

An aerial photograph of a vast wetland area. A dark, winding waterway meanders through a dense, green landscape of marshes and wetlands. The water reflects the sky, and the surrounding vegetation is a mix of various shades of green, indicating different types of plants and water levels. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed ecosystem.

**RESTORING THE WETLANDS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY  
WATERSHED:**

***POST-WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT BOARD DISCUSSION***

**DECEMBER 2022**

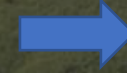


# Wetland's Outcome Attainment Strategy

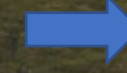
July  
15,  
2021



August  
2-3,  
2022



November  
23,  
2022



December  
8,  
2022

OAT briefs MB on status of 31 outcomes.

- MB/PSC directs the Bay Program to identify why wetlands are so far off course, what can be done about it and develop a plan to achieve the outcome by 2025.

Restoring Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop identifies barriers, potential solutions and recommendations on moving forward.

Bay Program submits draft Restoring the Wetlands of the Chesapeake Watershed Workshop Action Plan for MB consideration.

Bay Program and Jurisdictions present wetland's outcome attainment strategy(s) for MB discussion:

- Meet expectations?
- Path Forward?



## Recommendations from the Workshop:

### Cohesive Strategy

Cohesive strategy for tidal and nontidal wetlands across the watershed for site selection and priorities that take into consideration 10 goals and 31 outcomes associated with the Chesapeake Bay 2014 Agreement.

### Long-term Capacity

Dedicated increased long-term capacity is needed to accelerate efforts – because of the time and complexity to complete wetland restoration projects, grant funded capacity does not retain and grow expertise.

### Outreach and Design

Outreach and design are priority areas to grow capacity to increase the pipeline of projects and advance them to implementation.

### Increased Funding

New and increased funding should be directed to the states to build wetland capacity. This is critical to be able to access and leverage increased federal funds that will be available.

### Reporting of Progress

MB representatives meet formally with all the agencies within their jurisdictions report out progress of the wetland outcome attainment annually. Bay Program reports to PSC annually.



An aerial photograph of a lush green wetland landscape. A dark, winding waterway meanders through the dense vegetation, creating a complex network of channels and islands. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

## Requests

**Has the Bay Program met the request of the MB to identify barriers to outcome attainment, identify innovative solutions and develop actions to meet the wetlands outcome?**

**Does the MB support the path forward outlined in the Draft Restoring the Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Post-Workshop Action Plan?**



An aerial photograph of a vast, lush green wetland or marsh. A prominent, dark, winding waterway meanders through the dense vegetation, which appears to be a mix of grasses and low-lying plants. The waterway starts from the left side and curves towards the bottom center. The overall scene is a rich, textured expanse of green with the dark lines of the water providing a stark contrast.

# Discussion



# District of Columbia

## *Strategic Planning*

- Wetland Program Plan 2021-2025
- Wetland Conservation Plan (2020)
- Sustainable DC 2.0 (2019)
- DC State Wildlife Action Plan (2015)

