



## Meeting Minutes

### Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

Conference Call on Workplans  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Meeting Participants:

Mark Bryer (TNC), *Chair*  
Jason Dubow (MDP), *Vice-Chair*  
Renee Thompson (USGS CBPO), *Coordinator*  
Tuana Phillips (Chesapeake Research Consortium), *Staff*  
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)  
Julie Winters (EPA)  
Bevin Buchheister (CBC)  
Helen Stewart (MD DNR)  
Diane Wilson (PA DEP)  
Gene Yagow (VA Tech, STAC)  
Greg Evans (VA DOF)  
Mary Gattis (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Local Government Advisory Committee)  
Nesha McRae (VA DEQ)  
Sally Claggett (USFS)  
Todd Janeski (VA DCR)  
Joan Salvati (VA DEQ)  
David Ward (Earthward Consulting)  
Lee Epstein (CBF)  
Andrew Roach (US Army Corps of Engineers)  
Wink Hastings (NPS)  
Dan Murphy (USFWS)  
Bonnie Bick (Mattawoman Watershed Society)  
Sue Bulbukaya (VA DCR)  
Kevin Ingram (NRCS)  
Earl Bradley (Sierra Club, MD)

#### Welcome, Introductions, and Updates

Mark Bryer welcomed everybody to the call and confirmed participants. He provided a couple of updates on FY15 GIT Funding, the GIT Chairs 10/29 meeting and also reviewed the Management Strategy and Workplan Timeline. For more information on these updates, please see the Introduction PowerPoint Slides presentation that is posted on the meeting website page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23202>

### Workplan Development:

- Renee Thompson and Tuana Phillips have started reaching out to partners to get their contributions to the Healthy Watersheds Workplan. So far, they have reached out to federal partners, DC and states. Due to time constraints and meeting logistics, they have not yet had the opportunity to reach out to NGOs and other partners, but plan to do so in the near future. In the meantime, anybody is welcome to send their contributions to Renee by email ([rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)) or by phone (410-267-5749).
- Representatives from Virginia discussed the best way to provide input to the Workplans. VA DCR met with DEQ last week, and will reach out to DOF as well. DEQ is also in the process of having meetings internally. VA will incorporate all of their actions into one Workplan template rather than working on multiple Workplan templates.

*Action: Renee Thompson will work offline with VA representatives on this.*

### Session on Healthy Watersheds 2-Year Workplan

Renee Thompson facilitated a round robin-style session on the Healthy Watersheds Workplan. She asked jurisdictions and others who have already provided input to the Workplan to review the process they took to fill it out. She also asked that they summarize the actions and performance targets they have contributed thus far, raise questions and concerns if they have any and think about where there are gaps and where there is overlap.

#### DC:

- Renee reviewed what DC has included and asked if anybody had questions or comments.
- Question: Any thought of including information here about the development of DC's Tree Planting programs?

*Action: Reach out to Julie Mawhorter to see if and how this is captured in the Urban Tree Canopy Workplan.*

- Comment: We should have, maybe under the Outreach action, a note about conveying information to the Council and Neighborhood Councils about the status of healthy watersheds and watersheds in general.

#### Maryland:

- All MD agencies met to develop MD's portion of the Workplan. We grouped our actions into the major themes. Is it too broad? Does it need to be more specific?
- Question: Under leverage funding, have you looked at if there is any funding towards transportation, or other programs outside of water quality?  
Answer: We are doing this with DOT.
- MD has up to 50 million dollars a year through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to implement restoration projects. Healthy Watersheds are not included as a part of this, so we may want to look into expanding what it covers. We may also want to tap into 303 funds.
  - Comment: This is exactly what the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) would like to work on. CBC is interested in seeing this kind of detail in the Workplan matrices.
- Question: Has MD included an action that addresses maintaining existing forests?
  - Comment: I was thinking we could add an action saying that the Forest Service, with help from the Healthy Watersheds GIT, will look at this at a watershed-wide scale.

*Action: Follow up with Sally Claggett to add this action item. We want to be sure that members from the Stewardship GIT are part of this conversation too.*

- Response: Maryland is incorporating forestland retention policies into the Local Comprehensive Plan and also has a Forest Conservation Act. However, one question we have is, what is the threshold that determines how much forest needs to be retained to maintain it healthy?
- Comment: The Healthy Watershed Forest/TMDL Project is looking at this exactly.
- Maryland still has to cross-walk their actions across all of their Workplans.

