



Adaptation Workgroup Meeting- August

August 25th, 2026
1:30-3:30pm

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

Purpose: The workgroup will hear presentations on Place-Based work methods as examples of our work moving forward, as well as review and provide feedback on the draft management strategy.

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

We will run through any announcements for the workgroup. New Signatory and at-large members will introduce themselves.

Lead: Ben McFarlane (Co-Chair, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, HRPDC) and Natalie Snider (Co-Chair, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, MDNR)

Materials: n/a

Decisions:

N/A

Actions:

N/A

Discussion Notes:

- Norah Carlos, Ariel Trahan, Amy Freitag, John Reynolds, Krista Romita Grocholski, Patricia Leopold, Arianna Johns, Nicole Carlozo, Michael Maddox, Kevin Du Bois, Jason Dubow, Molly Mitchell, introduced themselves as Adaptation members.

II. Workgroup Updates

We will review the workgroup's tasks coming up, as well as review the expectations of those that are members. We will review possible recruitment opportunities to fill membership gaps.

Lead: Julia Fucci, Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC)

Materials: Presentation slides

Decisions:

N/A

Actions:

- If you are not a member and want to be added to the non-voting or interested parties list, reach out to Julie Reichert-Nguyen, julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov.

Discussion Notes:

- **Ben McFarlane:** This is a good opportunity if people have questions about the distinction between levels of membership. The voting members are those who have been selected by either the signatories or the nomination process we just completed. We also have non-voting members and interested parties. The new model the Bay Program is using is a more consent based approach. We are looking for ideas and participation regardless of your member status, we would like everyone to agree with the things we end up adopting or recommending to the goal team. The voting mechanism will only come into play for certain circumstances which we will talk about later on. If you are not a member and want to be added to the non-voting or interested parties list, let us know.

III. Place Based Methods Presentations

We will hear from Natalie Snider and Julie Reichert-Nguyen, who will share successful place-based methods as examples for the workgroup to think about when structuring future work. Julie will share updates and successes of Marsh Adaptation work, and Natalie will review the Whole Watershed Program.

Lead: Natalie Snider (MDNR), Julie Reichert-Nguyen (NOAA)

Materials: Presentation slides

Decisions:

N/A

Actions:

- Explore use of GSAT mapper, [Connecting Watersheds to Tidal Water Quality](#), to aid in informing the selection of adaptation subwatersheds. POC: Alex Gunnerson and Andy Fitch.

Discussion Notes:

- **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** I am just learning about the Whole Watershed program. The dollars that are provided, are they more for implementation of projects or are there actually dollars to help with planning and design?
 - **Natalie Snider:** We are providing funding for planning, design, permitting, and construction. So we support the project pipeline to get to construction. What we are finding is that by building the pipeline, some of the projects find another construction source, and then frees up money to do things within the whole watershed, and I think that is powerful. We also provide funding for some capacity and outreach and engagement, so it is holistically looking at what is needed.
- **Kevin Du Bois:** I'm wondering if you are familiar with what was reviewed at the clean water goal team yesterday. There is a new tool being developed where you can select a watershed and look at where most of the pollutants are coming from. It seems like it would be a really powerful resource if you have specific targets you are trying to restore.

- o **Natalie Snider:** One of our whole watershed partners is working on something similar, I don't know if it is the same people, but they are working to connect GIS mapping to monitoring resources and hoping to utilize monitoring data to inform the outcomes we are achieving. There may be some connectivity there. Is the tool you referenced for all of the bay? That would be fantastic.
 - **Kevin Du Bois:** It is for all of the bay. The link is [here](#). The contacts for the project are Alex Gunnerson at USGS and Andy Fitch at USGS. It is still beta.
- **Peter Claggett:** Are there common needs or gaps that exist across these five watersheds you have identified that the bay partnership could assist with?
 - o **Natalie Snider:** The biggest gaps we have seen are those of planning and capacity dollars. I am not sure that is a place where bay partnership resources would be put, but once they have those resources to plan they can get projects on the ground. On the monitoring side, which might be a place where this group could help the whole watershed effort, is providing more technical assistance on monitoring and designing monitoring plans to make sure we are able to document the outcomes we are achieving.
- **Jason Dubow:** To Julie's presentation, low hanging fruit could be to identify existing adaptation programs within each signatory and how those will contribute to implementing this outcome.
 - o **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** I like that idea a lot. We could copy and paste that as a work plan action for when we start developing that in the fall.

