

Sept 2013 Habitat GIT Steering Committee Call
September 26, 2013
2:00-3:30PM

Participants:

Mike Slattery, FWS (Chair)
Jennifer Greiner, FWS (Coordinator)
Hannah Martin, CRC (Staff)
Deb Hopkins, FWS
Mark Secrist, FWS
Mary Andrews, NOAA
Sadie Drescher, CWP
Julie Mawhorter, USFS
Neely Law, CWP
Jim Hedrick, WVDNR
Denise Clearwater, MDE

Action Items:

- Julie Mawhorter to follow up with Jim Hedrick about WV Riparian Forest Buffers
- Jennifer Greiner and Mike Slattery to follow up with Denise Clearwater about Wetland Workgroup request for mobile app for tracking and reporting wetland gains
- Hannah to include Bruce Vogt when sending October 2013 Fish Passage Workgroup meeting information

Announcements:

- New Chair, Mike Slattery, FWS
- Habitat GIT Goals and Outcomes: Only set of deliverables that went through unanimously accepted by MB and PSC
- “Bay Program Makeover” Ongoing discussion among leaderships of various goal teams, Bay Partnerships, Federal agencies, and a number of partner organizations in watershed about what the operating system will look like in a post-agreement world.
- Jennifer Greiner and Jeff Horan presented findings from STAC Coastal Habitats Workshop

Value-added Issues:

- Jim Hedrick: Potomac drainage lacks riparian buffer law. GIT encourage agencies pushing forward legislation involving riparian buffer requirements.
 - Julie Mawhorter: Buffer Updates-Project this year that will come out in draft form “Riparian Forest Buffer Status Report” later this month. It will lay out trends and challenges that need to be addressed. Will follow up with Jim about WV buffer groups.

- Mary Andrews (Fish Passage Chair): Pursue habitat restoration mission further within Bay Program. Lately it has been TMDL focused, now is the time to push Habitat and Habitat Restoration.
- Denise Clearwater (Wetland Co-Chair): Wetland Enhancement crediting issue and request for Bay Program to create mobile app/database to get better tracking and reporting of wetland gains and find a way to avoid duplication.

Workgroup Updates:

- Neely Law and Sadie Drescher: Working with Mark Secrist and Rich Starr to get Stream Health Workgroup functioning by end of 2013. Working on Urban Filter Strip and Shoreline Erosion Management expert panels and verification protocols.
- Jennifer Greiner: Put in request for Wetland Expert Panel.
- Denise Clearwater: We are currently at 85K acre goal focusing on agricultural and natural lands yet recognizing you can get restoration completed in urban areas. Did not want to combine with stormwater wetlands. Opportunity to get enhancement credited through the proposed Wetland Expert Panel. The workgroup also spent time on verification protocols.
 - Mike Slattery: Not announced yet, but there was a multi-state effort submitted for NFWF Funds by TNC to accelerate achievement of wetland restoration goal in ways that optimize habitat value for key species. Seems as though it will be funded.
- Mary Andrews: Workgroup meeting on October 21, reviewing new program goal (hasn't changed much) and talking implementing tool in MD to identify restoration projects. Currently, just discussing the edits about Bay Barometer regarding the Fish Passage goals.
 - Suggestions for Workgroup Meeting Agenda: New Fish Habitat Outcome
 - Send Bruce Vogt invite to discuss Fish Habitat Outcome.
- Mark Secrist: Working with Neely to coordinate with Rich to get membership for Stream Health workgroup meeting in October at the Mid Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference. The meeting will focus on what the workgroup should focus on and work to address.
 - Neely: Moving at a good pace and receiving good response rate from invited members. Also asking people to participate in upcoming STAC workshop on designing sustainable stream restoration projects (Co-Chairs: Rich Starr and Bill Stack).
- Mike Slattery: SAV WG looked at high performance years in each segment and prorated for 2017 and 2025 to come up with 90K acres by 2017 and 135K by 2025 but included that 185K is the ultimate goal for a restored Bay.

New Vision for Habitat GIT:

- A shared vision is emerging for a *Chesapeake Land and Water Conservation Design Collaborative*. Mike is willing to discuss/share more information on

the new vision for the collaborative and the roles of the Habitat GIT and the Bay Program.

- Discussion
 - Denise: Bay Program asks for a lot but doesn't give a lot in return. Useful tools would be very helpful.
 - Mike: Our priorities as a GIT should be crafted around the priorities of the jurisdictions and put forward to CBP

Fall Meeting Planning:

- In-Person Meeting
 - 1 or 1.5 day meeting
- Possible Dates: Nov 5-7, 2013
 - Nov 6th-Forestry Workgroup Meeting
 - North Atlantic LCC Meeting Nov 5 and 6
- Potential Presenters/Topics
 - Wetland Initiative (NFWF Grant)
 - Forestry Updates
 - Fish Habitat Outcome
 - Black Duck
 - Brook Trout
 - Conservation Design Collaborative
- Potential Location (Annapolis Area)
 - Jug Bay
 - SERC
 - CBEC?