Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

February 7, 2024

Beyond 2025

Healthy Watersheds Listening Session

Hello!

Agenda

1. **Overview – 5**
   Healthy Watersheds small group
2. **Recommendations - 20**
3. **Feedback - 5**
4. **Breakouts - 45**
5. **Wrap Up – 10**
6. **Next Steps - 5**

1

Overview

Healthy Watersheds

Vision

We envision a more comprehensive and holistic approach to a healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed where protection, improvement, restoration, and stewardship actions are deployed strategically, achieve ecological function, and align with state and/or local priorities to meet Bay program goals.

Vanguard Idea

Integrate a more holistic and locally-engaged approach to improving and maintaining watershed health as a foundational goal of the partnership

Recommendations

- Data, Tools and Monitoring
- Planning
- Local Engagement
- Goals for Watershed Actions
  - Land Protection
  - Restoration
  - Stewardship
- Accountability – Crediting
- Integrate Habitat, Climate and DEIJ into above recommendations.

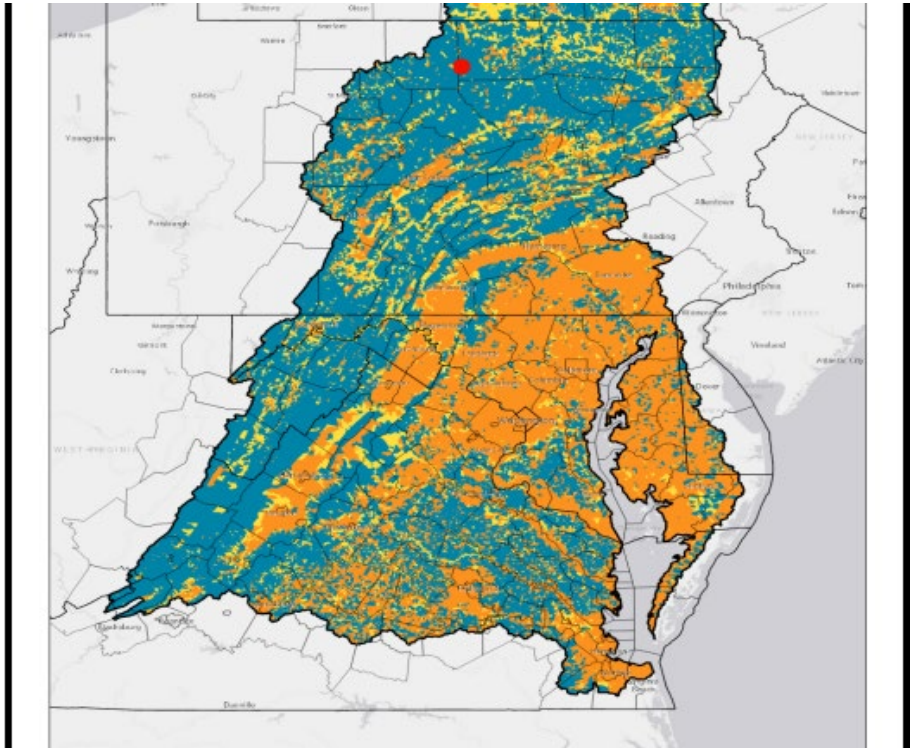
What is a healthy watershed?

An area draining to a stream, lake or wetland where natural land cover supports the dynamic processes, habitat size and connectivity, and water quality conditions able to support healthy biological communities.

. . . And is resilient to climate change

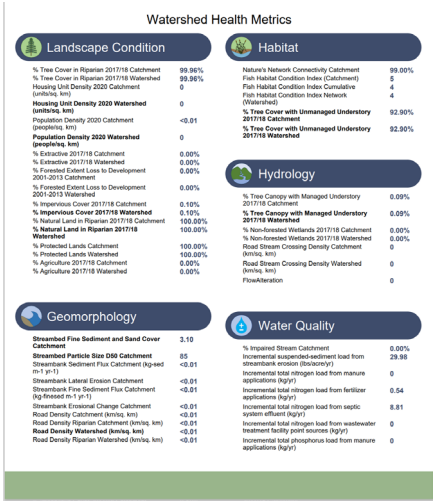
. . . And has a long-term commitment to stewardship

Data, Tools and Monitoring



CHWA

- Stream Health
- Landscape Integrity



https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/chwa/?page=Overall

Planning

Many scales: Local, Regional, State, Basin-wide

Green Infrastructure Concepts

Integrate into existing plans

State Plans

- **Wildlife (SWAPs)**
- **Forests (SFAPs)**
- **Recreation (SCORPs)**
- **Water (Integrated Reports)**

