



Stream Health Work Group Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2013
10:30 – 12noon

Participants: Rich Staff, Mark Secrist, Neely Law, Bill Stack, Lisa Fraley-NcNeal, Jennifer Greiner, Hannah Martin, Mike Slattery, Claire Buchanan, Nat Gillespie, Anne Hairston Strang, Pete Hill, Rob Shreve, Ron Klauda, Jeff Lapp, Scott Lowe, Larry Lubbers, Serena McLain, Karen Sykes, James Fulcher (TU-VA), Jake Tomlinson (TU –PA)

Others to confirm participation via conference call: Gary Speiran , Brian Yanchik , Denice Clearwater

MINUTES

Action items in bold

- Rich Starr lead discussion with opening remarks from Jennifer Greiner and Mike Slattery
- Mike Slattery placed an emphasis for the work group to work in an operational framework of shared priorities with other GITs and work groups, working cooperatively to achieve Bay restoration goals. The Stream Health Work Group identify and share priorities with Habitat GIT
- Jennifer Greiner invited participants to the upcoming Habitat GIT face-to-face meeting. January meeting date TBD
- Rich Starr added this work group needs to be locally-relevant and serve local/regional restoration objectives and serves to demonstrate successful practices and programs. There is a need for this work group to identify tools and funding needs and make recommendations to the Bay Program and its Partnership
- One of the first tasks that could be for the work group is review/participate in the STAC workshop on “Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects in the Chesapeake Bay”. Work Group sub-committees may be set-up in the future to address other specific topics of interest identified by the group
- Next meeting will review the draft scope and purpose; identify projects in Bay/local jurisdiction; opportunities to coordinate effort, update on STAC workshop
- **ALL participants to send information that might be relevant or of interest to the work group (email with request to follow)**
- **ALL participants to provide additional names of interested people to serve on Work Group**
- **Hannah Martin will send out a poll to set-up the the next meeting**

Open discussion with participants identified the following topics of interest or information relevant to the work group

- Data available from EPA Region 3 regional monitoring network effort identify streams to monitor to assess climate change vulnerability; EPA wadeable streams assessment and how it relates to the Bay Program
- More coordination needed to address invasive species. Coordinate with other GIT (e.g. Sustainable Fisheries)

- Evaluate cost-effectiveness of prevention versus restoration measures and how protection measures may be applied towards TMDLs
- Ensure the science of restoration is up-to-date with policy. (e.g. Evaluate how streams respond to restoration measures, expenditures via MD "Rain Tax")
- Need to better understand biological communities across regions & coordinate/integrate databases across the Bay.
- Need decision tools more biologically focused to assess stream health. Some common performance standard or metric to assist designers where stream restoration can achieve biological functional lift
- Challenge to breakdown complexity within Ecoregions & change in stream continuum to develop specific performance measures and targets
- What is an acceptable target for upland retrofits in urban context and its effect on stream health?
- Look at other data such as impervious cover that is a key hydrologic variable and its impact at different scales; data quality is important (e.g. LIDAR vs 30 m) to develop performance standards
- Work Group is an opportunity to exchange regional issues, find common ground and solutions, clearinghouse for stream health/restoration
- Defining what is a success? What are we restoring to (e.g. disequilibrium v equilibrium, reference to Utah/West coast experience)
- Discuss how public expectations may be addressed or incorporated as part of stream restoration goals
- **Rich Starr to follow-up with specific research on this topic**

Potential Resources:

- EPA 'data registry' project to provide basic data availability, what data layers are available, what data is needed
- North Atlantic NCC, scope of work for project, develop spatially explicit models and tools – capitalize work that is being done
- Rich Starr mentioned that this group in WV is developing other tools (e.g. stream restoration for brook trout)
- Serena McLain mentioned that Chair for Dam Removal group can provide input/tips from Dam Removal group on how we might go about being a clearinghouse for stream health