#### Pennsylvania:

- PA DEP worked closely with PA DCNR to fill out the Workplan.
  - DEP needs help on outreach, but DCNR has some great outreach programs.
  - Growing Greener Program historically focused on impaired waters; we were able in 2014 to extend it so it can apply to healthy watersheds. We are hoping to do more outreach to have more people apply to fund healthy watersheds projects.
  - We have also been very active with the Riparian Forest Buffer outcome.
  - Question: regarding the database of healthy waters that you track, do any of your local leadership management approaches address making local leaders aware of that information? I have heard that local officials are not aware of that. I am wondering if there is a way you could you incorporate more strategic sharing of that information.
    - Response: DEP does not have a lot of resources in terms of outreach. That is why we are partnering with DCNR, they do a lot of outreach. We also see this problem about getting the word out in our Growing Greener Program.
- Action: Mary Gattis, PA CBC folks and PA will talk offline to figure out resources to get the word out better. In the Workplan we will also put a placeholder for this issue under our Collective Actions tab.*

#### Virginia:

- DCR met with DEQ last week and developed a short term workplan to start informing what the Workplan would look like. We are discussing having a week retreat in a week and a half to continue the conversation. DEQ is developing draft workplan elements in advance of the retreat to have a straw man to start from.

#### West Virginia:

- WV is in the process of putting something together. One item on the Workplan so far is the TNC Watershed Assessment Pilot project study, the results of which will be considered by the State for incorporation into the WV healthy watersheds dataset.

#### Delaware:

- Renee and Tuana will be following up with John Schneider soon, who has been on leave for the past couple of weeks.

#### New York:

- NY is in the process of putting something together.

#### Federal Partners:

- Renee and federal partners on the call reviewed what we have on the Workplan so far.  
*Action: Add an action to the Workplan on the high resolution imagery project that the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy and USGS are working on.*  
*Action: USACE will send Renee a couple of sentences that summarize their contributions to the Workplan.*  
*Action: Add to the federal partners tab a note on using the FWS Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Brook Trout Habitat Assessment Tool to prioritize restoration and conservation. Also flag it as a cross-GIT item.*  
*Action: Add the USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program under Management Approach 1, Continue gathering inventory of healthy waters and watersheds.*

#### NGO and Other Partners:

- CBF is working on funding, program and legislative change that is supportive of our goals. We also have an active restoration program in place.
  - Comment: This is almost the same case with TNC. TNC does a lot of advocacy for funding and on-the-ground work. I would guess it would be the same for other NGOs. How will we capture this work?  
*Action: Let's pause this conversation for now but discuss offline about how to best capture NGO and other partner work.*
- Comment: A lot of the goals don't hit the SMART qualification of being specific, measureable, achievable, realistic and timely. I think we should all work on being specific and SMART.  
*Action: As we move toward the Dec 18<sup>th</sup> due date, we will follow back up with folks and see if they can get more specific.*

#### **Group Discussion – reactions and thoughts on the Workplan, including: what is missing, where is there overlap?**

Mark Bryer encouraged participants to provide their feedback anytime within the next week if they didn't have anything to say now.

- Comment: One or more of the management approaches relates to local leadership, I wonder if that needs a bit more clarity. We want to make sure we are not duplicating and connecting with local leadership group. I also think the key action on develop tools for local leaders, etc. could be for Communications Workgroup to spearhead.  
*Action: Mary Gattis will think about organizing a focused discussion on this.*
  - Comment: Some people have brought up the idea of using the Management Board as a place to look into this.
- Comment: Management Approach #3 is missing a piece about leveraging opportunities within federal agencies such as the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Department of Transportation (DOT). The Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team does not currently have representatives from FERC or DOT.  
*Action: Perhaps under collective actions, or as an EPA action, include a note in the Workplan to address this.*
- Question: Can STAC look at healthy waters/watersheds and provide guidelines on best ways to address development occurring in healthy watersheds?

