

Crediting the Maintenance of Healthy Watersheds

A STAC Workshop Proposal from the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT

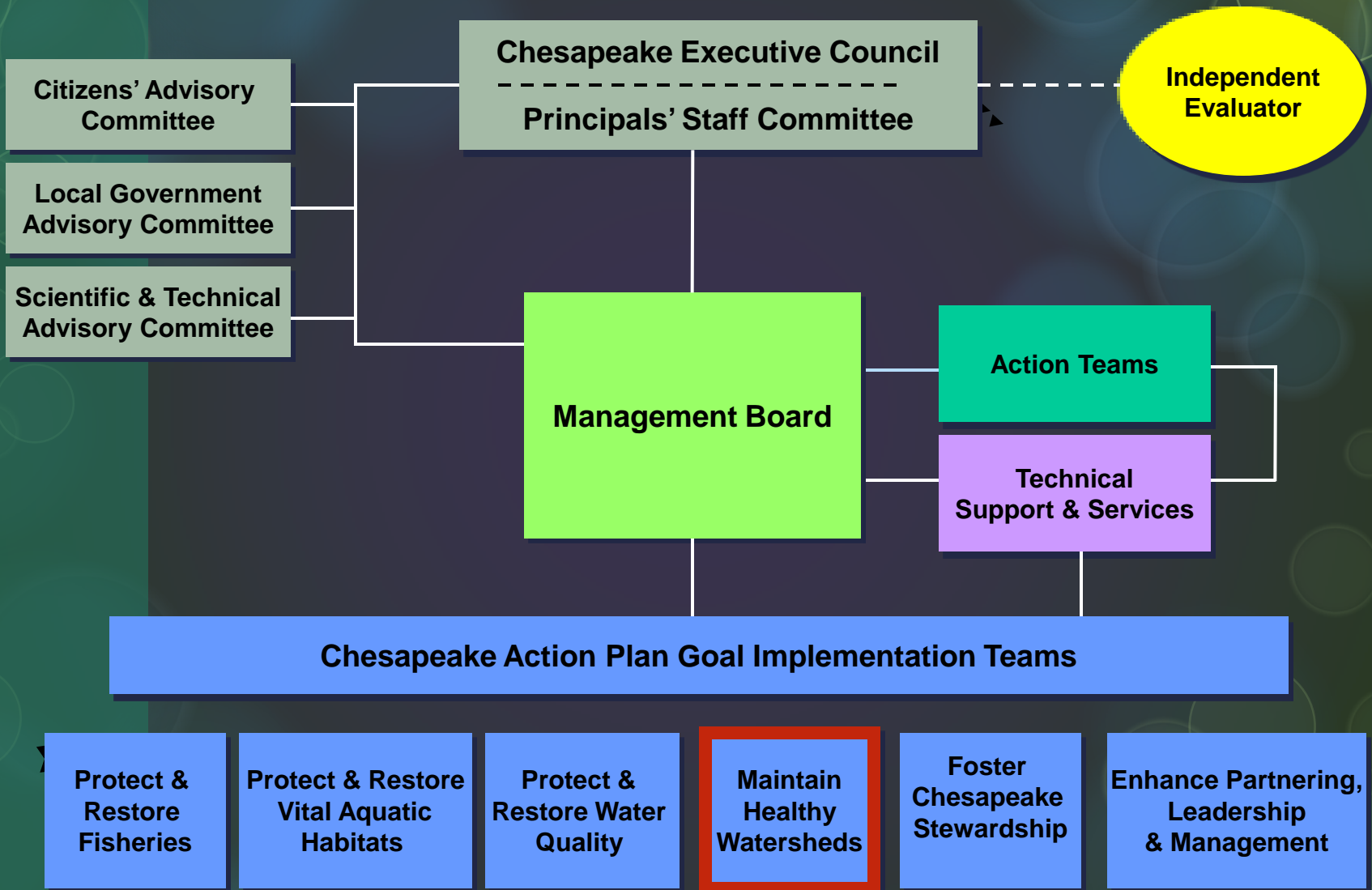


Mark Bryer, TNC, GIT Chair

Mike Fritz, EPA, GIT Coordinator

Anna Stuart Burnett, CRC, GIT Staffer

CBP Organization Chart



Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT (GIT 4)

○ **Goal:** Maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts





GIT 4 Initial 2011 Work Plan

- Convene the GIT 4 forum at least three more times to:
 - Identify tools and approaches that are successful
 - Identify opportunities to promote healthy watershed maintenance
 - Consider options to track progress
- Develop communication tools
- Pilot a fish community indicator of watershed health
- **Propose a workshop to explore linkage between healthy watershed protection and the Bay TMDL**

Workshop Steering Committee

- Mark Bryer (TNC, GIT 4 Chair)
- Mike Fritz (EPA, GIT 4 Coordinator)
- Greg Garman (VCU, STAC)
- Ann Swanson (CBC)
- Rick Hill (VA DCR)
- Joan Salvati (VA DCR)
- Pat Buckley (PA DEP)
- Peter Claggett (USGS)
- Dan Baldwin (MDP)
- Sally Claggett (USFS)





Rationale

- Restoration of the Bay depends on the protection of resource lands that maintain watershed health
- Forest loss and stream degradation undermine restoration efforts
- Protection of ecological function is far more cost-effective than restoration
- Bay TMDL is the primary framework for implementation

Questions

- Is there a way to incorporate resource land protection into the current water quality management system?
- If so, how?
 - Modeling changes?
 - Phase II WIPs?
 - TMDL Phase III?



Potential Opportunities

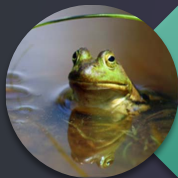
- Credit actions that avoid conversion of forests and other resource lands
- Establish common terms and conditions for use in trading and offsets
- Create a basis for incentives
 - Local land use planning
 - Private land owners
- Increase assurance that load caps will be maintained



CBP Stakeholders



Maintain Healthy Watersheds



Protect and Restore Vital
Aquatic Habitats



Water Quality



Fostering Chesapeake
Stewardship

Proposed Timeline



- March 4: GIT 4 Support for STAC workshop
- March 22: STAC Meeting – initiate dialogue
- April 12: Brief the Management Board
- April – May: Steering Committee scoping
- June: STAC Meeting – discuss full proposal
- June – September: Plan workshop
- Fall 2011: Convene workshop and draft report
- Late Fall 2011: Recommendations to the Management Board

“The Ask”



- Engage in scoping
- Consider a path forward at the June STAC meeting
- Reserve funding

Thank you!

