



Habitat Goal Implementation Team
December Steering Committee Call Minutes
December 19, 2013
2:00-3:30 PM

Participants: Mike Slattery (Chair, FWS), Jana Davis (Vice Chair, CBTrust), Jennifer Greiner (Coordinator, FWS), Hannah Martin (Staff, CRC), Deb Hopkins (FWS), Tai Chang (FWS), Julie Winters (EPA), Jim Hedrick (WVDNR), Neely Law (CWP), Lee Karrh, (MDNR), Bruce Vogt (NOAA, GIT1), Emilie Franke (CRC, GIT1), Steve Perry (EBTJV), Karl Lutz (PA), Sadie Drescher (CWP), Julie Mawhorter (USFS)

Action Items:

- Mike/Jennifer/Hannah will send the group some options for a restructured Habitat GIT membership list
- Wetland Workgroup: identify priorities and needs and leadership/members of the wetland expert panel and send to Water Quality GIT by mid January 2014
- Neely will send to Jana and Jennifer as materials for Winter2014 meeting
- Agenda for winter 2014 Habitat GIT meeting to be finalized before Jan 14 and guidance will be sent for the one-pager updates. And options for membership. January 16th Next call.

Decisions:

- Winter 2014 Habitat GIT Meeting. February 26th - Theme: finding synergies among efforts of partners engaged in habitat work around the watershed
- Next Call-January 16, 2014

Minutes

-Habitat GIT Membership

- Numerous people on the GIT—need to cull the distribution list.
- Will be working on restructuring and streamlining the structure
- **Action:** Mike/Jennifer/Hannah will provide options for people to consider that would include diverse representations of jurisdictions, agencies, and other partner organization (including NGO world involved with habitat restoration)

-BMP Expert Panel Reports

- These expert panel reports have the potential to have huge ramifications but the process doesn't seem to include enough groups to comment on the report.
- Right now—only Water Quality GIT has official input on these reports. When other resources could be impacted, other GITs should be included Worthwhile for GITs to

discuss how panels are put together, what happens on the panel, where the outputs go, how we can weigh in. Make sure there is enough input from ALL of the GITs.

- Request: Wetland Expert Panel is on aggressive timeline
 - EPA brought in Vtech gentleman that wrote proposal per a request from EPA to look at restructuring of which BMP panels are prioritized to provide additional resources (technical and funding assistance) and providing coordinator point person who oversees all the panels and providing logistical support and technical support.
 - All workgroups-including Habitat GIT have been requested to prioritize the panels they have upcoming and determine the needs for each panel.
 - Habitat GIT has one upcoming panel; Wetland Panel. We need to look at what is needed for people and funding and supply that information to Water Quality GIT by mid January.
 - **Action:** Wetland Workgroup: identify priorities and needs and leadership/members of the wetland expert panel.
 - Neely: suggestion as material to provide people with the BMP expert panel protocol that has been approved and current guide/process that EP use.
 - **Action:** Neely will send to Jana and Jennifer as materials for Winter2014 meeting.

Updates:

- Mike Slattery met with Jake Riley (Chesapeake Program Director for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation). Discussed how to tighten connections between Bay program partnerships priorities, GIT priorities, and NFWF funds. Possibility that 4 GIT chairs (Fish, Habitat, Stewardship, and Healthy Watersheds) would play high role in steering committee with the funds (reviewing proposals and providing input) and hopefully balancing the funds out for water quality and habitat restoration priorities. Jake will come and meet with the GIT chairs in January to discuss this opportunity and have broader discussion.
 - Julie Winters: Project manager for part of the funds that go into NFWF funds. Hopefully they will be crafting process that you can get front end advice, this would be great so that it's not water quality dominated. It's difficult because nitrogen and sediment reductions (inherently water quality related) are specifically spelled out as priority for a large portion of NFWF stewardship funds.
- Brook Trout: removing fish passage barriers where fragmentation is the main contributor to habitat BT loss and where riparian stressors will be focused. Also including conservation priority that has long term monitoring and working with Chesapeake Bay Program to look at long term trends. Conference with North Atlantic LCC about expanding assessment work to include brook trout and selecting Chesapeake Bay area as place to start to develop models for brook trout that would include giving us decision support tools to identify priority areas to work in.

Winter 2014 Feb Meeting

- Feb 26th or 27th

- North Point State Park (southeast Baltimore)
- One day Meeting because of travel restrictions
- **Decision:** Choosing February 26th - Theme: finding synergies among efforts of partners engaged in habitat work around the watershed.
- Show the PSA that CBP communications team put together for EC meeting.
- Wetlands, BT Habitat and Streams, Cross GIT Collaboration in Susquehanna
- “recovery potential screening tool” Doug Norton EPA. Invite to speak to GIT
- Possibly add Scott Schwenk or Todd Petty to discuss brook trout with Genevieve
- Discussion. What does this group want to discuss????
 - Karl:permitting issues. PA permitting system is getting more and more complicated. Look to streamline this or separating restoration from development projects. Can we look at restoration permitting differently than those causing destruction?
 - Julie Winters: Advance the monitoring discussion. Requirements in order to validate the establishment of certain functions. 1. Was it properly installed 2. Functional uplift improvement. 3. Refined so we know what we need to monitor and what we agree on.
 - Neely-update on BMP verification that will provide protocols to the states for verifying BMPs (wetlands and stream projects)
 - Add on to the end of the agenda.
 - Helpful to have guiding questions on this. We can send this out beforehand.
 - What are your projects based monitoring programs now
 - What do you do with the data when youre done
 - How much do you spend?
 - Is there a better model to get better answers to your questions—rather than project-to-project monitoring.
 - Whats a more appropriate solution? What can the GIT do for the members?
 - Is your project-by-project monitoring system adequate with the funding currently allocated?
 - Leader: Jana
 - Update sections: one page briefing pages to provide before the meeting. Prepared to have a succinct update and entertain any burning questions within your jurisdiction or organization.
 - How can we make sure people read this in advance?
 - Finalize this agenda and generate interest in the meeting-advertisement. Finalize before Jan 14. Guidance will be sent to the one-pager updates. And options for membership.
 - January 16th Next call.