



Stream Health

Rich Starr

*Environmental Planning and
Restoration, LLC*

Mike Lovegreen

*Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Workgroup Co-Chairs*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Vital Habitats*

Outcome:

Continually improve stream health and function throughout the watershed. Improve health and function of 10 percent of stream miles above the 2008 baseline for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



What We Want



- Active leadership and involvement in accomplishing biennial workplan tasks.
- Funding to establish the 2008 baseline and document progress towards our Outcome

1

Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?



Logic Behind Our Outcome

Factors

- Ecological Stressors & Factors
- Policy & Administration
- Scientific Knowledge & Application of Research

Current Efforts and Gaps

- Baseline conditions
- Stressor Identification
- Restoration focus on Water Quality
- Knowledge of stream health responses to restoration
- Lag time in biological response to restoration
- Function-based metrics
- Permitting Process

Management Approach

- 5 Management Approaches
- 13 Key Action Items

2

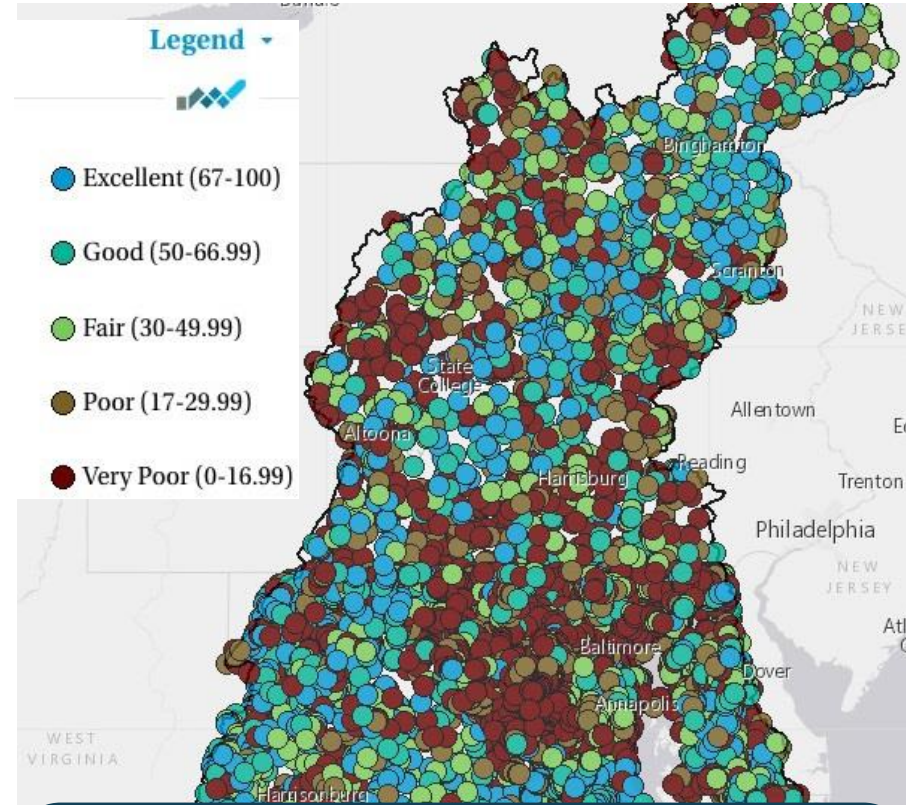
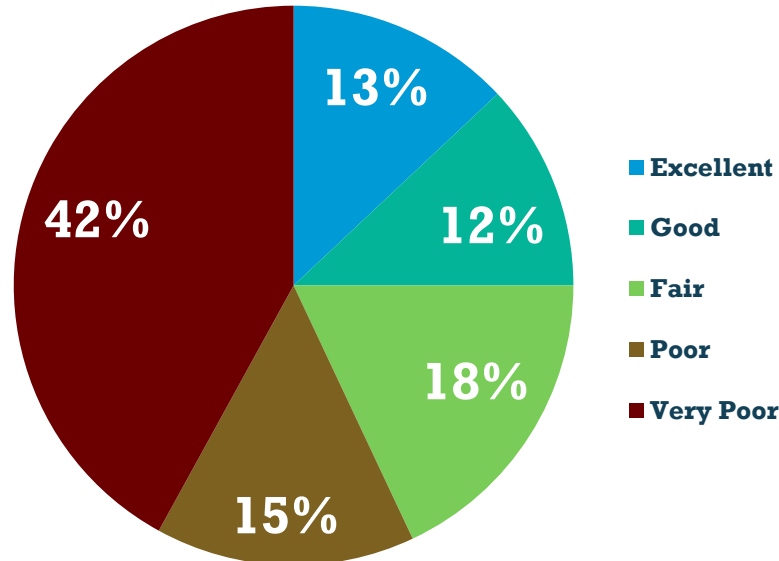
Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



What is our status?

Stream Health 2000-2010:
Average Indicator of Biotic Integrity Ratings of
10,492 Sampling Sites



- Data has been submitted by states to CBP
- Need 2008 baseline



Progress?

- **Baseline Indicators are in development**
 - Data has been submitted by States to CBP
 - Data conversion necessary
 - Proposal to move forward has been developed (cost \$18k)
 - SHWG needs to review proposal and provide implementation recommendations
- **Policy and Regulations**
 - COE and States have developed streamline policies for TMDL projects
 - Discussions have begun with MDE to incentivize biological uplift in TMDL projects
- **Scientific Knowledge**
 - CBT – Pooled Monitoring
 - Fish Habitat WG - STAC Stressor Workshop



Analysis

Most critical progress so far:

- States provided data for Chessie BIBI
- Database established
- Work Done by Others

Most critical for future progress:

- Establish the 2008 Baseline
- Set interim success criteria
- Permit process – *innovation, induced flooding, resource trade-offs, effects of WQ driven projects on biology*
- Increased knowledge of stream functions – *Need Pooled Monitoring in other states*
- Transfer of knowledge into guidelines – *cross state and government coordination*
- Trainings on use of guidelines – *cross state coordination and government*
- Biological incentives associated with TMDL – *MASRC Plenary Session*

3

Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

- Fill SHWG chair position
 - Active/committed workgroup member participation and follow-through on workplan actions
- **Science**
 - Expanding and sharing of increased knowledge
 - Establishing interim success criteria
 - **Policy and Regulations**
 - Incentivizing biological uplift
 - Continuing to streamline permitting process
 - **Financial**
 - Funding to establish 2008 baseline

4

Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



Based on what we've learned, we plan to...

- Revisit Bi-Annual Action Plan tasks and revise appropriately
- Continue toward tasks in our robust workplan with active enrollment of workgroup members.





What We Want



- Active leadership and involvement in accomplishing biennial workplan tasks.
 - New Co-chairs
 - Staff Performance Plans
- Funding to establish the 2008 baseline and document progress towards our Outcome
 - \$18K requested

Discussion