

March Habitat GIT Steering Committee Call

3/21/13

Participants: Jeff Horan, Doug Besler, Gwen Brewer, Albert Spells, Jennifer Greiner, Jim Hedrick, Julie Mawhorter, Lee Karrh, Mark Secrist, Sadie Drescher, Sally Claggett, Julie Winters, Anna Stuart Burnett

Draft Work Plan 12-13

- SAV: Lee Karrh
 - RFP is out and the workgroup's work is done
 - The restoration strategy is done
 - Need to add Tech Syn III to the second line, December 2014 as timeline
 - Need to implement the strategy as an ongoing task
 - Hoping to build a bridge between the decision frameworks as a way to display the work of the GIT as a whole and the workgroups
- Fish Passage:
 - Mary Andrews helped craft 4 tasks
 - Hydropower licensing will become a priority
 - Stream connectivity and barriers is a focus
 - 1:24,000 fish passage scale in Chesapeake Bay (but doesn't show culverts)
 - No good digital data set
 - Need to alert Mary of a potential opportunity—LCC Funding
 - Request from Eric Martin to build in a brook trout layer into the tool (Cali is aware but Steve is not). **Jennifer will forward request to Doug Besler and Steve Perry.**
- Streams: Mark
 - Still formational in membership
 - In January asked if there was interest in a stream restoration workgroup membership, but only got 4 responses.
 - Neely Law is with CWP working with CBP on stream and sediment related content. Will have follow-up conversation with CWP folks to jumpstart the right group of stream minds.
 - Need to finalize stream health decision framework
 - Goal of workshop is to create agreement on methods for designing sustainable restoration projects, identify best practices, and document agreement. Proposal received promising input but no funding yet.
- Wetlands: Jennifer Greiner
 - Want to hear states' wetland restoration priorities and how this correlates with WIPs
 - Need to work on prioritizing projects

- Facilitating focused discussions should include MD
- Brook Trout
 - Management board accepted catchment based metric
 - Created outcome language, needs to be approved by GIT and Management Board
 - Update on EBTJV: Mark leaving slowed our progress
 - Draft letter from GIT 2 to EBTJV on things to work together on. How do we move forward?
- Black Duck
 - STAC workshop scheduled for April 16-17 on the Eastern Shore of MD in Easton
 - Important to look at all habitat types
 - The workshop will focus on three themes; 1.) Ecosystem Components of Coastal Habitats 2.) Capacity of Coastal Habitats to Support Flora and Fauna 3.) Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats in the Face of Human Development, Climate Change, and Sea Level Rise.
- Decision Framework: Habitat GIT
 - Using 7 step process
 - SAV: bubble framework
 - Trying to link restoration efforts of various habitat types to biological species responses
 - Summarizes a complex 35 page document
 - “at a glance what we’re about” and communication tool
 - Use framework and indicators to ID what is and isn’t working and how to tweak our management strategies
 - Is this a valuable way to visualize and assess our strategies and efforts?
 - Need a way to align sediment and streams work
 - Does it make more sense to have strategy ahead of factors and current efforts in the DF bubble circle? Overall it simplifies the adaptive management process. People generally like the concept.
 - Why is wood thrush under the wetlands decision framework as a target species? It will be removed.
- Invite Doug Besler to EBTJV talks.
- Regulatory Update: Julie Winters
 - State of MD is doing own regulatory streamlining effort
 - MDE held a day-long meeting with regulatory and restoration stakeholders from local govts and watershed organizations looking to streamline wetland and stream restoration projects
 - About to send out a compendium of action items. Not everything is complete (such as things for the Watershed Forum)
 - GIT 2 habitat work is part of the compendium, including January letter to Nick.

- **Jen will send request to GIT 2 in early April for their approval of two BMP verification protocols (streams and wetlands)**
- Going back to 3rd Thursdays at 2:00 pm.