



# Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016



# Workplan Timeline

January 22: Begin of 45-day public input period


March 8: Close of public input period

March 25: Revised drafts due to MB for April 14 meeting

April 22: Final revisions due

April 30: Workplans final and posted on web

# Summary of Comments Received



Chesapeake Bay Program  
Science, Restoration, Partnership

## Feedback: Healthy Watersheds Workplan

The Healthy Watershed Outcome reads: "One-hundred percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy."

The Healthy Watersheds Goal and Outcome can only be achieved through the cumulative impact of a wide variety of actions undertaken by a multitude of actors at many scales. Recognizing this, our management approach is to focus on four key areas where the Chesapeake Bay Program's investments can make the highest contribution: 1) tracking the health of watersheds and our effectiveness in protecting them, 2) strengthening local commitment and capacity to protect healthy watersheds, 3) improving the protection of state-identified healthy watersheds under federal programs and federal agency decision-making, and 4) supporting state-based efforts to improve the assessment and protection of healthy watersheds.

To review the workplan, visit the [Management Strategies Dashboard](#).

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**What do you think about the key actions proposed for the next two-year period?**

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**Management Approach 1:** Tracking Healthy Waters and Watersheds

**Key Action 1:** Continue gathering an inventory of healthy waters and watersheds.

(Screenshot of On-line Wufoo Form)

## Healthy Watersheds:

- 2 letters
- 4 Wufoo on-line entries

## Land Use Metrics and Methods:

- 1 letter
- 1 Wufoo on-line entry

## Land Use Options Evaluation:

- No comments received



# Summary of Comments Received on Healthy Watersheds Workplan

“Greater state participation is needed” (CBF)

“The timelines for completion of the work are often missing in general” (CBF)

“Any process to identify additional “healthy watersheds” should be vetted through and reviewed by local governments.” ; “Local governments have limited resources to add activities beyond those already required.” ; “Grants for Bay restoration work are already very competitive and limited.”

(Carroll County, MD)

“TU can help leverage funds.” ; “Consider TU staff as a resource and partner.” (Trout Unlimited)



## Summary of Comments Received on Land Use Metrics and Methods Workplan

“Any future action regarding land use should maintain local control over land use decisions, where intimate knowledge of local landscapes and communities is crucial to appropriate decisions.” (Carroll County, MD)

“Land use strategies are a tremendous but underestimated factor in carbon emissions, and aligning these goals with other environmental commitments and plans will strengthen political resolve.”

(Sierra Club, DC Chapter)

“Land use decision making is highly local, and I urge a focus on the appropriate level of government.” (Sierra Club, DC Chapter)

# Other recent changes to Workplans

Funding columns removed

Managing Entity <i>Partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month &amp; year) for each step)</i>	Estimated Project Cost <i>Best estimate of total project cost (needed)</i>	Available funding by Partner	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
Watersheds GIT			Staff Time		Tracking: How are healthy watersheds doing? Vulnerability information, prioritization for protection.

Acronym list added at the end

132			
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136	<b>**Note: As a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council and a signatory to the Chesapeake Bay Program, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Virginia and at the federal level to identify specific Bay management administrative actions necessary to effectuate coordinated and cooperative management actions identified in this outcome and to anticipate those needed in the future. The C</b>		
137			
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141	<b>Acronym Guide</b>		
142			
143	AACC – Anne Arundel Community College		
144	ACFHP - Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership		
145	ACJV – Atlantic Coast Joint Venture		
146	AgNPS – AGricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Model		



# Update on FY15 GIT Funding Projects

**Project Title:** Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project Phase II

**Awarded amount:** \$50,000

**Contractor:** VA Department of Forestry

**Project Title:** Evaluation of Land Use policy options, incentives and planning tools to reduce the rate of conversion of agriculture lands, forest and wetlands.

**Awarded amount:** \$66,077

**Contractor:** National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland, College Park