

Stream Health Workgroup Co-Chair Position Description

The Vital Habitats Goal Implementation Team (GIT) of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership seeks a co-chair to lead its Stream Health Workgroup (SHWG) alongside current chair Neely Law, of Fairfax County (VA) Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. The Stream Health Workgroup aims to affect overall positive change on streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by identifying actions to achieve the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement Stream Health outcome. The outcome of the workgroup is to improve the health and function of 10 percent of stream miles above the 2008 baseline for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. To achieve this outcome, the SHWG developed a two-year work plan for the period of 2020-2022 that guides its discussions and decisions.

Current workgroup priorities:

The two-year work plan provides a list of actions to make progress towards and achieve the SHWG outcome. Currently, there are four key focus areas that guide the SHWG discussions and decisions. For more details, see the workgroup's [two-year work plan](#).

- Stream Health Stressor Identification – The Stream Health Workgroup is collaborating with USGS to investigate and define stream health stressors and their management. This collaboration will include a literature review, identification of stressors that can be changed through management activities, and potential development of biological and non-biological metrics for stream health.
- Stream Restoration Guidelines and Partnerships: Based on efforts outlined above, develop and promote holistic stream corridor restoration design guidelines that identify the level of degradation and improvement of stream functions and key stressors/factors limiting potential uplift
- Stream Restoration Permitting Survey – The Stream Health Workgroup is developing and distributing a survey to both stream restoration practitioners and permit reviewers to assess the state of the current restoration process. The survey focuses on identifying areas where improvements can be made to the permitting process to facilitate appropriate project implementation.
- Chessie BIBI monitoring – The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has been working with the Stream Health Workgroup to collect and analyze benthic macroinvertebrate data from all jurisdictions in the watershed to report on progress of the Outcome.
- Stream Health Indicator- The Stream Health Workgroup is working with ICPRB and USGS to evaluate and make a recommendation to keep or change the unit of measurement to report on progress towards the Outcome. This is an ongoing discussion within the workgroup and will likely involve the formation of an action team and will be the focus of coming meetings.

Structure of the position:

The Co-chairs of the Stream Health Workgroup work to promote discussion and facilitate decision-making that leads to improved stream health. This workgroup is the nexus between watershed and Bay health and as such, it provides a unique opportunity to integrate multiple perspectives and expertise in its decisions.

The SHWG is within the Habitat Goal Implementation Team (HGIT) at the Chesapeake Bay Program. The HGIT reports to the Management Board and the Principal Staff Committee. The workgroup is composed of two co-chairs, a staffer, and the membership of the seven Bay jurisdictions along with other stakeholders to include: federal, regional and local governmental organizations, non-profit organizations and other stream restoration practitioners and scientists. The co-chairs work with the staffer to maintain connection with the rest of the Habitat Goal Implementation Team and the larger Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.

Meetings and Time commitment:

The SHWG convenes quarterly for two-hour meetings. The Co-chairs plan and run the quarterly workgroup meetings with additional meetings scheduled with project leads to discuss progress of the work plan actions. The Co-Chairs and SHWG membership may also participate in biannual HGIT meetings and in other work groups to facilitate cross-GIT collaboration. In summer of 2021, the SHWG will begin to update its Management Strategy and Logic and Action Tables as needed for the Strategic Review System process.

The time commitment is approximately 1-2 days per month.

Nominations are due by the August Management Board Meeting scheduled for August 13th, 2020.

Please contact Neely Law, Chair (neely.law@fairfaxcounty.gov) and Julianna Greenberg, Staffer (Greenberg.julianna@epa.gov) for more information.