## *Capacity Building*

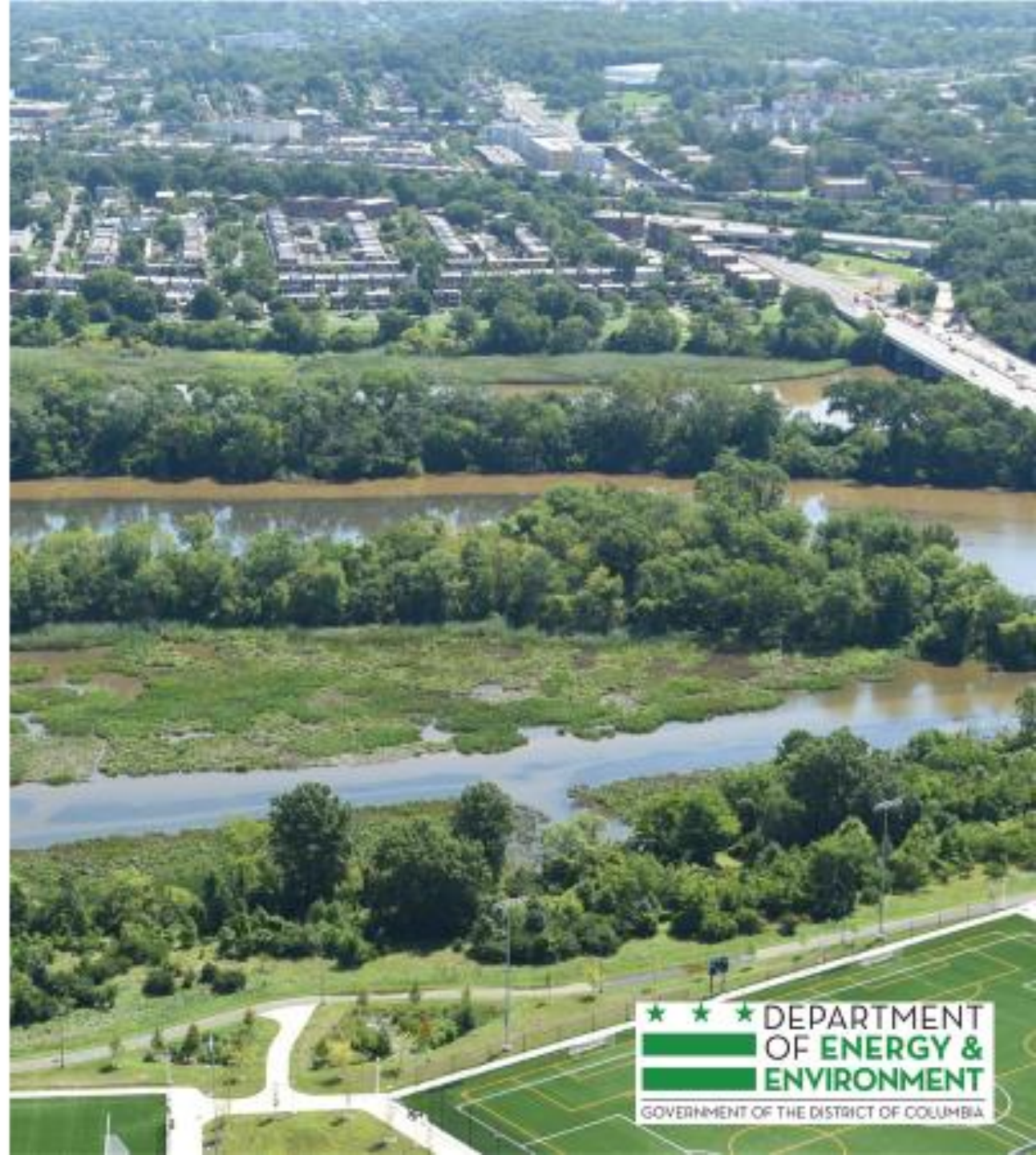
- Partnerships with NPS, environmental stakeholders
- Internal cooperation between DOEE Divisions

## *Outreach*

- Federal partners (National Park Service)
- Environmental stakeholder groups
- Public outreach

## *Sustainable Funding*

- Short-term and long-term, especially exploring grants (NFWF, Chesapeake Bay Trust, USFWS, other federal agencies)
- Especially needed for maintenance (e.g., *Phragmites* control)





# Delaware

## Strategic Planning

- Recently established DE Restoration Work Group (DRWG)
- DRWG will identify capacity needs and partners
- Look to increase projects and efficiencies

## Capacity Building

- Significant need for funding to support new staff
- Identify and tap into non-traditional funding sources for projects

## Outreach

- A current strength - great opportunities for outreach at multiple events statewide
- Will be creating new materials that explain cost share and how to deal with competing influences for land

