



**2022 WETLANDS WORKSHOP**  
**VIRTUAL ONLY VIA WEBEX**  
**AUGUST 2-3, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Purpose:** Bring together key people **to identify actions to overcome the barriers** of implementing nontidal and tidal wetland restoration and accelerate progress towards the Wetlands Outcome identified in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

**Workshop Outcomes:**

- 1) **Understanding of the Barriers:** Discuss current efforts to create, restore and enhance tidal and non-tidal wetlands across the watershed. We will identify the key barriers that prevent us from getting closer to the outcome expectations established in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- 2) **Identification of Approaches:** Discuss novel and innovative approaches in overcoming financial limitations to wetlands creation, restoration, and enhancement; explore project successes; and discuss ideas for how we can emulate and do more of these projects in the Bay watershed by 2025. Identify strategies to increase or redirect capacity and resources within the Bay Program partnership to efficiently use existing funding sources and programs. Explore and identify strategies targeting new funding sources including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation; Americas Conservation Enhancement Act; Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD); America the Beautiful challenge grant; and Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
- 3) **Develop an Action Plan:** Within three months following the workshop, work with partners and workshop participants to develop an action plan that outlines steps and a timeline for dedicating resources to implementing these approaches.

**DRAFT FINAL AGENDA**

**DAY 1 – AUGUST 2, 2022**

**10:00 – 10:15 AM – WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS**

- Welcoming Remarks, *Michael Rolband, Director of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*
- Workshop Overview & Housekeeping Notes, *Sherry Witt, facilitator*
- Key Introductions

**10:15 – 11:30 AM – SESSION 1: WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?**

- **Chesapeake Bay Wetlands Overview** (~15-minute presentations with 5-minute Q&A for each)
  - 2025 Wetlands Outcome & Status, *Chris Guy, USFWS* (where we are as it relates to the Outcome, present wetlands definitions)
    - Tidal Wetlands, *Bill Jenkins, EPA* (overview of efforts in the Bay. Pam follows on with questions to Bill)
    - Non-Tidal Wetlands, *Pam Mason, VIMS* (overview of efforts in the Watershed. Bill follows on with questions to Pam)

- Wetlands Barriers & Grantee Challenges, Amy Jacobs, TNC (Ed Farley (DU) follows on with questions to Amy) (based on 2016 TNC Report, describes which barriers we are limiting for this workshop and why)
- History of Funding Efforts to Date, Stephanie Dalke, Environmental Finance Center

### 11:30-12:00 PM – SESSION 2: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

- **Polling Question:** (via Menti)
  1. *How much progress does your jurisdiction /organization envision it will play in achieving the 2025 outcomes (1-5 scale)?*
  2. *What do you need to meet the outcomes for the Bay (e.g., Targeting Tools, Programs Regulations, Rules)?*
- **Voices from the Field: Lightning Round Panel – Novel Approaches to Wetland Restoration, Creation, and/or Enhancement (Part 1)** (~90-minutes, includes a 10-minute break halfway through, includes discussions/Q&A at end) (template to be provided to panelists)
  - 5-minute lightning round presentations (i.e., 1 slide, short video, or recording per presentation from practitioners of each watershed state that discuss what is critical to get projects in the ground (e.g., criteria used, funding strategies, engagement with partners on funding), give a sense of what is possible to be successful)
  - **MD tidal project:** Wicomico Dredge Project, Dave Curson, Audubon
  - **VA tidal project:** TBD
  - **DE tidal project:** South Wilmington Wetland Park, Mark Biddle, DE DNREC
  - **DC tidal project:** Matt Robinson/Jennifer Dietzen, DOEE

### 12:00 – 1:00 PM – LUNCH BREAK

### 1:00 – 3:15 PM – SESSION 2: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? (CONT'D)

- **12:30-2:00 PM: Voices from the Field: Lightning Round Panel - Novel Approaches to Wetland Restoration, Creation and/or Enhancement (Part 2)**
  - **MD non-tidal project:** Pokomoke, Steve Strano, NRCS
  - **VA non-tidal project:** TBD
  - **DC non-tidal project:** Josh Burch, DOEE
  - **DE non-tidal project:** Monitoring and Steps to Achieve Higher Function in Restoration, Alison Rogerson, DE DNREC
  - **PA non-tidal project:** Andy Klinger, PA DEP
  - **NY non-tidal project:** Wendy Walsh, Tioga County/Melissa Yearick, USC
  - **WV not participating**
- **Presentation Discussions:** (via Jamboard)
  - *What would it take to do many more of these projects to accelerate the rate of functioning wetlands?*
  - *What can your organization do to accelerate progress to the 2025 Outcome?*
- **2:00-2:45 PM: Small Group #1 Discussions** (Can have multiple groups of one group number to allow for about 7-9 participants in each breakout, dedicated facilitator for each group, information for each group captured via Jamboard, need to review the Outcome statement, participants will self-identify for breakout assignments)
  - Group 1 (Tidal Practitioners): *What are the ideas for tidal wetlands that can put us on schedule to move us closer to our Outcome?* Facilitators: Bill Jenkins, Nikki Rovner

