



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

June 3, 2025

[Carroll County Agriculture Center](#) in Westminster, MD
[Workshop Webpage](#)

****Exact Times Are Subject to Change****

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

June 3, 2025

8:30 am **Coffee & Light Breakfast (Provided)**

9:00 am **Welcome and Introductions**
Overview of workshop objectives and structure; the WHY

9:10 am **Presentation: Threat Assessment – Dan Goetz (MD DNR), Shawn Rummel (Trout Unlimited)**

- Threats and Current Habitat Assessment: Presentation of county-level threats to brook trout habitat
- Defining a Healthy Brook Trout Population: What metrics and conditions define health and resilience in brook trout populations.

9:40 am **Programmatic Overviews from Experts**
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 *Jason Cessna (MD DNR)*
9:55 am *Janet O'Meara (Carroll County Department of Planning & Land Management)*
10:10 am *Tracy Kelly (Garret County Department of Public Works)*
10:25 am *Shayla Lewis (MDE)*

10:40 am **Lightning Talks Q&A**

10:55 am **15-minute Break**

11:10 am **Programmatic Overviews from Experts (continued)**

11:10 am *Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)*
11:25 am *Morgan Kaumeyer (Baltimore County DEPS)*
11:40 am *Julie Devers (NRCS-FPAC)*

11:55 am **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.

- How might we advance our common interests to conserve Brook Trout?
- Who are the people that need to/can be involved in a brook trout collaborative?
 - Potential Collaborative Leaders?
 - Who are the key partners? Are there individuals who aren't in the room that should be?
- How do we prioritize projects?
 - Should we/how can we establish brook trout conservation portfolio as the authoritative [project prioritization tool](#)?
- How do we elevate brook trout in county WIP plans?

2:10 pm **10-minute Break**

2:20 pm **Breakouts: Recommendations and Strategies for Large-scale Restoration Planning and Implementation ([See Draft Outline and Questions](#))**

Goal: Outline an operational plan that helps achieve the new brook trout outcome goals.

3:20 pm **Breakout Group Report-out and Discussion**

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.

- What recommendations to the Bay Program to facilitate, increase, incorporate brook trout conservation into large scale planning efforts?
- Are there key messages to relay to key Chesapeake Bay leadership at the state level?

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

Summary of key takeaways, actionable steps, and discussion of the recent May 29, 2025 Pennsylvania-specific workshop date.

4:25 pm **Workshop Adjourns**