## Sustainable Funding

- Leverage funding sources from agencies/groups
- Investigate opportunities with flood hazard mitigation funding
- Evaluate benefits to acquiring large tracts for restoration





# Maryland's Wetland Action Plan

**Planning-** Integrate wetland restoration into other state conservation, mitigation, and resiliency efforts

**Capacity Building-** Build new and expand existing networks - e.g. a State Wetlands Team - to access federal dollars for wetland restoration

**Outreach-** Integrate public/landowner outreach into plans and align wetland outreach with other landowner contacts

**Science-** Monitor blue carbon; improve wetland mapping; and systematically connect science to policy

**Sustainable Funding-** Identify "win-win" scenarios to achieve multiple goals and reduce costs; explore beneficial use of dredge; advance ecosystem service markets including pay-for-success contracting

**Actions for the Chesapeake Bay Program/Partnership-** Modify how wetlands are credited, and establish a Wetlands Action Team to coordinate across the partnership and achieve large scale restoration



# NY Chesapeake Bay Wetland Action Plan



## Strategic Planning

- Form NY Chesapeake Bay Wetland Action Team
- Address barriers to implementation
- Account for climate change



## Capacity Building

- Explore potential partners
- Increase collaboration between agencies



## Outreach

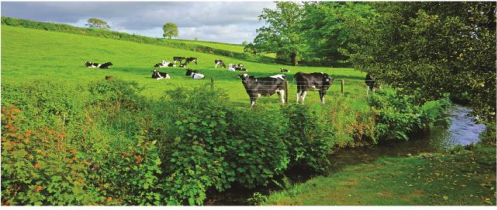
- Landowner Engagement
- Highlight co-benefits and ecosystem services



## Sustainable Funding to Support Wetland Restoration

- Continue to secure funds to support staffing, planning, design, implementation, and administration of grant funds





**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

Bureau of Watershed Restoration  
and Nonpoint Source Management



# Pennsylvania is Working Toward Achieving Wetland Outcomes

PA is Implementing Phase 3 WIP and Milestone Commitments using four themes:

1. Sustainable Funding

Limiting Factor, Existing and Possible Future Funding Streams

2. Strategic Planning

Defining Restoration, Understanding Historic Losses, Targeted Restoration Techniques

3. Capacity Building

Collaborative Approach to Education, Mapping, Modeling, Data Analysis and Reporting

4. Outreach

Conservation Groups and Landowners



# Virginia Wetlands Action Plan

## Wetlands Tracking

- Effective reporting and accounting system
- Define activities that count towards outcome
- Jurisdiction-specific targets for tidal and non-tidal wetlands

## Strategic Planning

- DWR to lead diverse partnership focused on wetlands outcome
- Guided by existing plans and tools
- Acknowledge climate change and focus on at-risk areas
- Seek to restore/enhance habitat for SCGN species
- Implement on both private and public lands with emphasis on private lands

## Capacity Building

- Build on existing diverse regional partnerships
- Increase staff focused on wetland restoration
- Low barrier applications for voluntary efforts
- Expand native nursery / other restoration capacity

## Outreach

- Landowner interest is critical
- Identify and promote demonstration sites
- Target grant funding focal areas
- Coordinate with PDCs and SWCDs

## Sustainable Funding

- Current funding increases for private and public
- Match is limiting factor
- Need to establish dedicated funding source