IV. Management Strategy Review

We will review the current draft of the Management Strategy, the feedback we received, and leave room for comments and suggestions.

Lead: Natalie Snider (MDNR) and Ben McFarlane (HRPDC)

Materials: Menti (See results below)

Decisions:

N/A

Actions:

- Please provide feedback on the Management Strategy Draft by COB September 4th

Discussion Notes:

In reference to Menti Questions:

- **Ben McFarlane:** One of the key differences between where we are now and what we're working on compared to the work that we did under the Climate Resiliency Workgroup is that we now have more specific quantitative outcomes. The efforts that Natalie and Julie were talking about are examples of programs and activities that we're going to be looking at supporting. When you're thinking about other things that we can work on, those are certainly some guiding lights in terms of the types of activities that have been explored in Maryland. To Jason's point in the chat, we could turn that into a management approach. We could almost carbon copy that. So just be thinking about those low hanging fruits. And I think actually, that's one of the specific things that we are looking for more information on are some of those existing programs that are out there that we could try to tie into and share information from one state, one jurisdiction to another.
- **Ben McFarlane:** The answers to this first menti question point to the need to not re-invent the wheel. Which is good, we are not interested in replacing existing programs, but

identifying things that have been used in a jurisdiction to determine where lessons learned can be applied elsewhere.

- **Natalie Snider:** In response to the second question, the response 'don't spend time identifying ideal watersheds' is interesting- does that person want to come off of mute and elaborate?
 - **Jason Dubow:** I wrote that, it would be disappointing to have identified ideal subwatersheds and then not be able to find actual opportunities in those watersheds.
 - **Natalie Snider:** It brings up another point that we have talked about, because we do need to identify watersheds to work in. But we don't have to do that on day one, we can start with one or two. We have to be strategic on how we engage in each of the watersheds and do some learning along the way for ourselves. To Labeeb's question in the chat, we do not have existing criteria for identifying those. That is, in my mind, one of the first things that we have to do. I mentioned in the whole watershed presentation some of the criteria we had to consider, where it is not just the environmental outcomes, but the diversity of geographies and environments.
 - **Ben McFarlane:** Although we haven't established official criteria yet, we are looking for a diverse set of sub-watersheds to tackle as many types of challenges as possible in many types of communities in the partnership.

In reference to the draft Management Strategy

- **Ben McFarlane:** Before we get into the specifics, we are looking for information on existing programs from our signatories. We've got a few, but would love to have more examples from states beyond Maryland and Virginia. One of the struggles we have is that we don't have long-standing members like some of the other groups, so we had a small group working on the management approaches. We would really like your feedback over the next couple of weeks.
- **Jason Dubow:** Regional & Federal Funding Programs
 - **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund:** In partnership with the EPA's [Chesapeake Bay Program](#), NFWF manages two main funding channels:
 - **Small Watershed Grants (SWG):** Supports community-based projects for climate resilience, habitat restoration, and local water quality improvement.
 - **Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants (INSR):** Funds regional adaptation initiatives like living shorelines, riparian forest buffers, and wetland restoration to absorb floodwaters and trap runoff.
 - **Chesapeake Bay Trust Grants:** Manages programs like the [Watershed Assistance Grant Program](#) (partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources) to fund design and planning for natural infrastructure, living shorelines, and stormwater adaptation.
- **Kevin Du Bois:** Can we have time to review the document?
 - **Ben McFarlane:** We can share this with you all. We have a deadline of September 11th, so we would need comments back by next Friday, September 4th.
- **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** Sarah, from my understanding the management strategies are meant to be succinct, at a higher level. Is that right?
 - **Sarah Brezinski:** Yes, the strategies describe the major approaches the group wants to take over the next six years, and the work plan will detail individual projects.
- **Nicole Carlozo:** For 3.1.1, I would recommend adding some language about tailoring technical assistance for each subwatershed.
- **Sarah Brezinski:** I'd recommend collaborating with SET on 3.1.2
- **Jason Dubow:** When I read the title of 3.1.2, it gives me the sense that you are looking for a comprehensive strategic network map, which I think you aren't trying to do. In a sense, what you are trying to do under 3.1.2 is to develop a strategy in the second sentence for how you

