

Management Board Meeting – July 11, 2024  
*Chesapeake Bay Program*  
*Presented by Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)*



# Climate Adaptation Outcome Progress (DRAFT)

*Chairs:*  
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*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*

## Goal: *Climate Resiliency*

### **Climate Monitoring and Assessment**

Monitor and assess trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including effectiveness of restoration, protection policies, programs and projects.

### **Climate Adaptation**

Pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.

# Climate Adaptation Outlook & Challenges



- Lacks numerical goals
- No mechanism for project tracking
- Unknown project success for enhancing Bay and ecosystem resilience:
  - Performance metrics: difficult to obtain research funding for this
  - Requires long-term monitoring and project maintenance

# Adaptation Portfolio



RECENT PROGRESS  
**INCREASE**

## Marsh Adaptation

Collaborative  
identification of marsh  
restoration and  
conservation  
opportunities

Consideration of sea  
level rise and social  
vulnerability

## Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

Support partner  
proposals for BIL/IRA  
resilience funding

Support research that  
evaluates the  
performance of NBS  
under changing climate  
conditions

## Community Resilience

Support partner projects  
that identify best  
practices for community  
engaged adaptation

Integrate social  
vulnerability metrics  
into climate resilience  
initiatives

# Climate Adaptation Outlook & Challenges



- Unclear GIT-funding process and decision framework past two cycles
- Misalignment between program structure and outcome:
  - Under STAR, CRWG functions as a science support workgroup
  - No Goal Implementation Team
- Jurisdictional representation lacking - needed to advance restoration and protection projects

# Path Forward

## Short-term

- Develop tracking methods for coastal adaptation projects
  - Time-intensive: information is not readily available; requires self-reporting
  - Cross-workgroup collaboration: how are these groups tracking natural resource conservation/restoration efforts (e.g., wetlands, fish habitat, black duck, coastal forests, etc.) and can we provide climate insights

## Long-term (system-wide)

- Pursue quantifiable outcome language through Beyond 2025
- Identify funding/support for developing metrics/methods to assess coastal resilience enhancement
- Identify and pursue support for long-term monitoring at project locations