

## **Final Report**

### **Agreement Between the Chesapeake Bay Trust and The Nature Conservancy**

**Project Name:** Identification of Additional Healthy Watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed portion of West Virginia

**Reporting Period:** Final Report, March 24, 2015 to December 1, 2015

**Recipient:** The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia

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#### **Introduction**

On March 24, 2015, The Nature Conservancy entered into an agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to expand the West Virginia Watershed Assessment Pilot Project into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed portion of West Virginia. The project was conducted to advance outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement but more specifically, to assess the condition and function of watersheds within the Potomac headwaters region of West Virginia and identify healthy watersheds in the region for potential inclusion into the State-Identified Healthy Watersheds dataset maintained by the Chesapeake Bay Program. The project was supported by funds received by the Chesapeake Bay Trust from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and was part of the Bay Program Goal Implementation Team Project Initiative.

The West Virginia Watershed Assessment Pilot Project was originally completed by The Conservancy under a Wetland Program Development Grant awarded to the WV Department of Environmental Protection by US EPA Region III. The original Pilot Project developed and tested the methodology to assess the condition and function of watersheds at two different spatial scales in West Virginia – HUC 12 watersheds and NHDPlus catchments. The scope of work for this project was to expand the geographic coverage of the Pilot Project into the Chesapeake Bay portion of West Virginia utilizing the same methodology. This included completing assessments of all HUC 8 watersheds within the Potomac headwaters region of West Virginia (Cacapon-Town, Conococheague-Opequon, North Branch Potomac, Shenandoah, and South Branch Potomac). In addition, the project methodology was expanded to include the identification of Healthy Watersheds at both the HUC 12 and NHDPlus catchment scales. A summary report on the methods used was submitted as part of the final deliverables.

## **Project Deliverables**

1. Identification of healthy watershed within the project study area at the HUC 12 and NHDPlus catchment scale.
2. Identification of healthy watersheds in West Virginia at the HUC 12 and NHDPlus catchment scale using the existing State-identified healthy waters.
3. Summary report of methods used.
4. Watershed and healthy waters data in GIS compatible format (ESRI shapefile, file or personal geodatabase) and metadata in Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) format.
5. Final report on project status.
6. Draft deliverables due by September 1, 2015, and final deliverables due on December 1, 2015.

## **Project Deliverables Completed**

The project was initiated on March 24, 2015. Draft deliverables including preliminary results for all HUC 12 watersheds within the project area were submitted on September 1. Final deliverables were submitted on December 1, 2015, including:

1. Access databases for each HUC 8 watershed.
2. GIS data including all of the raw data that went into the assessment metrics, shapefiles, and a geodatabase of results.
3. The assessment methodology including a report on the methodology used and tables of metrics, data sources, flow charts, and thresholds.
4. Maps in PDF file format of the HUC12 and catchment results for each HUC8 watershed.
5. Maps in PDF file format of the Healthy watershed results at the HUC 12 and catchment scale for both the objective and relative method.
6. This final project status report was submitted on December 2, 2015.

## **Project Deliverables Not Completed**

All deliverables specified in the agreement were completed.

While not part of the formal deliverables, The Conservancy had indicated in our proposal that we would complete a “Consolidated Analysis” of the project area. The Consolidated Analysis looks at future potential threats from development, energy development, and climate change, and also conservation opportunities – landscapes within organizational priority areas or adjacent to existing conservation lands. That analysis is almost completed, but has not been posted to the Box site yet. I expect that to occur within the next few days.

We also plan to publish the results of the analysis on the West Virginia Watershed Assessment web portal at <http://www.watershedmapwv.tnc.org/>. That should occur within the next two months.

## **Budget Status**

A final accounting of the project budget was not available at the time this report was prepared. However, based on current projections the project will come in under budget. This is in part due to using an existing Conservancy computer rather than purchasing one specifically for the project, and in part due to less time being needed for the project by certain staff than anticipated. A final accounting of the project will be provided with submission of the final invoice.

## **Equipment Use**

We had specified the purchase of a computer and an external hard drive in the Agreement. The Conservancy did not purchase a computer, but instead utilized an existing Conservancy computer for the project. We did purchase a 2-TB external hard drive which was used to store and back up the data and analysis, and was used exclusively for this project. Once all products have been reviewed and approved by the Trust, the Conservancy will ship the external hard drive to the Trust with all project deliverables included in electronic storage.

## **Project Deficiencies and Corrective Actions**

No project deficiencies were noted and no corrective actions taken.