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**Habitat Goal Implementation Team Spring Meeting**

**May 3-4, 2016**

**Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Room #104**

**1500 Remount Road**

**Front Royal, Virginia 22063**

Conference Line: 866-299-3188

Conference Code: Tues - 267-985-6222; Wed – 410-267-5731

Adobe Connect: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/habitatgitmeeting/>

(Note: Enter as Guest with your name and affiliation)

**Theme:** Understanding members’ and partners’ species/habitat priorities and how the collective impact of this team can help advance those through implementation of actions in the 2016-17 habitat workplans.

**Meeting Objectives:**

1. Share habitat restoration/protection priorities and see how existing efforts align geographically
2. Share information on funding sources and discuss how to most efficiently leverage capacity
3. Share science tools and discuss innovative ways of applying them or assisting others in using them

**Tuesday, May 3**

**10 am Welcome/Introductions/Recognitions**

Christine Conn (Maryland DNR, HGIT Chair) and David Whitehurst (Virginia DGIF, HGIT Vice-Chair)

**10:20 Team Vision: Collective Impact for Achieving a Network of Connected Habitats**

Christine Conn and David Whitehurst

**10:45 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Priorities (15 minutes each)**

* + - **Virginia** (Chris Burkett, Virginia DGIF)
    - **Maryland** (Christine Conn, Maryland DNR)
    - **Pennsylvania** (Cathy Haffner, Pennsylvania Game Commission)
    - **Delaware** (Anthony Gonzon, Delaware DNREC)
    - **New York** (Joe Racette, New York DEC)
    - **West Virginia** (Kieran O’Malley, West Virginia DNR)
    - **District of Columbia** (Bryan King, District of Columbia DOEE)

**12:30 Dismiss to pick up take-out LUNCH from on-site cafeteria;** [**return to meeting room**](https://vimeo.com/108512185)

**1 pm Shifting Backdrop: Climate Context –** Zoe Johnson (NOAA – Chesapeake Bay Climate Coordinator)

**1:45 SWAP Synthesis and Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas –** Karen Terwilliger(Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.)

**2:15 Breakout sessions:** Participants are asked to give advance thought to the following:

* *What are our shared priorities (species/geographies)?*
* *What are key resources (funding/science tools/programs) available to us?*
* *How can we best align these to implement our shared priorities?*
* *How can this team help implement the Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas?*

**3:30 Report out**

*Each team will be asked to describe “What does this collaboration look like 5 years from now?”*

**4:15 Recap today’s discussion & frame tomorrow’s focus on tools/resources** – Christine Conn

**Info on campus tour option, dinner, and tomorrow’s field trip** – David Whitehurst

**6:00 pm Group dinner at PaveMint Taphouse and Grill,** 9 South Commerce Ave, Front Royal, VA 22360

**Wednesday, May 4**

**8 am – Wildflower Hike** *(optional – gather at main entrance for carpool. Bring proper attire – sturdy footwear and bright colors, & maybe your camera too!)*

Nearby G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area will have 3-4 million wild flowers blooming on the forest floor and 30+ breeding warbler species active in the trees!

**11:00** **Results of HGIT Funded Projects (15 minutes each)**

* **Patch-Scale Brook Trout Monitoring in Chesapeake Bay Headwaters (FY14)**

Zachary Robbins (PhD Student, Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Science, University of Montana)

* **Agricultural Landowner Assessment (FY14)**

Erin McLaughlin (Maryland DNR)

* **Stream Health Baseline Re-Assessment (FY14)**

Zachary Smith (Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin)

* **Culvert Assessment (FY15)**

Julie Devers (MD) and Lisa Moss (VA) (FWS Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation Program)

* **Black Duck Habitat Prioritization (FY14 and FY15)**

Tim Jones (Atlantic Coast Joint Venture) and Kirsten Luke (American Bird Conservancy*) -- recorded*

**12:15 Break for LUNCH** ***(cafeteria on campus)***

**1:00 Funding to Support Regional Collaborative Work**

Jake Reilly (Director, Chesapeake Bay Programs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

**1:30 Facilitating Local Government Implementation**

Honorable Richard Baugh (LGAC Member; Harrisonburg, Virginia City Council)

**1:45 Reflecting Back**

Christine and David will reflect feedback received from workgroup chairs and input heard over past two days, focusing on opportunities for potential alignment (both within HGIT and across other GITs)

**2:45 Next Steps and Ideas for Fall Meeting (Nov 1-2 or 2-3)**

Jennifer Greiner (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, HGIT Coordinator)

**3 pm Adjourn, Tour of Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute *(Optional)***

Nick Davis, SCBI Friends of the National Zoo