work with all these people in a network. I just think you might want to revise the wording. Maybe add engagement strategy into the title.

- o **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** We have been working with the bay program on this one, to complete networking technical assistance that we are eventually going to bring to the workgroup. We also do need to figure out as a group how we are going to engage with other networks.
- o **Amy Freitag:** So to me, it's really fun to talk about this one because I'm a sociologist and do a lot of social network mapping. I'm hearing that we should see who's who's in the networks and how they're connected. Step 2 is figuring out where we fit in as potential connectors for where the role is intentional connection making.
- o **Krista Romita Grocholski:** I think adding some language about looking for opportunities for scaling and expanding could be included in the technical assistance approach (3.1.3) so we do our best to ensure that the framework taken for providing the technical assistance isn't so specific that it would be difficult to build off of for future work/additional projects.
- o **Jason Dubow:** It seems we need a management approach that discusses implementation of specific projects in order to achieve the second part of the Adaptation outcome.
- o **Jason Dubow:** One thing to think about is, what is the value added of the management strategy vs. the null alternative, if we didn't do anything? What will we do that accelerates action
 - **Natalie Snider:** I think the value added is the peer-to-peer learning, especially when you get out of the jurisdiction level and get down to the municipalities where a lot of this is going on on the ground. We can play the role of informing where action is going on, or take something unique and innovative in one area and expand its outreach.
- **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** This will be rolled up into an overarching Healthy Landscapes Goal Team strategy, so this is our subchapter. Within Healthy Landscapes there is work being done across all outcomes that are trying to do cross-cutting work, so keep that in mind too, that we can collaborate with other groups under the goal team.
 - o **Peter Claggett:** Every group in the bay program basically struggles with delivering technical assistance. And everyone's networks will be different. But we can all collectively learn from each other. Everyone wants a network, but it is ill-defined what that means and how it will be leveraged.
- **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** Sarah, you have seen a lot of strategies, are timelines generally incorporated into them?
 - o **Sarah Brezinski:** In most cases we are seeing timelines in the work plans. The management strategies are more like buckets, what projects will be in what time frame, and then being built out fully in the work plan.

V. Adjourn

Next Meeting: TBD

Attendees:

- Julia Fucci, CRC
- Julie Reichert-Nguyen, NOAA
- Ben McFarlane, HRPDC
- Jason Dubow, MDP
- Michael Maddox, UMD

- Nadya Chehab, MDA
- Ariel Trahan, DOEE
- Kevin Du Bois, DoW CBP
- Dr. Yi Liu, Morgan State University
- Mike Allen, UMCES- MD Sea Grant
- Natalie Snider, DNR
- Nicole Carlozo, DNR
- John Reynolds, DNREC
- Amy Freitag, NOAA NCCOS
- Krista Romita Grocholski
- Cass Klingaman, DEC
- Marel King
- Taryn Sudol, MD Sea Grant
- Amanda Malagari, DNR
- Michelle Katoski, USGS
- Deborah Herr Cornwell, MDP
- Sarah Brzezinski, EPA
- Norah Carlos, CBC
- Labeeb Ahmed, USGS
- Kate Vogel, NWF
- Patricia Leopold, FS, MI
- Natalie Snider, MDNR
- Cassandra Davis, DEC
- Kevin O'Hare, MDT
- Lisa Dosmann
- Megan Beever, CBC | Sea Grant Fellow
- Molly M. Mitchell, VIMS
- Peter Claggett, USGS
- Katherine Brownson, FS, MD
- Arianna Johns, DEQ

MENTI Results

Question 1

WHAT ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENVISION OUR WORKGROUP FOCUSING ON? FOR EXAMPLE, TYPES OF NBS, OR WORK WE CAN PROMOTE?