- Group 2 (Watershed Practitioners): What are the ideas for tidal wetlands that can put us on schedule to move us closer to our Outcome? **Facilitators:** [Dimitri Rucker](#), [Amy Jacobs](#)
- Group 3 (Leadership): What governance changes need to be made at the local, state, or federal level to maximize attainment of Outcome? **Facilitators:** [Gina Hunt](#), [Ed Farley](#)
- Group 4 (Practitioners and Leadership): What are the programs that have the greatest amount of funding we can access for non-tidal and tidal wetlands? Why are some programs being undersubscribed? **Facilitators:** [Chris Guy](#), [Leon Tillman](#)
- **2:45-3:15 PM: Small Group Report Outs & Discussion**
  - *Top three actions from each breakout group*

### **3:15 – 3:30 PM – DAY 1 WRAP UP**

- **Key Takeaways from Session 1**, *Dave Davis (Virginia DEQ)*
- **A Look Ahead to Day 2**, *Sherry Witt*

## **DAY 2 – AUGUST 3, 2022**

**10:00 – 10:15 AM – OPENING COMMENTS & PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK**, *Dave Davis, Sherry Witt*

### **10:00 – 12:15 PM – SESSION 3: HOW DO WE ACCESS FUNDING?**

- **Polling Question:** (via Menti)
  - *Based on what you've heard from Day 1, prioritize where should funding be focused? (Monitoring, design/permitting, outreach/stakeholder engagement, implementation [restoration/creation, enhancement], grants match, capacity)*
- **10:00-11:30 AM: Panel Presentations: Our Current Trajectory: Funding Opportunities – Federal, State & Non-Federal Panel**
  - Federal Panelists:
    - NOAA, *Sean Corson*
    - USFWS, *Rick Bennett*
    - EPA, *Martha Shimkin*
    - NRCS, *Daniel Ludwig*
    - USACE Norfolk District, *Michelle Hamor, Planning Chief*
  - Non-Federal & State Panelists:
    - NFWF, *Jake Reilly*
    - DC, *Jennifer Dietzen, DOEE*
    - PA, *Robert Boos, PA Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENN VEST)*
    - VA, *Michael Crocker, VA DEQ (to be confirmed)*
    - NY, *Cassandra Davis, NY DEC*
    - DE, *Mark Biddle, DE DNREC*
    - WV (not participating)
- **11:30-11:50 AM:**
  - Lightning Round Panel Questions:
    - *States, how are you considering WIPs when accelerating wetlands restoration?*
    - *What strategies did you hear that we want to adopt or modify?*
    - *What constraints in the funding mechanism represents the biggest constraint to Outcome attainment?*

- *How do we secure capacity to be able to utilize federal and/or state funding?*
- **11:50-12:15 PM: Open Discussions** (federal, state, or grantee) (via Jamboard)
  - What action(s) can the federal, state, or grantee organization take based on what you heard today that would move us towards Outcome attainability by 2025?

**12:15 – 1:00 PM – LUNCH BREAK** (during lunch break, core team will develop Menti prioritization question based on report outs)

**1:00 – 3:15 PM – SESSION 4: HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?**

- **1:00-1:15 PM: Prioritization of Ideas from Session 2 Report Outs** (prioritize ideas via Menti poll from Session 2 breakout group ideas: *How would you prioritize the ideas in order of importance and feasibility?* Top ideas will form Session 3's small group discussions)
- **1:15-1:25 PM: Action Plan Proposal, Mike Rolband** (discuss the purpose of the action plan, how it will be implemented, and the process for how we develop it)
- **1:25-2:20 PM: Small Group #2 Discussions (40 minutes)** (have participants self-assign, by jurisdiction)
  - Small group questions (via Jamboard):
    - *How do we incorporate these new approaches/ideas into our processes and efforts for non-tidal and tidal wetlands? (e.g., How are you going to increase capacity? What types of funding have the greatest influence in your jurisdiction?)*
    - *How do we address them in the development of an action plan?*
  - Small group breakouts: **Facilitators: TBD**
    - Group 1: District of Columbia
    - Group 2: Delaware
    - Group 3: Maryland
    - Group 4: New York
    - Group 5: Pennsylvania
    - Group 6: Virginia
    - Group 7: West Virginia
- **2:20-2:50 PM: Small Group Report Outs & Discussion**
  - *Presentation of approaches*
- **2:50-3:15 PM: Implementation of Approaches Panel**
  - A panel of policy, management, and science experts share their perspectives to these approaches and how they can get us on the trajectory for outcome attainability for wetlands in the Bay watershed. Are these approaches implementable? Will they help us get where we want to go? What else do we need to consider? How can we make it better?
  - Panelists: CB Trust (Janna Davis), others TBD

**3:15 – 3:30 PM – DAY 2 WRAP UP, Dave Davis**

- **Key Takeaways from Session 2 & 3 Information**
- **The Way Forward: Preparing for & Presenting at the November 2022 Management Board Meeting**
- **Next Steps & Closing Comments** (discuss touch point meetings prior to the MB meeting, the MB special meeting in November/December, and a 1-year follow up event)

**DAY 3 – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022: PRESENTATIONS OF THE WETLANDS ACTION PLANS TO THE  
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

- **Presentations of Draft Action Plans**

- Jurisdictions

- Presentation Considerations:

- How these plans coordinate with the WIPs
  - Tidal vs. Non-Tidal actions (VA, MD) (e.g., impacts to coastal resiliency)

- Federal Agencies

- Non-Government Organizations

- **Management Board Perspectives**

- Will these action plans help us meet our Wetlands Outcome?
- How do we activate these plans? How do we get started?
- How do we need to be accountable for these plans and actions?
- How will we measure progress?

- **Closing Comments, *Dave Davis***

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