Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward & Quantify the Benefits of Multiple CBP Outcomes

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STAR meeting

Photos by Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

Workshop objectives

Engage with stakeholders on effective application of new ecosystem services (ES) results into tools and decision making at multiple levels

Develop recommendations for an actionable work plan of how ecosystem services can be used to address multiple CBP outcomes.

Both short term (reaching 2025) and longer term (beyond 2025)

Workshop Structure

Day 1

March 16

Speakers and Case Studies, concluded with listening session

Day 1.5

April 18

Added session to fill some Day 1 gaps

Day 2

June 6

Bringing it all together and assessing potential actions from Days 1 & 1.5

Foundation has continued to grow w/in partnership

Context: Why now?

Appetite, need and opportunity are increasingly clear

Build on 2017 STAC workshop

McGee et al. 2017

Partnership has made some progress

e.g., Rossi et al. 2023

Partners exploring and making moves in these areas

See Day 1 speakers Elliot Campbell & Lisa Wainger

Current approach falls short

Reaching 2025 & CESR reports

Water quality is not the salient incentive for most target audiences (implementers, landowners, etc.)

We are at a major pivot opportunity with partnership

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee

"Make it easier"

"Ecosystem services can be the bridge between water quality and all the other outcomes we care about."

"Making the case for ecosystem services is the next big economic driver for us in agriculture."

Findings

...In the words of three different participants

Workshop recommendations

01 Develop a tool that quantifies ecosystem services currently being provided across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

02 Build capacity to support the integration of ecosystem services throughout the Chesapeake Bay Program.

03 Develop a framework for quantifying the ecosystem service impacts of select BMPs.

Workshop recommendations

04 Improve consideration of ecosystem services in land use planning and decision-making.

05 Improve consideration of ecosystem services in the funding and financing of Chesapeake Bay restoration activities.

06 Identify and follow pathways to improve institutional structures and supporting policies to better integrate ecosystem services into the next phase of the Chesapeake Bay Program beyond 2025.

Conclusions

Why we need ecosystem services:

to help understand "the value of what we already have, what we might lose, and what we could gain, so that we can leverage every single dollar from every type of funding stream to get our projects paid for." (excerpt from Anna Killius' Day 1 talk)

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Conclusions

Academic, state, federal and local partners are already exploring piecemeal innovative approaches to apply ES concepts

The Partnership has a unique opportunity to play an active role to leverage ES concepts at a watershed scale to achieve greater, more lasting progress toward multiple goals and outcomes that support healthy, vibrant and resilient watershed communities

Photo by Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

THANK YOU!

Workshop Steering Committee:
Jeremy Hanson, CRC, Water Quality GIT Coordinator (Workshop Chair)
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Bo Williams, EPA CBPO
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Emily Pindilli, USGS, Director of USGS Science and Decision Center
Ryann Rossi, (former) EPA ORISE, now FSU-PC, St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program
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