Strategy Review System: Healthy Watersheds Outcome Overview

Healthy Watersheds Goal:
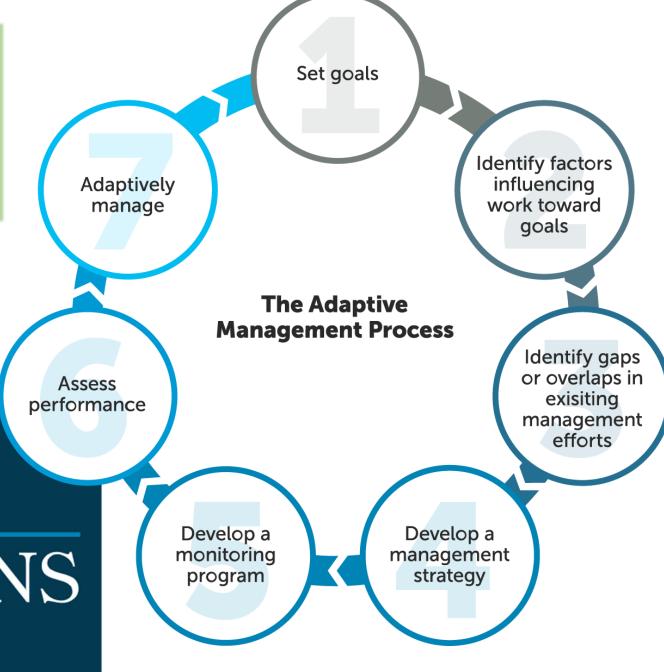

View of the Nanticoke River and wetlands in Wicomico County
Photo by Matt Roth/CBP

Goal: *Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value*

Outcome: *100 percent of state-identified healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.*
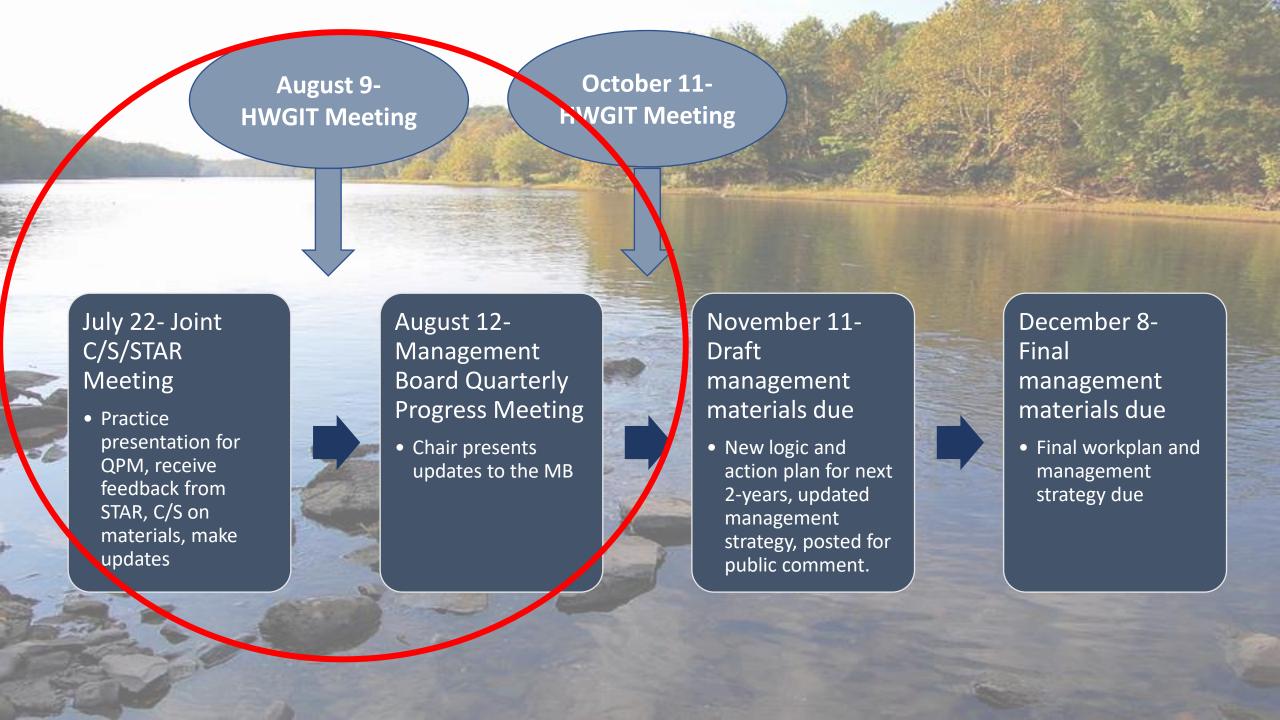
July 22- Joint C/S/STAR Meeting

