



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# Wetlands Workgroup Update

May 1, 2024

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# Wetlands Outcome

Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed.

Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban), but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.

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# April 2023

- Last April the Wetlands Workgroup was restructured to include a Nontidal Team and a Tidal Team.
- 2 new vice chairs were introduced!
  - Tess Danielson: Wetlands Workgroup Vice Chair: Tidal Team
  - Nancy Schumm: Wetlands Workgroup Vice Chair: Nontidal Team

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## **June 2023 – March 2024**

- Each team met once every other month to discuss their priorities and the wetlands outcome.
- There were two meetings where the Nontidal and Tidal Teams came together (September & December).

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# Wetlands Challenges

## Tracking

There needs to be a system in place to track wetlands lost and long-term monitoring of restoration projects.

## Funding

There is a lack of financial drivers to increase wetland restoration at the scale necessary to meet goals.

## Lack of Consistency

There is a need for a list of practices that count towards restoration and enhancement with guidance on how to calculate acres restored.

## Capacity

There is a need for long term capacity/more expertise in wetland design, permitting, and implementation.

## Outreach

Outreach and education geared towards landowners.

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# **Wetlands Workgroup Accomplishments**

- Wetlands indicator was updated on Chesapeake Progress
- The Wetlands Workgroup Statement on Sackett v EPA
- Progress on the Wetlands Workshop Action Plans
- GIT Funded Projects

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# **Wetlands Workgroup Next Steps**

- Begin merge with the Black Duck Action Team
- Continue to discuss the wetlands outcome
- Make sure science needs are kept up to date
- SRS in December



# Questions?



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