



## Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

### Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting

April 14th, 2025 | 11:00am - 1:00pm

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Link](#)

**Meeting ID:** 254 361 809 990 **Passcode:** VC7ja3MF

**Conference Line:** +1 469-208-1525 **Passcode:** 150 417 828#

*This meeting will be recorded for internal use to ensure the meeting note accuracy.*

<b>11:00</b> (5 min)	<p><b>Welcome and Announcements</b> – Jeff Lerner (HWGIT Chair, EPA)</p> <p>For roll call purposes, please enter your name &amp; affiliation in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 19th (9am-12pm) - <a href="#">Local Leadership Workgroup Quarterly Meeting</a> (the focus of this meeting will be on land use and development).</li> </ul>
<b>11:05</b> (20 min)	<p><b>Update on the Beyond 2025 Process and Status of the HWGIT &amp; LUWG Outcomes</b> – Peter Claggett (HWGIT Coordinator, USGS)</p> <p>Jeff and Peter will provide an overview of the LUMM, LUOE, and Healthy Watersheds outcome review process and the final revised recommendations which received consensus from the MB on March 27th and were presented to the PSC on March 28th.</p> <p>Summary of the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclassify Land Use Methods and Metrics (LUMM) under Land Use Options Evaluation (LUOE)</li> <li>Replace Land Use Options Evaluation (LUOE) with the proposed Land Use Decision Support Outcome</li> <li>Reclassify Healthy Watersheds as outputs supporting the Protected Lands, Stream Health, and the proposed Land Use Decision Support outcomes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discussing the Future of the HWGIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Draft Proposed Watershed Health Goal Language (To Update the Healthy Watersheds Goal):</b> <i>Protect and sustain waters and watersheds to achieve and maintain high ecological value.</i></li> <li><b>Draft Land Use Decision Support Outcome Language (To Replace the Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome):</b> <i>Develop and disseminate locally-relevant and actionable information to organizations involved in the land use planning process on past, present, and future landscape conditions and the potential environmental consequences of landscape change.</i></li> </ul>	

The following agenda items align with the overarching theme of envisioning the potential future of the HWGIT and its connections with relevant workgroups and outcomes:	
<b>11:25</b> (20 min)	<p><b>Metrics and Targets for the Land Use Decision Support Outcome</b> - <i>Peter Claggett (HWGIT Coordinator, USGS), Sarah McDonald (LUWG Coordinator, USGS)</i></p> <p>This discussion will involve brainstorming and exploring potential metrics and target language to include in the proposed Land Use Decision Support Outcome, in preparation for the Management Board's April 25th deadline to finalize draft outcome language.</p> <p><b>Draft Land Use Decision Support Outcome Language (To Replace the Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome):</b> <i>Develop and disseminate locally-relevant and actionable information to organizations involved in the land use planning process on past, present, and future landscape conditions and the potential environmental consequences of landscape change.</i></p> <p>Example Metric: Cumulative number, variety, and geographic scope of land use information use cases (reported annually).</p> <p>Example target: Continually increase the number, variety, and/or geographic scope of use cases for land use information.</p>
<b>11:45</b> (15 min)	<p><b>Reconstituting the LUWG Membership</b> – <i>Peter Claggett (HWGIT Coordinator, USGS) and Sarah McDonald (LUWG Coordinator, USGS)</i></p> <p>A key element of the proposed Land Use Decision Support Outcome involves reconstituting the LUWG as a community of practice for land use planning within the watershed, a concept that has been under consideration within the LUWG for some time. This discussion will provide an opportunity to begin defining what this might look like in practice, including considerations around membership and the role of the LUWG in overseeing the proposed Land Use Decision Support Outcome.</p>
<b>12:00</b> (30 min)	<p><b>Setting the Watershed Health Output Metric and Target Language under the Protected Lands Outcome</b> – <i>Jeff Lerner (HWGIT Chair, EPA), Peter Claggett (HWGIT Coordinator, USGS), and Aurelia Gracia (Protected Lands Coordinator, NPS)</i></p> <p>Jeff, Peter, and Aurelia will lead a discussion on draft language for a healthy watersheds/watershed health output under the Protected Lands Outcome, in preparation for the Management Board's April 25th deadline to finalize draft outcome language.</p> <p>Options for draft watershed health output language under the Protected Lands Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2040, maintain or improve the health of an additional ___ % of the basin's highest functioning sub-watersheds to ensure long-term ecosystem resilience.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2040, target _% of the protected lands outcome acreage goal in the highest functioning sub-watersheds to ensure long-term ecosystem resilience.</li> </ul> <p>Key Discussion Questions: How are we going to identify the highest functioning sub-watersheds? What level of protection is sufficient to say we maintained these areas?</p>
<b>12:30</b> (15 min)	<p><b>Discussing Potential Watershed Health Output Language for the Stream Health Workgroup to Consider under the Stream Health Outcome</b> – <i>Jeff Lerner (HWGIT Chair, EPA) and Peter Claggett (HWGIT Coordinator, USGS)</i></p> <p>Jeff and Peter will facilitate a conversation around drafting potential watershed health output language for the Stream Health Workgroup to consider during their upcoming meeting on <a href="#">April 18th</a>.</p>
<b>12:45</b> (15 min)	<p><b>Discussing the Overlap and Working Relationships Between Other Groups and Outcomes</b> – <i>Jeff Lerner (HWGIT Chair, EPA) and Peter Claggett (HWGIT Coordinator, USGS)</i></p> <p>How can the Healthy Watersheds GIT, Land Use Workgroup, Forestry Workgroup, Protected Lands Workgroup, Stream Health Workgroup, Local Leadership Workgroup, and Local Government Advisory Committee work most effectively together to support each others' outcomes?</p>
<b>1:00</b>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><i>Next HWGIT Meeting:</i> <a href="#">Monday, June 9th (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)</a></p>