- Practice presentation for QPM, receive feedback from STAR, C/S on materials, make updates

August 12- Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting

- Chair presents updates to the MB

November 11- Draft management materials due

- New logic and action plan for next 2-years, updated management strategy, posted for public comment.

December 8- Final management materials due

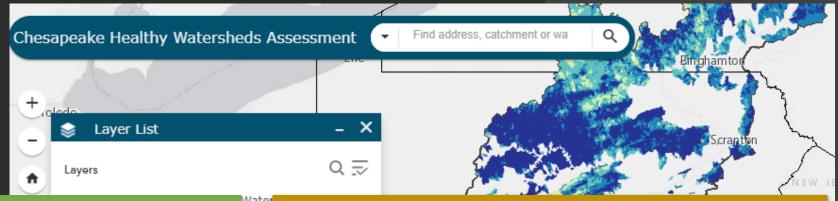- Final workplan and management strategy due

Instructions: Before your quarterly progress meeting, provide the status of individual actions in the table below using this color key:

Action has been completed or is moving forward as planned.	Action has encountered minor obstacles.	Action has not been taken or has encountered a serious barrier.

Management Approach 1: Tracking Healthy Waters and Watersheds

Sample Completed Actions:

- Completion of the [Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment](#) Report GIT funding project (Tetra Tech, December 2020)

- Completion of the Chesapeake Healthy Watershed Assessment Tool (Innovate, December 2020)

- Work with Habitat GIT to identify factors influencing vulnerability of healthy watersheds and habitats (STAC Workshop)

Potential next steps:

- Consider updating SIHW provided data call (2022?)

- Investigate how to report on whether we have lost any SIHW since agreement was signed.

- Solicit guidance on additional vulnerability metrics and indicator development from STAC

- Quantify impact of land conversion on healthy watersheds and habitats

Management Approach 2: Local Leadership – strengthen local commitment and capacity to protect their healthy watersheds

Sample completed actions:

- Local Government educational modules
- Improved technical service delivery to landowners
- Communication materials

- Identify 1-2 case pilot jurisdictions where healthy watersheds are present, and they have demonstrated the desire to sustain them.

Management Approach 3: Federal and State leadership

Sample completed actions:

- Implementation of Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment in Maryland's Tier II watersheds

TETRA TECH

Implementing the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment in Maryland's Tier II
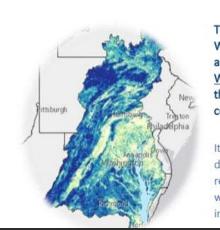
Potential next steps:

- Investigate whether HW can be a factor in NRCS Source water protection funding.
- 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

Management Approach 4: Support State-based Efforts

Completed actions:

- CHWA tool fact sheet and demos, Data dashboard land policy and conservation modules

- HWGIT meeting bi-monthly, sharing case studies and featured partner projects

- Promoting the science: quantify and incorporate conservation practices into the Chesapeake watershed modeling efforts, explore how land use protections might be used to quantify future pollutant load reduction incentives for land conservation