Community and Partner Engagement

DE Grant Assistance Program
D.C. City Council, COG, DOEE
MD Sea Grant watershed restoration specialists
NY Regional Economic Development Organizations
PA Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators
VA Assoc. of Planning District Commissions
WV Regional Planning Councils

Progress Through Partnerships

On October 11, 2023, DEP's Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management (BWRNSM) hosted the first Clean Water Gathering of State Program Action Leaders and Countywide Action Planning (CAP) leaders. Over 80 partners, representing county, state and federal organizations, came together to celebrate successes and discuss high level needs, issues and challenges to continued progress. BWRNSM's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division is using the recommendations from this meeting to build collaborative county/state partner Progress Teams that focus on "Strategies for Success" that address challenges and build on successes from Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts.

Circuit Riders/Coordinators

- Faciliation
- Communication
- Planning
- Funding/Finance
- Project Management
- Watershed Action
- Tracking

Watershed Actions

Goal Setting

- Land Protection
- Restoration
- Stewardship

Accountability Framework

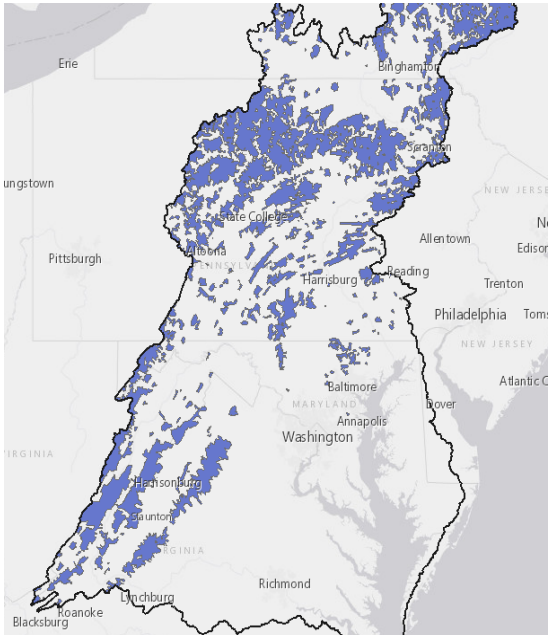
- Prevention of pollution
- Habitat for Living Resources
- Condition of Living Resources
- Thresholds for impervious surface or forest cover
- Stewardship of our investments

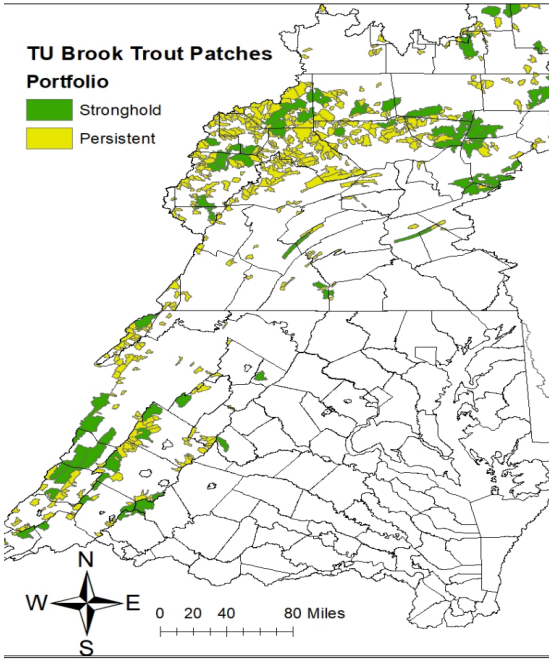
- Pollution reduction (N, P, S)
- Count Practices
- WIPs designed for TMDL

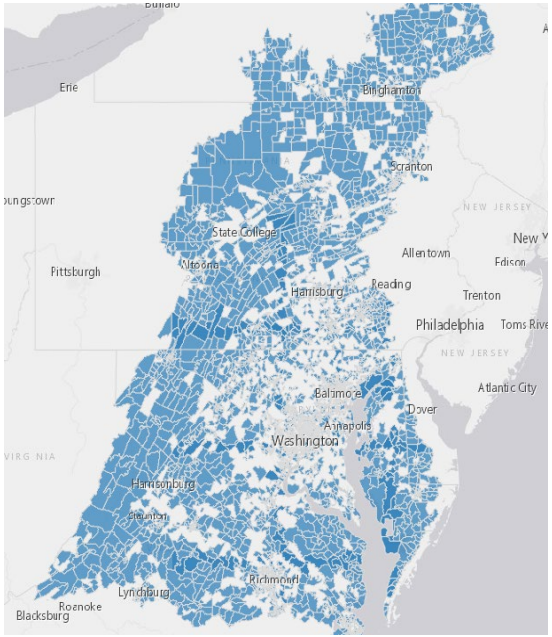
Shift toward counting outcomes rather than practices

Integration

Brook Trout







Habitat **Climate** **EJ**

Moving towards healthy watersheds

Data, Tools, Monitoring

Planning

Community Engagement

Watershed Actions

Accountability

Habitat
Climate
EJ

“Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage, and a diversity of engaged stakeholders.”

