



# Chesapeake Bay Program

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

## Stream Health Workgroup February 2024 Meeting

Friday, February 16, 2024, 10:00-12:15 ET

[Link to the Meeting Materials](#)

### ATTENDEES:

- |                                  |                               |                                       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Ashley Hullinger, PA<br>DEP    | • Katherine Brownson,<br>USFS | • Meghan Fellows,<br>Fairfax County   |
| • Alison Santoro,<br>MDNR        | • Kathryn Barnhart,<br>EPA    | • Melissa Sines,<br>Colmena Institute |
| • Claire Buchanan,<br>ICPRB      | • Katlyn Fuentes, CRC         | • Nancy Roth, Tetra<br>Tech           |
| • David Bender                   | • Katrina Napora,<br>USGS     | • Peter Claggett, USGS                |
| • George Doumit,<br>DNREC        | • Kelly Maloney, USGS         | • Rikke Jepsen, USGS                  |
| • Greg Noe, USGS                 | • Ken Hyer, USGS              | • Rosemary Fanelli,<br>USGS           |
| • Gregory Zuknick,<br>EAEST Inc. | • Kristin Saunders,<br>UMCES  | • Sadie Drescher, CBT                 |
| • Joe Berg, BioHabitats          | • Lori Maloney, EBTJV         | • Sandra Davis, USFWS                 |
| • John Sievers, WSSC<br>Water    | • Marina Metes, USGS          | • Scott Lopez, CBT                    |
|                                  | • Mark Nardi, USGS            | • Sean Emmons, USGS                   |
|                                  | • Matthew Cashman,<br>USGS    | • Taylor Woods, USGS                  |
|                                  |                               | • Thomas Doody, USGS                  |

### 10:00 – WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Presenter: Alison Santoro (MDNR, Workgroup Co-Chair)*

- Upcoming Strategy Review System (SRS) cycle
- Current funding opportunities: Chesapeake WILDs
- Update on the current FY2022 GIT Funded Project *“Literature Review: Building Climate Resilience in Stream Restoration Practices”*

### 10:05 – REPORT OUT ON THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE OF STREAM RESTORATION STAC WORKSHOP:

*Presenter: Greg Noe (USGS)*

- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** This presentation provided a report out from the results of the March 2023 STAC Workshop, *“The State of the Science and Practice of Stream Restoration in the Chesapeake: Lessons Learned to Inform Better Implementation, Assessment and Outcomes”*. More information on this workshop can be found on the [STAC website](#).
- **LINK TO THE PRESENTATION:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.02.16-SHWG-February-Meeting-PRESENTATION-Noe.pdf>



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- **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** **If you have any additional questions, please contact Greg Noe ([gnoe@usgs.gov](mailto:gnoe@usgs.gov))**
  - **Kristin Saunders:** Were there discussions about any projects that show an opportunity for creating access to nature as an end-goal?
  - **Matt Cashman:** Glad the team included the aspect that 'stabilizing' channels is not always equivalent to restoration of geomorphology, especially geomorphic functions.
  - **Rosemary Fanelli:** Will the report touch on the implications of restoration vs. conservation within the context of the limitations of restoration? Or is that beyond the scope of the effort?
    - **Greg Noe:** We didn't touch on this beyond the general "do no harm" mindset.
  - **Ken Hyer:** Were climate considerations and the connections between restorations and conservation concepts discussed?
    - **Greg Noe:** Given the limitation of time, we did not discuss Climate Change considerations. We didn't talk about intentionally planning restorations to keep a watershed in healthy condition.
  - **Denise Clearwater:** You mentioned ecological uplift is rare, but does the report also mention biotic conditions not changing or worsening post-restoration?
  - **Alison Santoro:** We hope to start reviewing water quality indicators for stream health this year. If the data is available across the watershed to use as an indicator, we will be looking at temperature.

### 10:50 – CAUSAL INFERENCE APPROACHES REVEAL BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON INSTREAM BIOLOGICAL CONDITION:

*Presenter: Sean Emmons (USGS)*

- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** Sean Emmons (USGS) presented an update on efforts to identify potential co-benefits of agricultural and urban best management practices on instream biological and habitat conditions. The presentation provided a brief overview of the causal inference analytical approaches (Propensity Score Matching and Bayesian Networks) and presented preliminary results.
- **LINK TO THE PRESENTATION:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.02.16-SHWG-February-Meeting-PRESENTATION-Emmons.pdf>
- **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** **If you have any additional questions, please contact Sean Emmons ([semmons@usgs.gov](mailto:semmons@usgs.gov)).**
  - **Nick Ozburn:** Here's the contacts for stream modeling of incision, etc based on LiDAR:
    - **Elliot Campbell:** Maryland DNR; [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)
    - **Theresa Foye:** Maryland Environmental Service; [TFOYE@menv.com](mailto:TFOYE@menv.com)
  - **Peter Claggett:** Labeeb Ahmed and the USGS FACET team are also working with MES to produce measures of stream incision and entrenchment.

### 11:20 – BRIDGING SCIENCE AND PEOPLE IN STREAM HEALTH:



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Presenter: *Melissa Sines (Colmena Institute)*

- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** This interactive presentation from CBPO DEIJ Coordinator Melissa Sines supported framing, casemaking, and strategies for community engagement in stream health restoration work.
  - **JAMBOARD RESULTS:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.02.16-DEIJ-Discussion-Jamboard-Results.pdf>
- **UPCOMING DEIJ LUNCH & LEARN PRESENTATIONS:** <https://calendly.com/colmena-melissa/deij-lunch-n-learn>
  - February 21, 2024: Embedding DEIJ in Your Plans and Eliminating the DEIJ Line Item
  - March 12, 2024: Measuring What Matters: Cross-Network Metrics for DEIJ

## **12:05 – MEMBER & INTERESTED PARTY UPDATES:**

- **THE WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PROTECTION PROGRAM:** Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), is pleased to release “Guidance for Stream Restoration Based on Key Wildlife Habitats: Piedmont and Coastal Plain Streams with Associated Wetlands”. More information can be found here: [https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Stream-Wetland\\_NewGuidance.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Stream-Wetland_NewGuidance.aspx)

## **12:15 – MEETING ADJOURNED.**

***Next meeting: Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 10:00-12:00 ET***