



2022 RESTORING WETLANDS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED WORKSHOP

AUGUST 2-3, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. ET

DAY 1 – August 2 | 10:00-3:30 ET

[Virtual Meeting – Click here for WebEx Meeting Link](#)

Conference Line: +1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 26296131831

Meeting Password: JRad6Px6Cp6

DAY 2 – August 3 | 10:00-3:30 ET

[Virtual Meeting – Click here for WebEx Meeting Link](#)

Conference Line: +1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 26264327183

Meeting Password: 3w2WNwJjKG4

[CLICK HERE FOR MEETING MATERIALS](#)

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) **Development of 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.

Note: Facilitator notes shared in blue, italic font

DAY 1 – AUGUST 2, 2022

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

- Welcoming Remarks, *Dave Davis, Director, Office of Wetlands & Stream Protection, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*
- Workshop Overview & Housekeeping Notes, *Sherry Witt, GDIT, facilitator*
- Introductions (*Participants introduce themselves: (1) via Menti – who do you represent (federal government, jurisdiction, NGO, other); and (2) via chat in your name, agency/organization.*)

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, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (*where we are as it relates to the Outcome*)
 - Tidal Wetlands, Pam Mason, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (*overview of efforts in the Bay*)
 - Watershed (Non-Tidal) Wetlands, Bill Jenkins, Environmental Protection Agency (*overview of efforts in the Watershed*)
- History of Funding Efforts to Date, Stephanie Dalke, Environmental Finance Center
- Wetland Restoration: Barriers & Opportunities in the Chesapeake Bay, Amy Jacobs, The Nature Conservancy (*based on 2016 TNC Report, describes which barriers we are limiting for this workshop and why*)

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)? (*1 being a little; 5 being a lot*)
 2. What do you need to meet the Outcome for the Bay (be creative!) (e.g., targeting tools, programs regulations, rules)? (*open ended, multiple responses allowed for each user*)
- **Voices from the Field: Lightning Round Panel – Novel Approaches to Wetlands Restoration, Creation, and/or Enhancement (Part 1)** (*5-minute presentations with a 10-minute break halfway through, includes discussions/Q&A at end*)
 - (*Presentations (i.e., 1 slide, short video, or recording per presentation) discuss what is critical to get projects in the ground (e.g., criteria used, funding strategies, engagement with partners on funding), and give a sense of what is possible to be successful*)
 - **MD tidal project:** Wicomico Dredge Project, Dave Curson, Audubon (*video*)
 - **VA tidal project:** Hog Island Project, Ethan Massey, Ducks Unlimited
 - **DE tidal project:** South Wilmington Wetland Park, Mark Biddle, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
 - **DC tidal project:** Matt Robinson, Department of Energy and Environment

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 Wetlands Restoration, Creation and/or Enhancement (Part 2)**
 - **MD non-tidal project:** Pocomoke, Steve Strano, Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - **VA non-tidal project:** Huntley Meadows, Dave Lawlor, Fairfax County, VA
 - **DC non-tidal project:** Josh Burch, Department of Energy and Environment
 - **DE non-tidal project:** Monitoring and Steps to Achieve Higher Function in Restoration, Alison Rogerson, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
 - **PA non-tidal project:** Andy Klinger, Department of Environmental Protection
 - **NY non-tidal project:** Partnering to Expand Wetland Restoration in the Upper Susquehanna River Watershed, Melissa Yearick, Upper Susquehanna Coalition (*video*)
 - **WV non-tidal project:** 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 per breakout, dedicated facilitator for each group, participants self-identify for breakout group, information captured via Jamboard per group)*
 - 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: Pam Mason, Nikki Rovner)*
 - Group 2 (Watershed Practitioners): What are the ideas for non-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*
- **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*

10:15 – 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)*
- **10:15-11:30 AM: Panel Presentations: Our Current Trajectory: Funding Opportunities – Federal, State & Non-Federal Panel** *(panelists have 5-minutes each)*
 - Federal Panelists:
 - National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, *Sean Corson*
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, *Rick Bennett*
 - Environmental Protection Agency, *Martha Shimkin*
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Dan Ludwig*
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, *Dan Bierly*
 - Non-Federal & State Panelists:
 - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, *Jake Reilly*
 - Pennsylvania, *Robert Boos*, *PA Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENN VEST)*
 - Virginia, *Mike Crocker*, *Department of Environmental Quality*
 - New York, *Cassie Davis*, *Department of Environmental Conservation*

- Delaware, *Mark Biddle, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control*
- Maryland, *Sarah Hildebrand, Department of Natural Resources*
- West Virginia (not participating)
- District of Columbia, *Matt Robinson (DC DOEE) presenting on behalf of Jen Dietzen (DC DOEE)*
- **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 Menti)
 - *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 – 1:15 PM – LUNCH BREAK

- **GOOGLE SURVEY LINK:** <https://forms.gle/FBqSVVQ7SPiVi1sM9>

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

- **1:15-1:25 PM: Action Plan Proposal**, *Dave Davis (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)** (*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:
 - Group 1: District of Columbia (*facilitator: Leon Tillman*)
 - Group 2: Delaware (*facilitators: Ed Farley & Bill Jenkins*)
 - Group 3: Maryland (*facilitator: Amy Jacobs*)
 - Group 4: New York (*facilitator: Dimitri Rucker*)
 - Group 5: Pennsylvania (*facilitator: Gina Hunt*)
 - Group 6: Virginia (*facilitator: Pam Mason*)
 - Group 7: West Virginia (*facilitator: Chris Guy*)
- **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: Chesapeake Bay Program (*Kristin Saunders, Cross Goal Implementation Team Coordinator*); VA DEQ (*Dave Davis, Director of the Office of Wetland and Stream Protection*), USFWS (*Cheyenne Owens, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Directors Office*)

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 December 2022 Management Board Meeting**
- **Next Steps & Closing Comments** (*Discuss touch point meetings prior to the MB meeting, the MB special meeting in December, and a 1-year follow up event.*)
 - **GOOGLE SURVEY LINK:** <https://forms.gle/FBqSVVQ7SPiVi1sM9>

DAY 3 – 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***