



Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team:

**Spring Face-to-Face meeting**

NPS Chesapeake Bay Office **Suite 314**  
410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403  
(Large Conference Room)

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**Call-in#: 866-299-3188, Code: 2679856222**

**Adobe Connect link:** <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/git4/>

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**10:00 Welcome, Introductions**

**10:10 Review of Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy:**

**Mark Bryer**

The Healthy Watersheds GIT has completed the development of three management strategies: one for the Healthy Watersheds Outcome and two for the Land Use Outcomes in the Agreement.

**Purpose:** Mark will review the progress we've made so far in the management strategy (MS) development process and next steps. He will also review in more detail the Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy and four key management approaches.

**10:30 Review of Partner and Public comments to Management Strategies:**

**Renee Thompson**

The public comment deadline is 4/30. During this session we will review the comments received to date and proposed responses or actions associated with those comments. Members are invited to provide input and suggestions during the meeting and offline as to how best to incorporate some of the comments we received.

**Action:** Approve proposed responses or agree to a process for coming to consensus on public comment responses.

**Attachments/Member Preparation:**

- [Public and Partner Comments spreadsheet](#)

**11:00 Additional Refinements to Healthy Watersheds Management Strategy:**

**Donnelle Keech**

With contractor support and GIT leadership working as a team, we were able to turn our Draft Management Strategy; which was essentially a compilation of previous work plans, strategies and meeting minutes spanning a few years into a comprehensive and polished document. However, given the quick turnaround time the drafting team was not able to make all the refinements desired. Primarily, there is a recommendation from STAC to directly link the critical “factors influencing” to the “management approaches” outlined. This is implied in our MS but could be more explicitly called out in the document. In addition, the “current efforts and gaps” section is a bit too long and rambling and could use some reworking to make it more concise and better link to the other sections.

**Action:** GIT members are requested to volunteer or appoint members for a small drafting group that will work to refine, review identified sections for improvement. This work will need to be completed by mid-May.

**Attachments/Member Preparation:**

- Please read and review the [Healthy Watersheds MS](#) and come prepared to discuss the comments received, gaps, and other refinements identified.

**11:30 Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome Management Strategy Jason Dubow**

Mr. Dubow will provide an overview of the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy, which includes both an evaluation of policy options and implementation of strategies to reduce existing land conversion rates. In addition, given the comments received as part of the earlier session we will discuss the next steps and a process for working with the Land Use MS drafting group for refining and finalizing the Land Use Options MS. In addition, we will review the scope of work funding we have received for this MS.

**Action:** Members are invited to share comments and raise concerns during or after the meeting.

**Attachments/Member Preparation:**

- [Land Use Options and Evaluation MS](#)
- [Land Use Options Scope of Work Support Request write-up](#)

**12:00 Lunch – Please prepare to bring your own lunch** (there are a couple nearby options as well)

**12:45 Review of Landscape Level Pilot Demonstration Project in the Rappahannock River Basin Greg Evans, VA DOF**

The Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT was able to work with EPA CBPO to secure 50K last fall on behalf of the VA Department of Forestry to lead a study in the Rappahannock River watershed, George Washington Planning District. This study will assess growth trends in the region and evaluate the spatial variability of forest ecosystem service value. By simulating the loading impact of the alternative development scenarios and comparing the cost of additional urban BMP implementation to offset the loads, the aim of the project is to demonstrate the cost-benefit relationship of forestland retention. Mr. Evans will provide an update on the status of this project.

**1:20 Cross-GIT coordination / Tracking Workgroup Evolution Renee Thompson**

GIT leaders have been working collaboratively with the Habitat and Fisheries GITs to reach out to targeted members of the public for input on the Management Strategies. Three meetings in MD, VA and PA were held on April 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, these groups are working together with the Bay Programs Scientific Technical Assessment & Reporting (STAR) team to begin fleshing out a Tracking tool that could be developed to meet multiple objectives related to Bay Program goals and outcomes including, determining whether Healthy Watersheds are remaining healthy.

**Action:** Identify GIT members or staff that can serve on the Cross-GIT tracking workgroup.

**1:45 Work Plan Development and other Next Steps Tuana Phillips**

Biennial workplans for each management strategy will be developed by December 2015. It will include the following information:

- Each key action
- Timeline for the action
- Expected outcome
- Partners responsible for each action
- Estimated resources

**2:00 Adjourn**