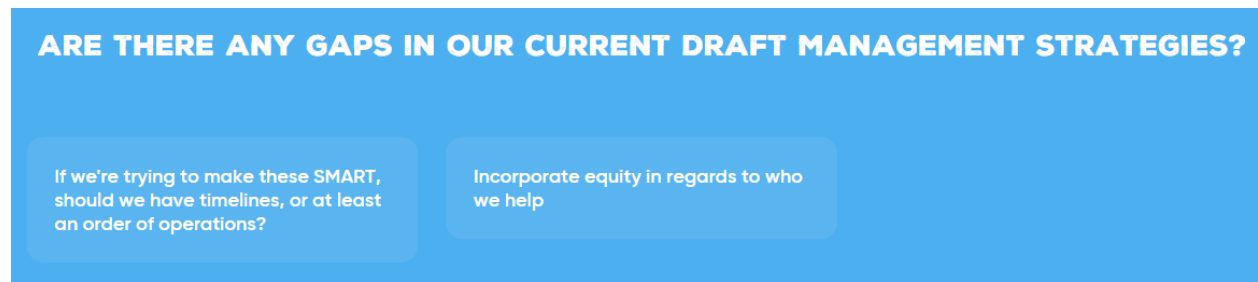
Building resources along the adaptation pathway - vegetative buffers through relocation	Monitoring or other evaluating existing adaptation efforts	Flood resilience strategies
Developing local and regional communities of practice	Helping people choose the right adaptation approach	Marsh Migration pathways
Prototypes for conservation in a changing environment on private lands –e.g. plans, innovative funding	How do you build resiliency of private shorelines?	Understand how changes to rainfall and weather are impacting forests and nontidal wetlands in non-coastal areas of the watershed. This would bring in PA, WV, and NY.

Large scale marsh enhancement that requires coordination across many landowners/managers/partners.	Forest conservation and restoration for flood/heat mitigation	Evaluating regional trends in flooding using existing tools such as MyCoast
Creating/highlighting options for different environmental stressors	understanding forest squeeze from SLR and marsh migration creating ghost forests	Determining if a combination of adaptations can have synergistic effects, and if so, helping coordinate those benefits
Help with identifying metrics for successful adaptation	Tech assistance for site selection, monitoring, and NBS for stormwater management.	How do you protect existing infrastructure or phase out old infrastructure with things like SLR (ie septic)
Central location for best practices, including for identifying best projects and identifying financing	When developing mapping tools for land use, consider land development thresholds for living resources (fisheries, wildlife)	upland ecosystem health/resilience as a means for protecting water quality

Question 2

WHAT'S OUR BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY IN THE COMING 1-2 YEARS?		
Don't spend time on identifying ideal sub-watersheds.	Community migration	To share best practices and innovate resilience techniques!
The region is leading on adaptation in so many ways. Facilitating learning across the watershed.	Converting bulkheads on private lands to shorelines	Adaptations that address more than coastal flooding - it feels like the conversation around stormwater and heat are picking up
Leveraging the resources of other CBP workgroups in selected areas	Holistic resilience planning – seeing storm water resilience, urban heat reduction, and community protection as joint work	Find existing efforts now
Tying on the ground adaptation work with science needs that would make their work better	Agree with addressing multiple hazards and holistic adaptation	Identify which adaptation projects have been most easily identified and financed by the signatories and NGOs
	Interesting how the outcome is written to support resilience of infrastructure, which would support road/bridge resilience projects. But not sure how that helps the Bay.	

Question 3



Question 4

