



Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)  
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)  
Blueprint for Building Partnerships and Recommendations for  
Scaling Brook Trout Restoration in Stronghold and Persistent Patches (PA)  
May 29, 2025  
[Lakeview Lodge](#) in DuBois, PA  
[Workshop Webpage](#)

**Workshop Goal:** Identify and synthesize the science needed, and local/county considerations and needs, to develop an actionable large-scale restoration plan to increase brook trout occupancy, abundance and resiliency within and among stronghold and/or persistent patches in priority geographies in PA and MD. These rural communities are vulnerable in a number of ways including income, social resilience, and accessibility. See table 1 for demographic information.

**Workshop Objectives:**

1. Identify, quantify, and summarize all known current threats (e.g. acid mine drainage (AMD), unforested riparian areas, unrestricted livestock access, passage barriers, etc.) to brook trout populations within and among stronghold and persistent patches in each county.
  - a. Identify which resource agencies and organizations that administer programs to address each stressor directly.
2. Assess current brook trout populations within stronghold and persistent patches and identify where brook trout can successfully recolonize, recover or be repatriated.
3. Develop an implementation strategy and recommendations for priority BMPs including; timelines, costs, funding mechanisms (e.g., grants or specific funding programs), and public engagement. Possible resulting strategies that will be explored include improving land use planning through local zoning; identify land conservation priorities; and local government planning to prevent future loss through land conservation.
4. Convene local leaders and resource partners as a steering committee to help guide the process and ensure representation that reflects community voices, particularly those that are often under-represented. Ensure balance of community, state and federal stakeholders, with priority given to the community. Solicit input from the local steering committee members to help identify and invite participants for the workshop.
5. Formulate a repeatable blueprint for interjurisdictional partnerships to develop a brook trout restoration plan for other Chesapeake Bay watershed counties

**May 29, 2025**

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| <b>8:45 am</b> | <b>Coffee &amp; Light Breakfast (Provided)</b>  |
| <b>9:00 am</b> | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br>Overview of workshop objectives and structure; the WHY  |
| <b>9:10 am</b> | <b>Presentation: Threat Assessment – Dan Goetz (MD DNR), Shawn Rummel (Trout Unlimited)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Threats and Current Habitat Assessment: Presentation of county-level threats to brook trout habitat</li><li>● Defining a Healthy Brook Trout Population: What metrics and conditions define health and resilience in brook trout populations.</li></ul> |
| <b>9:40 am</b> | <b>Programmatic Overviews from Experts</b><br>Short (15 min) overviews from Program Matter Experts, including representatives from NRCS, abandoned mine reclamation, and county planning. Each expert will discuss current efforts and  |



programmatic support available for brook trout restoration.

**9:40 am** *Tyler Wagner (USGS Coop-PSU)*  
**9:55 am** *Jason Detar (PA Fish and Boat Commission)*  
**10:10 am** *Chris Peters (NRCS)*  
**10:25 am** *Danielle Rihel (PA DCNR)*

**10:40 am** **15-minute Break**

**10:55 am** **Programmatic Overviews from Experts (continued)**

**10:55 am** *Jon Smoyer (PA DEP BAMR))*  
**11:10 am** *Kelly Williams & Josh Glace (Clearfield and Potter County Conservation Districts)*  
**11:30 am** *Steve Bloser (Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads, PSU)*  
**11:45 am** *Robin Eng (PA DCNR)*

**12:00 pm** **Lightning Talks Q&A**

**12:20 pm** **Lunch (Provided)**

**1:20 pm** **Creating a Brook Trout Stakeholder Collaborative**

The goal of this session is to identify a process and strategies to collaboratively work together to increase the rate and scale of brook conservation projects.

- o What plans are driving brook trout conservation projects?
- o Who are the people that need to/can be involved in a brook trout collaborative?
  - o Is there interest in STAC workshop attendees?
  - o Who/what are the major funding agencies/sources?
  - o Who are the primary implementers?
- o Should we/how can we establish brook trout conservation portfolio as the authoritative [project prioritization tool](#) ?
- o Should we/how do we insert brook trout into county WIP/CAP plans?
  - o Should they be?

**2:00 pm** **15-minute Break**

**2:15 pm** **Breakouts: Recommendations and Strategies for Large-Scale Restoration and Planning and Implementation (See Draft Outline and Questions).**

**Goal:** Outline an operational restoration plan to achieve the new brook trout outcome goals.

**3:00 pm** **Breakout Group Report-out and Discussion**

**3:30 pm** **15-minute Break**

**3:45 pm** **Group Plenary: Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations**

Led in a facilitated discussion by steering committee members, participants will prioritize key findings from the workshop and breakout sessions.

**4:15 pm** **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

Summary of key takeaways, actionable steps, and discussion of June 3, 2025 Maryland-specific workshop date.

**4:25 pm** **Workshop Adjourns**