

Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

Response to public comments on Workplans

March 25, 2016

The comments received from interested parties and partners were very useful in helping the Goal Team to think about how to advance the implementation of the various actions in the workplan. In most cases, precise edits were not made to the workplan itself as many comments noted absences or key things to keep in mind as we move forward with implementation and further workplan refinement. The following is a summary of key comments and our Goal Team response:

- Key State and in some cases Federal partners are not represented thoroughly and consistently under each of the 4 management approach themes. In some cases signatory partners have not included any workplan action items.
 - Virginia has not supplied individual actions related to the 4 key management approaches outlined in the workplan document.
 - West Virginia and Delaware and in some cases New York are also not well represented in the workplan actions and timelines are also missing.
 - The Healthy Watersheds Goal Team is committed to continuing to work with all of the key signatories and partners in the implementation of this workplan, regardless as to whether they have contributed individual action items to this document.
 - Virginia is consistently represented Goal Team meetings and has been engaged in our development to date.
 - It may be that time constraints and staffing have led to some areas where the workplan could be filled in and completed. The comments received will help Goal Team staff to reach out to partners directly to continue adding missing content and fill in timelines for completion. The Goal Team will continue to work with all partners in accounting for actions.
- Local government participation and review is essential as these entities are often already overburdened and lacking some resources, there was also concern about how to “monitor” watershed health that there are not additional burdens put onto locals.
 - The Goal Team recognized that locals primarily drive land use decisions. The Goal Team continues to be focused on serving as a resource and increasing the capacity of local governments. We will continue to engage locals and be mindful of their need for participation moving forward.
 - In addition, some of the comments related to specific actions in MD for example, were concerns or suggestions related to how to include locals in the state based efforts. In this case the State has responded directly to the local partner.

- Many comments were focused on specific tools, datasets, partnership opportunities, and questions related to healthy watershed analysis action items.
 - For example, the comments received from Trout Unlimited highlighted some useful information, tools and resources that can be utilized for assessment and tracking watershed health. Trout Unlimited identified itself as a participating entity in several key actions items. These were the only text changes that were made at this time to the workplan document.
 - In addition, we are working with this organization to identify an individual there to participate in our Goal Team membership.