

## **10/17/2023 – Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Meeting**

**MEETING:** Wetlands Workgroup Tidal Meeting

**DATE/TIME:** 10/17/2023, 10:00 - 12:00 ET

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*Presenter: Tess Danielson (Workgroup Vice Chair)*

- Roll Call

### **WETLAND CO-BENEFITS FACTSHEET**

*Presenter: Pam Mason (Workgroup Chair)*

- VA Wetlands Factsheet:  
[https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/wetlands\\_co-benefits\\_factsheet\\_virginia1.pdf](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/wetlands_co-benefits_factsheet_virginia1.pdf)
- The factsheet was developed as part of the Wetlands Workgroup [Logic and Action Plan](#) to show how wetlands support programs and policies.
- The VA factsheet was created by Pam Mason, Keven Du Bois, Pam Mason, Jake Solyst (CBP Communications Team). The intended purpose of the factsheet is to support more local decision making.
- The factsheet categorized the benefits into Economic Development, Public Health and Safety, Infrastructure Maintenance, and Natural Benefits.
- Didn't crosswalk some of the other outcomes as much as we could have so something it's to think about if pursue the idea with other jurisdictions.
- The VA factsheet was kept at a high level with a focus on services and programs intentionally. Could use this factsheet as a template for other jurisdictions.

### **Comments/Questions:**

- **Chris Guy:** Do we know who is using the VA Factsheet now? How would it be changed after Sackett vs EPA? Do you see value in this for MD and DE?
  - **Pam Mason:** The only thing done was we contacted Rachel Felver and shared it with the Wetlands Board folks, which was not the entire audience. Water conservation districts would be a good outlet for this information because it crosses the urban agriculture divide.
  - **Chris Guy:** We could engage the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) with this idea.
- **Rachael Peabody:** I've never seen all of this information in one place, so I see a lot of value in that. Especially for local wetlands board members, new wetlands permit writers, etc. Would add a section that addresses how wetlands tie into TMDLs?
  - **Pam Mason:** That would mean the factsheet would be separated by nontidal and tidal instead of a one pager for all wetlands.

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- **Rachael Peabody:** Not sure if it's necessary here but I prefer to separate tidal adjacent and nontidal wetlands because the acreage is incredibly different.
- **Pam Mason:** What do you think about moving forward with tidal/coastal vs noncoastal (or some other version) would that be helpful? Or lead to unintended consequences?
  - **Elliot Campbell:** I like the idea of having tidal vs nontidal to raise awareness of the different programs. Thinking about how a local managers could apply this it would be helpful to include where they can access more information and how they can use the info provided in their work. We can do something like this in MD if there are resources available through the communications team.
- **Megan Fitzgerald:** Is there anything program wise that speaks specifically to zoning and how local boards can see the connection of protecting wetlands in that context?
  - **Pam Mason:** Zoning isn't specifically mentioned, but the idea was to point out regional and state scale infrastructure and go beyond wetlands permitting.
- **Mark Biddle:** DE already has so much outreach materials, so would have to go back and identify the outstanding needs we have. Splitting nontidal and tidal would be helpful but could be too in the weeds for some of our audience. Zoning differs in different locales so it would be difficult to tackle, but I think it's important. Like that the factsheet shows the big picture and interconnectedness with different programs, which is often lost.

### **WETLAND CHALLENGES**

*Presenter: Tess Danielson (Workgroup Vice Chair)*

- Back in August we ranked priorities for the workgroup and *wetland challenges* came out as the top priority.
- [Jamboard activity](#): What do you consider a wetland challenge?

### **Comments/Questions**

- **Chris Guy:** There are no guiding principles for where thin layer should be placed or how thin the layer should be. Technical aspects of thin layer placement have no real guidance, so lots to be worked on.
- **Pam Mason:** Does anyone have any ideas for how the WWG could assist with capacity needs?
  - **Ben Sagara:** Might be more nontidal but need to partner with NRCS to get cost share programs going. We need more experts that can identify restoration

potential and figure out who can deliver those projects or provide the necessary training.

- **Pam Mason:** When doing restoration wetland projects there's a limited number of people that can help identify proper places or design the project. One of the greater gaps in capacity is in design work and people who can actually do the restoration.
- **Chris Spaur:** For the tidal wetlands we want to restore we need to think about how to optimize mineral sedimentation and drainage in a world that'll be different than the world we are in today due to sea level rise, etc.

### **WETLAND WORD ASSOCIATION**

- Defining "restoration", "creation", and "enhancement" for the WWG will inform how we want to write our goals for beyond 2025. Want to get everyone's input on what they think the terms mean to start refining a definition that the Bay Program could start using.
- [Jamboard Word Association Activity](#)

### **Comments/Questions:**

- **Chris Guy:** Having a Bay Program consensus of the terms can help guide money to the Bay Program if they are used in grant programs like CBT and NFWF.
- **Pam Mason:** Don't know how the terms were defined and how they were chosen for the outcome, but we recognize that jurisdictions already have their own terms. So, we want to make a set for the Bay Program and clearly state how they crosswalk with existing definitions.
- **Chris Guy:** Has anyone here done a tidal wetland creation?
  - **Rachel Peabody:** When VMRC looks at creation it means specifically taking upland and reducing them down to wetlands and most people that do that are bankers.
  - **Chris Spaur:** The corps of engineers has done lots of creation as compensatory mitigation for its own impacts.
- **Julie Reichert-Nguyen:** Conserving marsh migration corridors to compensate some of the losses of tidal wetlands and allowing marshes to migrate to new areas. It doesn't look like that would fit into this construct, so how do we integrate those strategies into the program?

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### PARTICIPANTS (20):

<b>Pam Mason</b> (VIMS)	<b>Tess Danielson</b> (DOEE)	<b>Chris Guy</b> (USFWS)	<b>Dede Lawal</b> (CRC)
<b>Gregory Noe</b> (USGS)	<b>Megan Fitzgerald</b> (EPA)	<b>Kevin Mclean</b> (DEQ)	<b>Amanda Poskaitis</b> (NWF)
<b>Karina Nunez</b> (VIMS)	<b>Elliott Campbell</b> (MD DNR)	<b>Rachael Peabody</b> (MRC)	<b>Alison Rogerson</b> (DNREC)
<b>Ben Sagara</b> (DWR)	<b>Katheryn Barnhart</b> (EPA)	<b>Sadie Drescher</b> (CBT)	<b>Chris Spaur</b> (USACE)
<b>Mark Biddle</b> (DNREC)	<b>Sarah Koser</b> (CBT)	<b>Heather Hepburn</b> (MDE)	<b>Julie Reuchert-Nguyen</b> (NOAA)