Credits

A special thanks to:

- Katie Brownson
- Sherri Degraphenreed
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- Sophie Waterman

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Mentimeter

1. Are we on the right track?

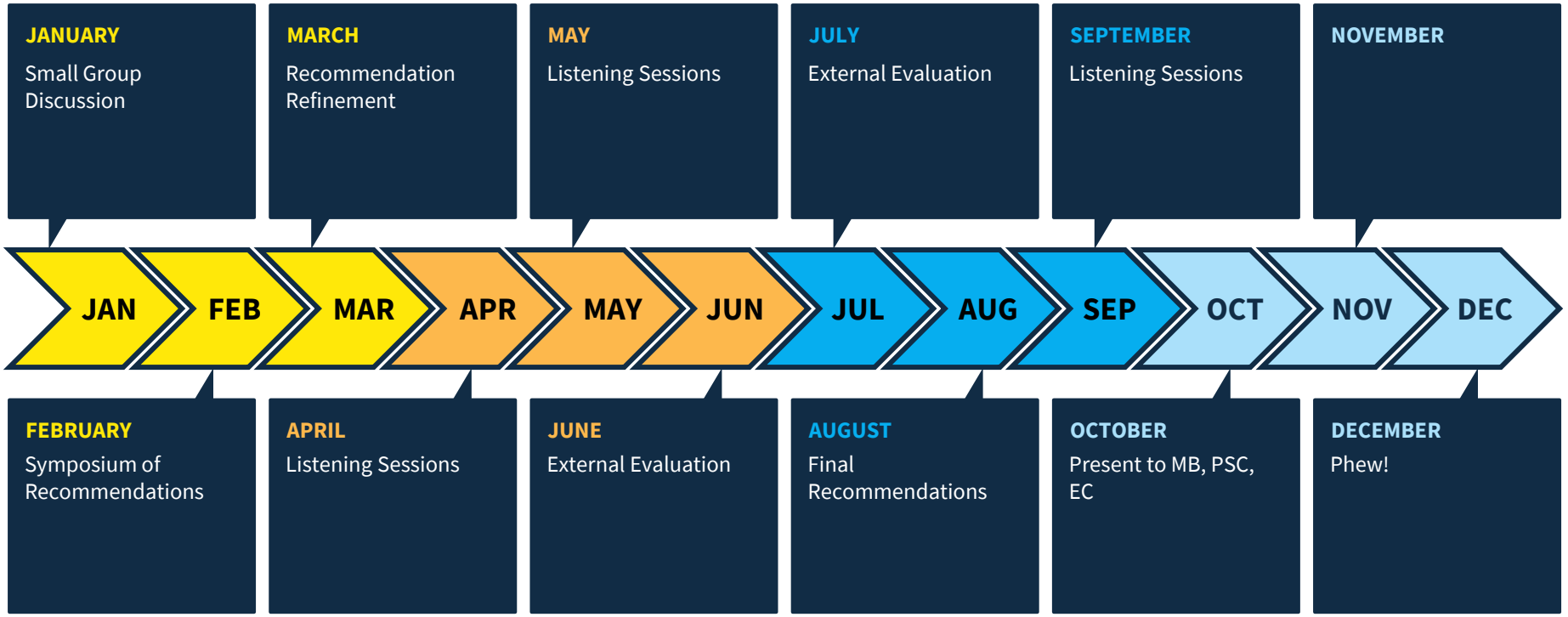
2. Does the Vanguard approach presented make sense?

Breakouts

1. What components of these recommendations do you think will be most impactful for improving and maintaining watershed health?

2. What else should we consider as we develop recommendations for improving and maintaining watershed health?

Timeline


JANUARY
Small Group Discussion
MARCH
Recommendation Refinement
MAY
Listening Sessions
JULY
External Evaluation
SEPTEMBER
Listening Sessions
NOVEMBER
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
FEBRUARY
Symposium of Recommendations
APRIL
Listening Sessions
JUNE
External Evaluation
AUGUST
Final Recommendations
OCTOBER
Present to MB, PSC, EC
DECEMBER
Phew!

Thank you!

Any questions? Jeff Lerner, HWGIT chair
You can contact me at lerner.jeffrey@epa.gov

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