- Comment: Maybe we can add this piece to the Land Use Options Evaluation FY15 GIT funding RFP or talk to the awardee about it once we know who that is.
- *Action: Look into doing the above and also reach out to STAC to see if they have done that and whether there are other existing resources we can use as well.*
- A representative from the Maryland Chapter of Sierra Club expressed interest in contributing actions to the Workplan.
  - Comment: I have seen the Sierra Club and an effective influencer within local communities, with respect to training and educating citizens. I would personally love to see the Sierra Club do something related to conveying information about watersheds and watershed health to local stakeholders. This is something that has come up regularly in Local Leadership Outcome. I think that would be a great role for the Sierra Club.
  - Mark reminded everybody that others who are interested in contributing actions are welcome to follow up with Renee by email ([rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)) or by phone (410-267-5749).

## **Land Use Options Evaluation (LUOE) and Land Use Methods and Metrics (LUMM) Workplans**

Renee briefly went over the draft LUOE Workplan and LUMM Workplan. She first reminded everyone that the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT adopted these two outcomes because there is a lot of overlap between our healthy watersheds work and what the land use outcomes are trying to accomplish. Those who want to provide more feedback to the Workplans were encouraged to reach out to Renee, Jason Dubow (for the LUOE Workplan) and Peter Claggett (for the LUMM Workplan).

### **Comments:**

- We might want to consider putting together an Advisory Committee together for this goal. This Committee would be made up of one or two local leaders from each jurisdiction. Since this Workplan is creating a toolbox for them, so we want to make sure they are engaged throughout the process and that the toolbox meets their needs.
  - Comment: I think this would be a different group than LGAC. Perhaps State Chapters of American Planning Associations and Smart Growth America.
  - Comment: We need the “working bees,” but we also want local officials to be a part of the group so they can give the more political feedback.
  - Phase 2 of the Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project will be doing a lot of engagement with local government officials.
  - *Action: Put a placeholder regarding forming this Advisory Committee Group into the Workplan.*
- Is the LUOE FY15 RFP is looking at doing an evaluation or an inventory of what is being used out there? Answer: Inventory.

### **Next Steps**

#### **Healthy Watersheds Workplan:**

- Get NY’s, VA’s and DE’s actions integrated into the Workplan.

- Coordinate with NGOs and other partners to figure out how to capture their contributions in the Workplan.
- As we approach the December 18<sup>th</sup> due date, aim for S.M.A.R.T. actions (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely). Also start filling out the costs and funding columns.
- Reach out to Julie Mawhorter (FS) and Josh Burch (DC) in regards to capturing DC's tree planting efforts in the Workplan.
- Follow up with Sally Claggett (FS) about a forestland retention action. Make sure that members from the Stewardship GIT are a part of the conversation too.
- Add an action that captures the high resolution imagery project that the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy and USGS are working on.
- Add to the Federal Partners tab:
  - A note on using the FWS Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Brook Trout Habitat Assessment Tool to prioritize restoration and conservation. Also flag it as a cross-GIT item.
  - Additional USACE actions which will be provided by a USACE representative.
  - The USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program under Management Approach 1, "Continue gathering inventory of healthy waters and watersheds."
- In the Collective Actions tab, or perhaps as an EPA performance target, include a note to engage with federal agencies other than EPA (such as FERC and DOT) to leverage opportunities within those agencies so that they can set the stage for state and local governments to further healthy watershed protection.
- Mary Gattis, PA CBC folks and PA will talk offline to figure how to improve outreach and "getting the word out better." In the Workplan, put a placeholder that addresses this issue under the Collective Actions tab.

#### Land Use Options Evaluation Workplan:

- Create an Advisory Group to be in charge of overseeing the LUOE Workplan. Put a placeholder in the Workplan about forming this Advisory Committee Group.

#### Other:

- In the meantime, anybody is welcome to send their contributions to Renee by email ([rthompso@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthompso@chesapeakebay.net)) or by phone (410-267-5749).
- Coordinators and Staffers at the Bay Program will begin cross-walking the Workplans to identify areas of overlap and synergy.
- Reach out to STAC to see if they have guidelines on best ways to address development occurring in healthy watersheds. Or, see if there are other existing resources that look into this. Also, consider adding this piece to the Land Use Options Evaluation FY15 GIT funding RFP or talk to the awardee about it once we know who that is.
- Mary Gattis (LGAC Coordinator) will think about organizing a focused discussion on local leadership related actions across all Workplans.