



Chesapeake Bay Program

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Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Team Meeting

June 17th, 2025, 10:00 – 12:00 ET

[Click here to access the meeting materials](#)

Beyond 2025 Updates

Presenter: Pam Mason (VIMS retired)

- Revised outcome language presented to the Principal Staff Committee:
 - Restore, create, enhance and protect wetlands to support people and living resources, including waterbirds and fish, provide water quality, flood and erosion protection, recreation and other valuable benefits to people.
 - Tidal Wetlands Target: Restore or create 1,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres by 2035.
 - Non-tidal Wetlands Target: Restore or create 2,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres by 2035.
 - Buffer Protection Target: Same as the Protected Lands Outcome and will be tracked under that goal.
 - Waterbirds represent wetlands functioning at its highest level, specific species priorities will be developed over the next 12 to 18 months.
- Public feedback period is July 1 – September 1
 - Everything you need to know can be found at:
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond>
 - Feedback can be emailed to comments@chesapeakebay.net.
 - A review team will go over the feedback submitted and may come back to the workgroup if expert input is needed the week of September 8th
- Wetlands Protection Target
 - By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of wetlands focusing on the protection of buffer zones.

Discussion

- **Kevin McLean:** The whole idea of the timeline is for the team to be reviewing feedback as they come in.
- **Amy Jacobs:** Are they required to take the public comment into account?
 - **Chris Guy:** This is public feedback, which is different from a formal public comment, so there does not have to be a response to each public input.
- **Amy Jacobs:** Are there any recommendations on how to frame comments to be most helpful? Like break them out by outcome or suggest having good evidence to support comments? What is most helpful/impactful for comments?
 - **Chris Guy:** It would be helpful to present an alternative that is defended.



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Tidal Wetlands Strategic Plan Update

Presenter: Sarah Koser (CBT)

- Purpose:
 - Develop a single blueprint that outlines how to move forward with tools and priorities to develop coastal wetland siting criteria, including permit considerations.
 - This plan is a landscape-level strategic vision for tidal wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
 - Incorporates the overlapping priorities within the Goals and Outcomes of the CB Watershed Agreement.
- Draft-Final Version 2.0 will be released on July 9, 2025
- Objective 1: Strategic Planning
- Objective 2: Developing Capacity – Monitoring
 - Developing standardized tidal wetland restoration techniques and monitoring will allow continuity within the jurisdictions and help maintain expertise through changing staff.
- Objective 3: Landowner and Community Engagement
 - Explore the best ways in which landowners and those who influence landowners obtain information then develop a landowner engagement strategy
- Objective 4: Innovative Finance
 - Create an expanded funding inventory (with focus on innovative sources).

Discussion

- **Chris Spaur:** It's critical to consider the combustion from the fossil fuels used for wetland restoration projects. Could be doing more harm than good in some cases if the wetland does not store as much carbon as we are putting into the atmosphere. A risk of unintended consequences.
 - **Amy Jacobs:** <https://blog.nature.org/2025/01/02/how-much-carbon-in-tidal-marshes/>. This doesn't address Chris's point directly but the associated published article may.... East coast of U.S. has some of the highest opportunities globally.
 - **Megan Fitzgerald:** Beneficial Use: Identifying Locations for Dredge: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/pages/beneficial-use.aspx#:~:text=BUILD%20tool&text=BUILD%2C%20or%20%E2%80%99CBeneficial%20Use%3A,use%20of%20dredged%20material%20opportunities.>

Announcements



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- Chesapeake Progress Update: The Wetlands Outcome is now updated on [Chesapeake Progress](#) with the 2024 data.
- Chesapeake Data Website Launched: The Chesapeake Bay Program has launched [Chesapeake Data](#) - a central point of access for data resources and decision-support tools. Here is the [Wildlife & Habitat](#) page.
- Shoutouts! – Most Tidal Wetlands Workgroup meetings attended goes to Sadie Drescher & Chris Spaur!
- Society of Wetland Scientists Webinar: Harnessing AI for Wetlands - Practical Tools and Use Cases for ChatGPT and Beyond.
 - Please use the link below to complete your registration.
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xyaw4SQ7RcKShGwYACPRpA
- Society of Wetlands Scientists annual meeting will be in Providence, RI from July 15-18
- Mid-Atlantic Wetlands Workgroup (MAWWG) Meeting in Davis, West Virginia:
<https://nawm.org/mawwg-2025-meeting>

PARTICIPANTS (18): Pam Mason (VIMS), Tess Danielson (DOEE), Nancy Schumm (City of Gaithersburg), Dede Lawal (CRC), Chris Guy (USFWS), Emily Young (ICPRB), Chris Spaur (USACE), Karinna Nunez (VIMS), Alison Rogerson (DNREC), Jeryl Phillips (VIMS), Adreinne Kotula (CBC), Heather Hepburn (MDE), Sarah Koser (CBT), Amy Jacobs (TNC), Elisa Frazier (DEQ), Megan Fitzgerald (EPA), George Doumit (DNREC), Greg Podniesinski (DEP)