



Climate Small Group

CRWG Meeting

February 15, 2024



Chesapeake Bay Program

40 years of science, restoration and partnership

CLIMATE SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

- Breck Sullivan (Co-Chair), USGS
- Bo Williams (Co-Chair), EPA
- Lewis Linker, EPA
- Julie Reichert-Nguyen, NOAA
- Chris Guy, FWS
- Ashley Kelly, DOD
- Katie Brownson, USFS
- Jackie Specht, MD DNR
- Kathy Boomer, Foundation for Food & Agriculture
- Ruth Cassilly, UMCES Non-point Source Policy Analyst
- Rosa Hance, Choose Clean Water
- Sharon Baxter, VA DEQ
- Ben McFarlane, Hampton Roads Planning District
- Joseph Galarraga, TNC
- Jay Ford, CBF

OBJECTIVES

- Consider 3V questions
- Consider Executive Council Charge questions
- Consider other questions we deem fit within our topic
- Consider Cross-Cutting Questions
- 3-month timeframe
- Deliverable = 5 Recommendations for Steering Committees to consider for final product to the Executive Council

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- Providing recommendations to transform Chesapeake Bay Program **partnership policies, programs, and projects** to address the significant ongoing and future impacts climate change will impose on the **Bay and its watershed and people across generations**. These recommendations should include strategies to better incorporate **climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency** across the watershed and tidal Bay.

TOPICAL DISCUSSIONS

- **Defining resilience, adaptation, and mitigation/carbon stewardship**
 - Emily Trentacoste (EPA ORD), Elliott Campbell (MDDNR)
- **Climate vulnerabilities**
 - Dr. Weihsueh Chiu (Texas A&M)
- **Food security and agriculture**
 - Matthew Houser (TNC), Lisa Blazure (Stroud Water Research)
- **Decision science**
 - Mike Runge (USGS), David Martin (TNC)
- **Adaptation Frameworks**—RAD (Resist, Adapt, Direct) and Climate Change Response (Resistant, Resilience, Transition)
 - Danielle Shannon (NIACS), Andy Miller (EPA ORD), Joel Scheraga (EPA Office of Policy)
- **Integrating climate factors into CBP work**
 - David Wood (Chesapeake Stormwater Network), Nicole Carlozo (MDDNR)
- **Ecosystem Services**
 - Elliott Campbell (MDDNR)
- **CBP Climate Capacity and Structure**
 - Small Group Experts

TOPICAL DISCUSSIONS

- **STAR November – February Meetings**
- **CRWG Meetings**
- **GIT Chairs Meeting**
- **Stakeholder Advisory Committee**
- **USGS Chesapeake Bay Lunch & Learn**



RECOMMENDATIONS

- These recommendations are constantly being updated
- The order presented is not prioritized.
- The recommendations to the Steering Committee are to capture WHAT needs to change/adopted – not HOW
- 5 Recommendations = Broad concepts
 - Details and justification will be provided to the Steering Committee to capture more specifics

Prioritize Climate Adaptation Efforts and Resources to Support Them

- Develop a vision for the Bay of the future
- Establish numerical climate adaptation goal(s)
- Invest in climate adaptation initiatives
 - Climate adaptation science
 - Integrate climate projections into strategies.



Empowering Partnerships: Integrating Climate Considerations into Collaborative Decision-Making and Organizational Capacity

- Adapt partnership structure by increasing capacity to effectively advance integration of climate considerations
- Includes programmatic inclusion of climate in decision-making into all goals and outcomes
- Improve CBP knowledge of and capacity to apply scientific capabilities to respond to climate threats/vulnerabilities
- Applying structured decision making (SDM) and other decision science tools at all levels of the CBP decision-making process

Promoting A Multi-Benefit Approach to Carbon Stewardship

- Adopt water quality practices that sequester GHGs and minimize emissions
 - Promote incentives on carbon stewardship through nature-based solutions
 - Promote alternative approaches and behavior change in agricultural sector (e.g., via climate education)
 - Develop soil health outcome and incentivize achievement
- Advance understanding of science for mitigation/stewardship that support multiple benefits

Improve Resilience of Communities to Key Regional Climate Vulnerabilities

- Prioritizing climate adaptation and resilience for most vulnerable communities
- Building community capacity to adapt to climate change
- Promoting nature-based solutions (or green/gray) to improve infrastructure
- Broadening scope of work to account for public health and other aspects of community resiliency
- Supporting cultural and historical continuity in a changing landscape



Promote Strategies that Enhance the Resilience of Natural Ecosystems to be Healthy and Productive Under Changing Climate Conditions

- Enhance the confidence and use of nature-based solutions
- Development and application of indicators for better understanding and tracking of ecosystem health status and change
- Defining and evaluating multiple stressors on ecosystem health with emerging challenges
 - future climate, population growth, land use, and landscape changes.
- Additional research to estimate the future conditions under different future scenarios of management
- Pursue the development of a CBP soil health outcome