Management Approach 5: Improved cooperation, coordination and integration

Completed actions:

- Attend complementary WG and GIT meetings

- Investigate how CHWA how can inform other outcomes

Change in Stream Temperature

Change in Brook Trout Habitat

Where to protect/restore brook trout habitat to increase climate *resilient* occupied habitat?
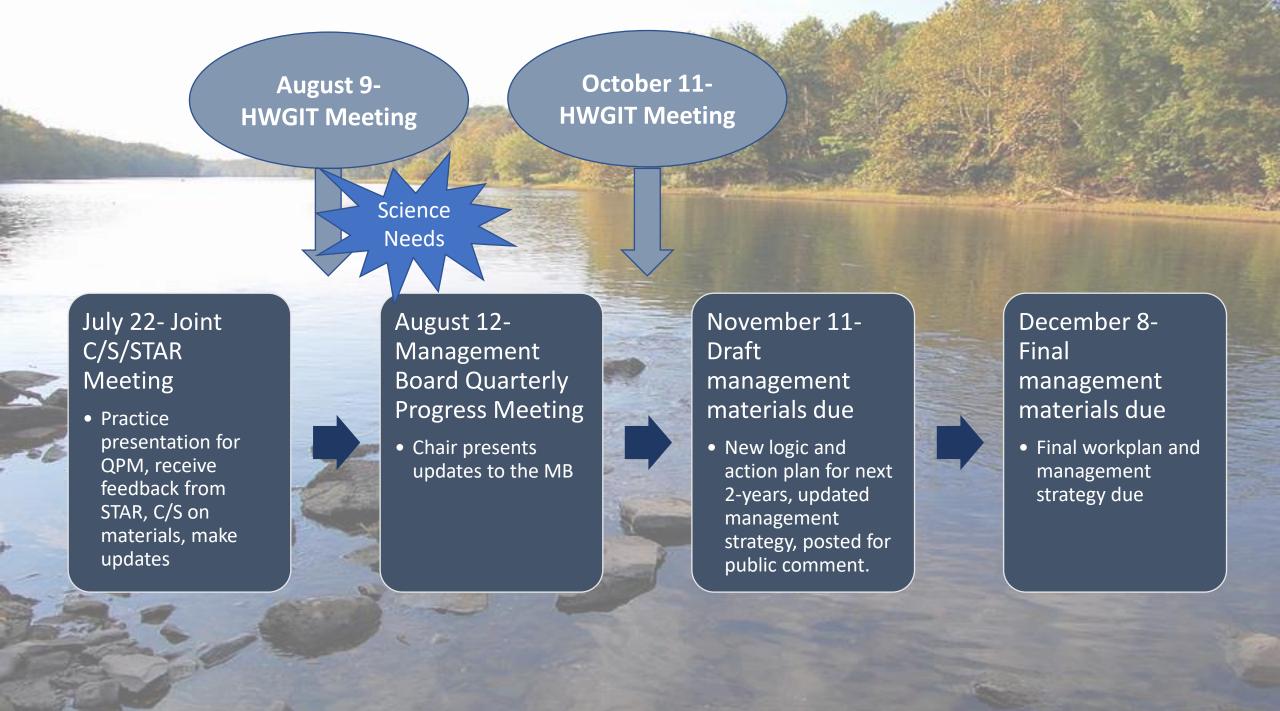
Potential next steps:

- Conduct GIS assessments to identify key high value brook trout habitat to conserve
- Host shared Climate workgroup and HWGIT meeting ~~to work through Climate Smart tool (2020)~~

Seeking Support: Involving Input & Action from the Management Board

- **Determine if direct input or action is needed by the Management Board**

  - *What have we already done to address this need?*

  - *If this need goes unmet, how does this impact our progress?*

  - *Can the MB help by directing actions to other groups (workgroups, organizations, jurisdictions)?*

August 9- HWGIT Meeting

October 11- HWGIT Meeting

Science Needs

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