



## Brook Trout Workgroup Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 · 12:30 pm – 2:00pm

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/brook\\_trout\\_workgroup\\_april\\_2021\\_meeting](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/brook_trout_workgroup_april_2021_meeting)

Megan Ossmann (CRC)	Brad Fink (MD DNR)	Steve Faulkner (USGS)	Scott Scarfone (TU)
Katie Omblaski (Woods and Waters)	Lori Maloney (EBTJV)	David Thorne (WV DNR)	Nathaniel Hitt (USGS)
Peter Tango (USGS)	Seth Coffman (TU)	Gina Hunt (MD DNR)	Jason Detar (PA FBC)
Dan Goetz (MD DNR)			

### Action Items:

- Dave Thorne and Dan Goetz will pull together summaries on eDNA research and will follow up with this information.
- Scott Scarfone will provide updates to Action 4.3.
- Steve will send out the document with the information being requested for the STAC temperature workshop.

### Welcome and Introductions – BTWG Co-chairs, Steve Faulkner (USGS) and Katie Omblaski (Woods and Waters)

- Julianna Greenberg (workgroup staffer) has moved on to a new position. Megan Ossmann (Habitat GIT staffer) will be stepping in to help with workgroup support until Julianna's replacement is hired.
- New members:
  - Brad Fink (MD DNR) is taking the place of Steve Riesling
  - Dan Goetz (MD DNR) is taking place of Alan Heft, who retired in March
  - Lori Maloney is the new coordinator of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

### CBP SRS Review Process

- First check-in meeting in late May → Dry run presentation at STAR meeting in July → presentation to Management Board in August → updating of materials → final materials due in December
- See [brook trout draft logic and action plan](#) for status of actions
- Action 1.3 - will hopefully make more progress with additional CBP staff (Living Resource Data Manager)
  - Dan Goetz: We've taken an applied approach to quantifying impacted stream miles and land area within brook trout watersheds. Next phase is working with local jurisdictions, NRCS, etc., in turning this into on the ground conservation work. We can supply data from MD.
  - Steve: We can use this list as a starting point for our own compilation of data.
- Action 2.1 – making good progress (changed to green)
  - Than Hitt, with USGS, is looking into how we improve temperature predictions for karst streams, occurring on sites in VA and WV. Follow up for more info and any feedback: [nhitt@usgs.gov](mailto:nhitt@usgs.gov)
- Action 2.2 – Changed to green

- Action 2.3 - ongoing project (stays yellow)
  - Than H: We will have to circle back, won't have results until 2022 or 2023.
- Action 4.1 – changed to yellow
  - Dan G: – We're wrapping up a project looking at eDNA – we might have results and a report by this fall.
  - Dave Thorne: Were working with TU and USFS on some eDNA work with the National Genomics Center. Most is not in CBP watershed, but we do have some CB information. I can get a report on that.
  - Action: Dave and Dan will pull together summaries and will follow up with this information.
  - Brad Fink: We've collected over 100 eDNA samples from 2019-2020. I'll be looking at that data this summer.
- Action: Follow up with Scott Scarfone for updates to Action 4.3.
- Revision of [Management Strategy](#)
  - Page 3, Figure 1 was drafted when we were still using subwatersheds. Should we update and rewrite this section?
    - Group agreed on no change
  - Downstream Strategies model – is this still viable?
    - MD is using a similar approach developing regression trees to determine brook trout occupancy.
  - Page 5 – Factors influencing success model – are these stressors the most important?
    - Lori M: How does genetics fit into these factors? Should we put it in there explicitly, or consider genetics a component of these strategies already?
      - Steve: The genetics workshop will help play a big role in determining how it can be applied to conservation and restoration going forward. It may highlight some strategies we can add in.
    - Big picture question – what can this group do to make progress/minimize losses as much as possible? This is what we need to focus on to change our trajectory of progress.
      - Scott Scarfone: In the Upper Gunpowder, we are just trying to preserve – the priority is not expansion because there are not enough resources. Each watershed will be different. I'm not sure how we'd quantify that in a document like this.
      - Dan Goetz: We've prioritized our existing resources based on increasing resiliency using the coldwater mapper. Doing restoration in the best possible place is important. Reintroduction is a goal too, but not realistic at the moment.
        - Link to MD coldwater mapper: <https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dc5100c0266d4ce89df813f34678944a>
      - Jason Detar: The approach of the joint venture is to conserve the best of the best and maintain what we have. PA hasn't quantified their loss, but we are losing faster than we are gaining.

- Brad Fink: We don't know where we're at, but once we analyze our eDNA data we will be able to determine where we've lost populations and consider reintroduction strategies.
- David Thorne: Experiencing the same issues in West Virginia – just trying to maintain what we have and not lose anymore.
- Steve: We have an opportunity in our next workplan to acknowledge these realities and focus on the most important actions. We will consider this feedback as we revise our workplan.

### **Project Tracking Tool**

- Steve: There were some comments on the BMP actions – there might be a better way to input these (drop down?)
  - Katie O: These BMPs came from information the grantees had entered. It is not a complete list.
- Steve: We will go through this to make sure it is not redundant and will probably add a glossary for the BMPs.
- Seth Coffman: This is a good way for us to capture our work – we need to make sure that at only one person is entering it and the data doesn't get double counted.
- Lori M: Is this going forward in time or are we going back in time, like previous 5 years of projects?
  - Steve: All the information we can get would be great.
- Outside the Brook Trout Joint Venture assessment, we don't have any data that we're using to track activities in the watershed that contribute to conservation and restoration of brook trout and can be used to assess our progress in achieving the outcome.
  - Scott Scarfone: A lot of work has been done by us and our partners, and it's not insignificant. I just don't know that we're tracking it well, so this effort is important.
  - Steve: That's why we've moved toward this tracking tool and will hopefully have additional support from the CBP Living Resource Data Manager.
- Lori M: Is there a column to distinguish between projected improvements in occupied stream miles and ones that have been checked for presence?
  - Steve: That is an issue we need discuss.
  - Peter Tango: When a barrier is removed is there a transition status of probable occupation until it is verified?
- Steve: I want to move this process forward quickly – Katie and I will work with some of you on streamlining this. Once we have enough data collected we will look at how we summarize and report it.

### **America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act, Fish Habitat Partnerships**

- Steve: New legislation that affects fish habitat partnerships. We have the opportunity to align our workgroup's needs with the Joint Venture's needs.

- Lori M: We want to work quickly in coming up with these ideas. There will be an inter-agency plan between the various government agencies – the first one this will be drafted this October and then every 5 years after that. If you have any ideas forward them to Steve or me.

#### **CBP DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) Initiative**

- The CBP has taken on a large effort to incorporate DEIJ into the partnership.
- The action statement includes a commitment to advance the DEIJ strategy through workplan development and implementation for all GITs and Workgroups on their respective strategy review system schedules.

#### **STAC Workshops, New Business**

- Brook Trout STAC workshop in September near Thurmont, MD. There will be a virtual option.
- New STAC water temperature workshop – Steve is leading an effort related to freshwater.  
**Action: Steve will send out the document with the information being requested.**

#### **Adjourn**