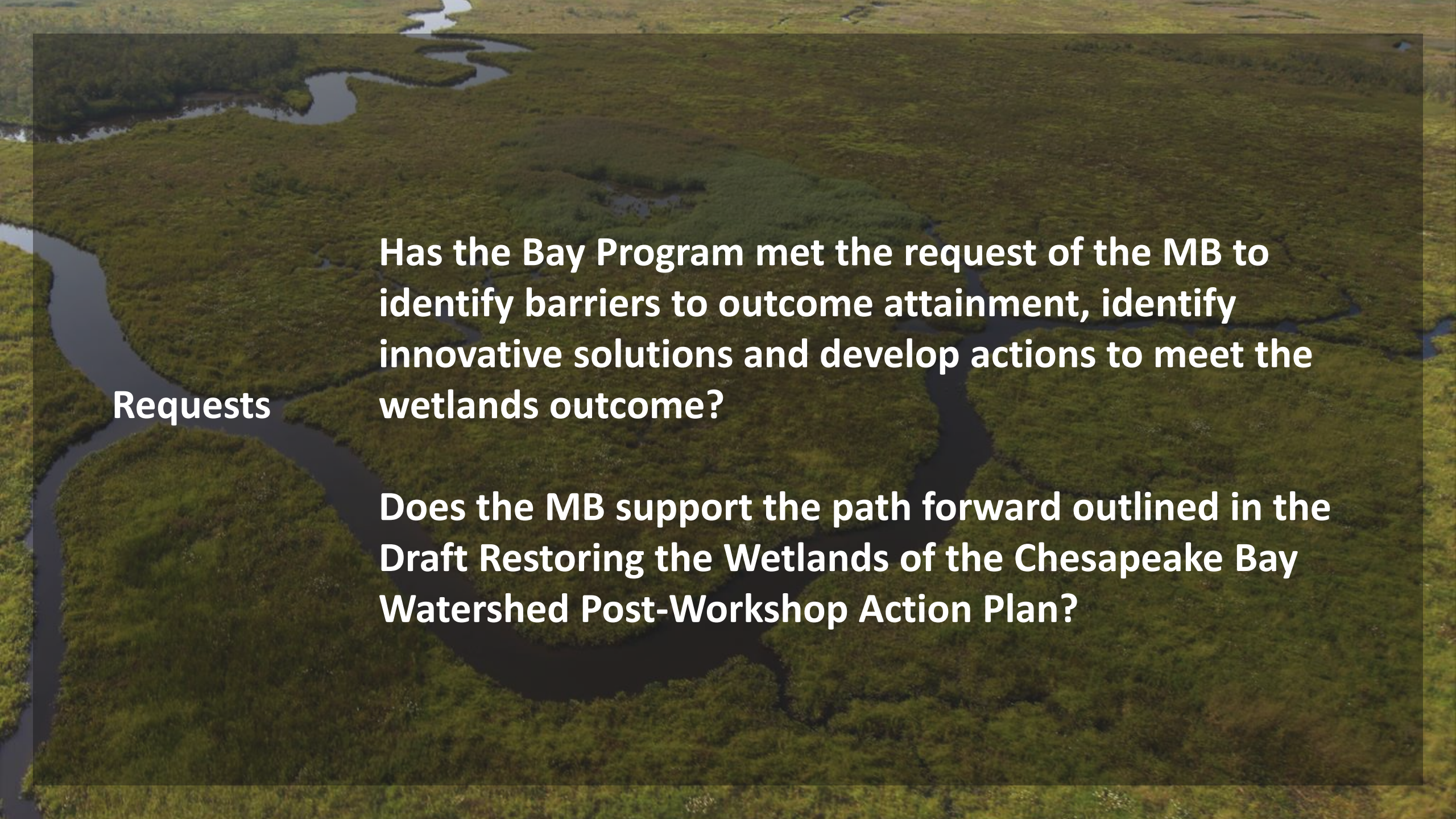


# West Virginia

**“West Virginia did not sign onto the wetland’s outcome portion of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and did not commit to wetlands in our Phase 3 WIP. We do have a robust wetlands program and are dedicated to protecting and restoring the resource. Our primary goal with respect to the CB is implementation of our Phase 3 WIP thereby meeting West Virginia's commitment to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus by implementing the BMPs we have identified as priorities.”**

***-Teresa Koon email to Chris Guy 6/29/2022***



An aerial photograph of a lush green wetland with a winding waterway. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding vegetation. The wetland is densely packed with green plants, and the waterway meanders through the landscape.

## Requests

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