



Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting

October 3rd, 2019 10:00am-2:00pm

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

Conference Line: 929-205-6099, Conference Code: 570 907 383

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/570907383>

10:00 am Welcome, Introductions and Updates

- 10/21 Climate Resiliency Workgroup [meeting](#) (Nora will be presenting the CHWA at the meeting and have a discussion with the workgroup for future coordination with the HWGIT)
- 10/21 – 10/22 10th Annual Working meeting of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (Renee will be attending as the Protected Lands data analyst as well as in her capacity as HWGIT coordinator).
- 10/29 GIT Chairs Leadership meeting: interactive conversation about how the Healthy Watersheds Assessment can be useful to other goal teams and outcomes and incorporated into existing tools, with a deeper dive on fish habitat, stream health and land use. (Renee and Angel will be attending on behalf of the HWGIT).
- 10/31 Stewardship GIT and the Communications Workgroup are hosting a Behavior Change / Community Based Social Marketing training (in person at the CBF headquarters, Annapolis)
- 11/15 - 11/17 Chesapeake Watershed Forum – Renee and Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech CHWA contractor will be presenting a Poster at the forum.
- 12/6 Maryland Water Monitoring Conference - Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech CHWA contractor, Renee and Peter will be joining others as part of a panel on healthy watersheds.
- Announcement: Now available: [Healthy Waters/Forest Retention Project-Phase III: Final Report for Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)

10:15 am Update on Management Board SRS process and next steps – Renee Thompson, USGS

The second round of the Strategic Review System took place in August 2019, including the Healthy Watersheds cohort. This cohort includes Healthy Watersheds, Stream Health, Protected Lands, Fish Habitat and Fish Passage. Our Chair, Angel Valdez presented to the Management Board for the quarterly progress meeting on our accomplishments as well as the individual contributions from the jurisdictions. You can review all the meeting materials for the Healthy Watersheds cohort including: [presentation](#), [narrative analysis](#), and [logic and action table](#) on the [Chesapeake Decisions](#) website, where you can also find more information about the Strategy Review System (SRS). Renee will review the key actions as a result of the Management Board review

and outline next steps for updating the logic and action table. In addition, an update on the related Science needs for the GIT will be reviewed.

Actions: members are requested to provide feedback on initial recommendations for amendments to the logic and action table presented. Please come prepared having reviewed the current logic and action table.

- 11:00 am** **Review of Outcome, Management Strategy Themes and State Identified Healthy Watersheds (Definitions),** Nora Jackson, CRC
- Nora will provide a brief overview of Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Team Outcome, MS Themes and Vision and the State Identified Healthy Watersheds to help guide the discussions throughout the day.
- 11:10 am** **USGS Presentation on New Science Directions** – Ken Hyer USGS
- USGS scientists from around the Chesapeake Bay Watershed region have been undertaking an extensive effort to use the science needs from the goal teams to set new directions for their work to support the partnership from 2020-25.
- 11:30 am** **USGS Science Theme 3: Assessing Watershed health,** Renee Thompson and Peter Claggett, USGS
- Peter and Renee will review elements of Theme 3 of the USGS Science Plan which directly support the healthy watersheds outcome. Theme 3 of the USGS Science plan is focused on how to best characterize land use and change to assess the vulnerability and resiliency of vital lands and healthy watersheds.
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch (Please place a lunch order with Nora by 10:15 am or bring your own – [Jimmy Johns Menu](#)).**
- 12:30 pm** **Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) and Tracking the Health of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds–** Renee Thompson and Peter Claggett, USGS
- The [Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment](#) is near completion. A preview of the initial results, key metrics and datasets, scale, and visualization will be presented to the GIT. The final report will be shared with the entire team as soon as it becomes available. While the CHWA was developed to help track the health of state-identified healthy watersheds, the USGS Science Plan provides an opportunity to broaden the options for tracking watershed health. Potential tracking options include:
1. Should we use the CHWA as is to track watershed health?
 2. Should we develop statistical models that directly relate watershed assessment metrics to diagnostic measures of watershed health?
- (Depending on time and the direction of earlier conversations we will move into this section of the agenda).Tracking watershed health is essential for ensuring that 100% of state identified healthy watersheds remain healthy. Equally essential are state adaptive management strategies that respond to changes in watershed health.

Actions/Discussion questions:

What additional information will be needed (data, monitoring, statistical analyses) to support a management response?

What are the qualities of an “actionable” indicator of watershed health?

What are the management responses if conditions in State Identified Healthy Watersheds degrade?

How should such information be communicated to managers to trigger a response?

2:30 pm Action Items and Wrap-Up

2:45 pm Adjourn