. Habitat GIT letter sent to Nick with elements of stream restoration. MD DNR are looking into guiding principles, however HAvitat GIT is not managing that process. Effort that Nick is spearheading. EPA believes based on constant input that without stream restoration BMPs, some areas wont be able to meet water quality levels in WIPs and 2 yr milestones, working to understand these issues—met with EPA internal permitting people, group of feds like FWS USACE CBP

regulatory colleagues in 404, long list of action items to address known problems with permitting process-getting corps and applicants better instructions to applications, well understood what kind of permit, provide right information up front clear concise. When grant makers on fed side are making grants for wetland or stream restoration, required now to have subawardees show that they had successful pre app meeting with the corps. WIP commitments 2500 permit requests up to 2017—running input decks to figure out total number of permits going to corps to figure out workload.

- Two or three next steps—corps committed to improving instructions for nationwide 27, working a dichotomous tree for applicant to figure out which permit to go after, preapp meetings become more routine, training opportunities in broader forums with restoration practitioners and regulatory community
- Denise-FWS is proceed in standardized manner for site selections for specific practices, passed along to applicants. Moving forward with guidance as well to community on what need to provide to help projects move forward expeditiously.
- Doug Besler—assessment in 2005 at subwatershed level, first course look. Great study and have info at catchment level. Repeating assessment now. Glitch in that mark hudy did orginal assessment and contracted final assessment but switched jobs. Call this morning CBP changing goal to look at catchment level-letter that jeff wrote about the change in goal and old goal language to new language—improve 58 watersheds, revised- increase natural reproducing occupied patches by 8%. Jason detar is looking at that come up with revisions and revise the goal and agree. Completing assessment on NY, missing data, get that done as soon as possible-knock off NY as soon as possible. Joint vernture needs it and to share with partners. Bay Program is interested in tracking projects and assessments. Generally 5 year basis and track by states. Work to see make those assessments mesh-get CBP info as they need it. Brook Trout Action Team—25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> call we hope to have a reviewed document for the GIT along with STAR recommendation for wording of revised outcome. Might be two pronged outcome-restoration and protection (working with GIT 4) before anything goes to MB board
- Jeff- updated on STAC workshop on designing sustainable coastal habitats. Will be April 16 and 17 in Easton, MD. Have pretty good agenda laid out, series of themes 1. How do you define a coastal habitat 2. Link havitat to key species of concern, carrying capacity and how much habitat we have and what that means for resilience of species. Using rep species approach 3. Targeting using tools to begin target and look where you get biggest bang for your buck for creating protecting restoring crucial habitat. \$8500 from STAC and requires to produce report, proceedings, recommendations still working on exact product. NOAA ches bay office is interested in participating and coordinating with them on possible presentations. Current opportunity to get funding for a workshop—we think stream restoration would be best. Focusing on stream restoration issues.

- Deb Hopkins—BMP verification steering committee face to face feb 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Final finalizing the drafts for streams BMP verification protocol and wetlands BMP verification protocol to move forward with entire verification process. Bill has worked with rich starr to finalize streams portion. Need the steering committee to give approval
- Bill stack—these principles were initially developed by mark sechrist and rich starr-included very good language relating verification principles to the stream function framework, but the BMP verification panel reviewed it was lacking some criteria used for other protocols. Bill looked at the high scored protocols—urban BMPS—broke stream restoration from that protocol and used basic format and used Rich starr to incorporate stream function framework and work with MDE. Verification is not stand alone process-tied to initial site assessment, goals, and design, and monitoring afterwards to evaluate if goals are working and being met, routine maintenance to tweak the goals. Streamfunction framework will harmon and rich starr offers good tool to provide basis for these principles. Credits can be taken away if not functioning properly until maintenance is done to fix issues. After initial 2 yr period, if project functions as designed and then 5 year period normal for BMPS unless there is a catastrophic storm 1 in 25 year event, large storms can be catastrophic to BMPs. Avoid the burden on municipalities and emphasize using current MS 4 permitting program for maintenance etc. rich starr is working for MDE to develop a stream restoration construction check list and this is referenced that this will be a template for all jurisdictions and part of reporting-don't want to add additional burden to state but they have to include minimal info that bay watershed model will need to credit. Recommendation EPA provides audit to inspect different site.
- Denise—cannot support this because it would require more work on MDE's side. whoever put this together needs to talk to regulatory program.
- Bill-Denise can you send me the specific areas where you think would be additional burden.
- Denise-suggest you work with corps districts to see if they are willing to support this
- Jeff-this is part of process, get potential protocols to vet with partners overtime. We did not in timely manner put together verification protocols that we can send around to get vetted. Bill saved us and put this together.
- Jennifer-we can put caveats in this for the panel to be aware, and we recommend rich that representative of corps is not in room that they invite someone.
- Jeff-directly indicate where issue, tell bmp panel about this. Denise work with bill to do this to move forward in next week or so. Push on to BMP panel with caveats that express concern that Denise has and pull Corps in to consider these issues.
- Jennifer-Deb Hopkins and steve strano—wetland BMP protocol, seeking wetland workgroup input, input to deb by tomorrow so it can go through

steering committee as well. Meeting with mark dubin of ag workgroup because wetland cooresponds with Ag drafts.

- Jeff-add introductory statement upfront that there are issues and not well veted with regulatory agencies at this point and delineated areas where there may be concerns, as this moves forward hope that these concerns will be addressed.
- Jennifer and Deb will put together introductory language to address issues
- Jeff will send both protocols to rich on the 14<sup>th</sup>
- Jennifer-Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force is national effort that has regional panels, funding comes from FWS. Cochaired by FWS and NOAA. Looking for Chesapeake Bay representative. Usually MDNR, does anyone have suggestions or recommendations let Jennifer and jeff know, if not. Recommendation made for FrankHammond at ??? Lee would do it or his staff or Ron Klauda, Lisa Moss. Jennifer will follow up with these recommendations and find out if they prefer fed or state
- Future Calls—
- Next call –draft workplan and follow up with brook trout stuff, ongoing updates, request for GIT list of wetlands and streams list htat would possibly receive expedited review draft by next call perhaps?,
- Next call March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 . Third Thursdays.
- Brook Trout people can't do third Thursdays.