



**Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team  
(STAR) Meeting**

**Theme: ERG and Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report update**

Thursday, June 27, 2024

**9:30AM – 11:30 PM**

Join Virtually by Webinar: [Link](#)

Meeting Number: 260 932 308 623

**Password:** VvkCm8

Or join by phone: Dial +1 469-208-1525 and enter Access code: 194 637 369#

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

*This meeting will be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes.*

*\*Closed captioning will be available for this meeting. To turn on the closed captioning, click on the 3 ellipses (More actions), then click on "Turn on live captions" (preview).*

**AGENDA**

**9:30 AM**      **Welcome, Introductions & Announcements – Ken Hyer (USGS) and Kimberly Van Meter (Penn State) - STAR chair and vice chair, Breck Sullivan (USGS) STAR Coordinator, Peter Tango (USGS) CBP Monitoring Coordinator**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops and Webinars**

- [American Planning Association \(APA\) Virginia 2024 Conference](#) – July 21 – 24, 2024, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- [Potomac River Conference](#) – October 17, 2024, Lorton, Virginia.
- [Watershed Forum](#) – October 18-20, 2024, Shepherdstown, West Virginia.
- [American Planning Association \(APA\) Maryland 2024 Conference](#) – October 22-24, 2024, Ellicott City, Maryland.
- [12<sup>th</sup> US Symposium on Harmful Algae](#) – October 27-November 1, 2024, Portland, Maine.
- [14<sup>th</sup> National Monitoring Conference](#) – March 10-12, 2025, Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- NO JULY STAR MEETING

**9:35 AM**      **Overview of ERG Report Findings – Ken Hyer (USGS)**

**Discussion Questions:**

- Did they miss the mark on anything/are there any fatal flaws in the report?
- Were there any considerations that are particularly insightful, surprising, and/or helpful?

- Space for written comments on the [Jamboard](#).

#### Considerations:

- F1: The Program and its key components are viewed as being complex and the level of complexity is a concern to stakeholders.
- F2: There is a question of transparency in how the Program operates, especially in regard to using science for decision-making and in how Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) function.
- F3: There is a perception that the voices of external stakeholders are not being listened to.
- F4: The Program components, especially the GITs, operate in a situation of constrained capacity in terms of both personnel time and funding.
- F4: The program operates in a set of silos and these silos decrease the ability of the program to operate effectively as a partnership.
- F5: Combined finding – The combined impact of complexity (F1), potential lack of transparency (F2), perception of not listening to external stakeholders (F3), siloed operations (F4), and constrained capacity (F5) may add to more than the sum of the individual findings.
- F7: The SRS process is a valued part of the Program but is not meeting (or attaining) its full potential.
- F8: Social science is an emerging need for the Program.
- F9: The Program appears to be trying to do too many things.
- F10: In many cases, there is a disconnect between the actions being performed by the Program and goal/outcome attainment.
- F11: The Program's logical outcome structure contains components that are not defined properly as outcomes and lack measurable qualities.
- F12: The Program has produced a vast amount of data and scientific findings, but it can improve access to those data and findings.

#### **10:05 AM      Overview of Synthesis from Steering Committee, and Overview of Timeline – Breck Sullivan (USGS)**

A synthesized summary of comments from STAR will be shared with the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee for consideration when revising the draft synthesis report.

#### Discussion questions:

- Do you agree with the recommendations?
- Were there any that are particularly insightful, surprising, and/or helpful?

- Is there anything actionable you want to see added to the narrative, or examples of actions you think could be done or are already being done based on the recommendations?
- Science, Restoration & Conservation, and Partnership Recommendations can be found listed on the [Jamboard](#).

**11:20 AM      Summarize major themes in comments for reporting back to the Steering Committee – *August Goldfischer (CRC)***

**11:30 AM      Adjourn**

**Next meeting: August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**