



## Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 10:00am-3:00pm

[Fish Shack](#), Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
410 Severn Avenue,  
Annapolis, MD 21403

Conference Line: 929-205-6099, Conference Code: 857 606 769

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/857606769>

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**10:00 am**      **Welcome and Introductions**

**10:15 am**      **Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) in the Chesapeake**

– Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech

The Chesapeake Bay Program has a goal of maintaining the long-term health of watersheds identified as healthy by its partner jurisdictions. Quantitative indicators are important to assess current watershed condition, track future condition, and assess vulnerability of these watersheds to future degradation. Building upon EPA's Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) framework, this project has assembled and evaluated a set of candidate metrics characterizing multiple aspects of landscape condition, hydrology, geomorphology, habitat, biological condition, and water quality, for integration into an overall watershed health index. Vulnerability metrics were derived including future developed land use, forest loss, protected land status, and brook trout susceptibility to climate change. At this meeting, the project team will discuss the development of the Chesapeake PHWA indicators, key findings, and data availability.

-Angel Valdez, MDE

Angel Valdez will discuss how MDE is looking to utilize this data to help assess the vulnerability and health status of Maryland's Tier II watersheds. MDE will work to incorporate the PHWA into the Tier II workplan as a vital component for outreach and improved decision-making.

*Goal Team Actions: The team is seeking feedback on the utility of the compiled healthy watershed data and input on how best to provide these data for a variety of users.*

**11:15 am**      **Chesapeake Conservancy Geospatial Contract and Land Use Methods and Metrics**

**Outcome** - Peter Claggett, USGS CBP

Peter will provide an update on the CBP Geospatial Contract with the Chesapeake Conservancy to estimate land cover/use change at 1m resolution and produce 1:2000-scale, three-dimensional stream corridors (width, depth, length) with unique characteristics of flow permanence and incision. These data can inform the next generation of metrics relevant to watershed health.

*Goal Team Actions: HW GIT members are requested to provide feedback as to the potential use and application of this work as it relates to the HW Goal.*

Peter will also solicit input on diagnostic measurements of watershed health that are affected by land cover/use change (e.g., stream flow, temperature, incision, BIBI's, etc.). Components of watershed health that have been monitored over long periods, 1985 – present, are preferable. This information is needed for the Land Use Methods and Metrics Outcome which calls for quantifying the impacts of land conversion on water quality, healthy watersheds, and communities.

*Goal Team Actions: Please review the current version of the Land Use Method and Metrics [Management Strategies and Logic Tables](#) (workplans), they will be passed on to the Management Board for final approval later this summer.*

**12:15 pm**

**Healthy Watersheds GIT SRS Updates – Renee Thompson, USGS CBP**

The second round of the Strategic Review System will be starting in August 2019, including the Healthy Watersheds cohort. This cohort includes Healthy Watersheds, Stream Health, Protected Lands, Fish Habitat and Fish Passage. We will be expected to evaluate the logic and action plan, management strategy and identify any gaps to achieving our goals. This will be a brief overview of the timeline and expectations for preparing for this process. Our first check in meeting is set for July 2<sup>nd</sup> where GIT leadership will be meeting with GIT 6 and sharing preliminary narrative materials and assessing progress on logic and action plan (Green, Yellow, Red to indicate complete, in progress or not completed/no longer a priority).

Materials: SRS [Cohort Status](#)(filter by Healthy Watersheds), SRS [Timeline](#), current [workplan](#) (Logic and Action Plan) and [management strategy](#)

*Goal Team Actions: Members are requested to work with Renee and Nora to indicate progress toward actions over the last two years. Please download this newly formatted Logic and Action Plan and color code your individual jurisdiction actions. Please provide the color-coded Logic and Action plans back to Renee or Nora no later than **June 18<sup>th</sup>**.*

**Local Government Communication and Engagement Strategy Update –** Renee will also provide an update on new formation of The Local Leadership Workgroup that engages and empowers local government officials to leverage resources and ensure better outcomes in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation work. This group was tasked by MB to [develop a strategy](#) for communicating with and engaging local government to achieve the Watershed Agreement Vision and will take a phased approach to do so, beginning with the consolidation of all CBP Workplan actions that require local government engagement/action into one document to find similarities and common messages.

**1:00 pm**

**Lunch (Please place a lunch order with Nora by 10:15 am or bring your own – [Jimmy Johns Menu](#)).**

**1:30 pm**

**Healthy Watersheds Forest Phase III Project Updates –** Greg Evans, Virginia Special Assistant to the Secretary, Office of the Governor, Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry, and John Griffin, Program Manager, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership. Phase III of this project is focused on two tasks: 1) Working with Essex and Orange Counties in VA to develop and implement plans, policies, and ordinances that foster high quality forest and agricultural land retention using “tool kit” from phase II, and

2) Designing and piloting county level models that incentivize landowner action, facilitate economic development for the community, aggregate lands to be conserved, and attract large-scale private investment to conserve valuable tracts of land using carbon markets as proxies for water quality. Greg and John will briefly review the status of each of these tasks, discuss current issues, and provide some early findings from land owner outreach, community workshops, and progress toward effective local government, community and land owner engagement.

*Goal Team Actions: HW GIT members are requested provide input in to how this project can help inform action in their jurisdiction as well and be open providing input on how to translate projects and products like this to resources for local government and other influencers of land managers (e.g., the Local Government Communications and Engagement Strategy).*

**2:00 pm**

**2019 GIT Funding Review, Nora Jackson, HW GIT Staffer**

Nora will provide a brief overview of the criteria and timeline for FY 2019 GIT funding proposals. Some other Cross – GIT proposals, related to Healthy Watersheds that are under development will also be presented.

*Goal Team actions: Members are requested to spend some time thinking about whether we want to develop a new proposal(s), support continuing existing projects, as well as assist in the development of other cross-GIT needs. Feedback will be needed from members no later than **June 13<sup>th</sup>**. Contact: Renee Thompson*

**2:15 pm**

**Demonstrating Stream Health Improvement from Healthy Watershed Actions in Maryland – Mark Southerland, AKRF Inc.**

This research used Maryland stream data, protected lands data, and statistical analysis to determine the effect of healthy watershed actions (protected land vs. unprotected land) on stream condition (FIBI, BIBI). It found that generally, protected areas are not always better, but streams on large, well-managed protected sites tend to perform better and that preserving healthy watersheds provide ecosystem services over time.

*Goal Team actions: This [agenda item](#) keeps with the tradition of the HW GIT being a “forum for mutual shared learning”. There are no actions or decisions requested of the Goal Team. Time will be provided for questions.*

**2:45 pm**

**Action Items and Wrap-Up**

**3:00 pm**

**Adjourn**