Change & Resiliency Quarterly Progress Meeting Summary
August 9, 2018

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 nontidal wetlands and enhance the function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025.

Challenges:

- Reporting discrepancies
    - Implementation of projects is decentralized
    - Inconsistencies with how wetlands are categorized
- Have brought the request for wetlands leadership to Management Board, but haven't gotten leadership
    - Polled workgroup and 16 of 19 respondents said not interested in leading the workgroup
- Lack of participation on wetland outcome is:
    - Chronic (often raised, not effectively dealt with)
    - Serious (impacts CBP's ability to make progress)
    - Therefore, deserves MB attention

- Private landowner engagement
    - GIT funded projects in multiple years to survey landowners
    - Wetlands Work website currently in development (scheduled summer 2018 release)
- Data reporting burden – can be a disincentive for workgroup engagement
- Financial support to research wetlands BMPs

Management Board Ask:

- Assign leaders and ensure active participation
    - No leadership on the workgroup
- Incentivize prioritization using existing data
    - We ask the MB to incentivize wetland prioritization through Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grants:
        - Use existing GIS data
        - Overlay with cross-outcome priorities (Black Duck, Climate Resiliency, etc.)
- The Workgroup plans to shift the structure of the Workgroup away from reporting acres to focus on
    - Science supporting wetlands as BMPs
    - Innovative restoration techniques and application
    - Crediting based on functionality
    - Financing options for projects
- Shifting Workgroup structure could incentivize Workgroup participation

Black Duck

Outcome: By 2025, restore, enhance, and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of the tidal marshes across the watershed.

Black Duck Population:

- Where there are black ducks there are healthy habitats.
- Mid-Winter Survey:
  - 2007-2009: 37,158
  - 2009-2011: 47,269
  - 2011-2013: 41,907
  - 2012-2014: 48,828
  - 2013-2015: 51,332
- Mid-winter survey cut from F&WS budget

Challenges:

- A habitat based indicator would be more reflective of true outcome progress
  - Need partners to track conservation efforts
- Challenge to determine acreage goal for outcome
- Diminished funding and resources (i.e. Mid-winter Survey)
  - CBP has not received Chesapeake Bay Watershed population data since 2015 as USFWS no longer maintains survey data.
- Conservation partner training and use of Decision Support Tool
- How to get Decision Support Tool map into the most user friendly format
- Carrying capacity and bioenergetics modeling

Progress:

- Better science and tools to target habitat conservation and restoration
- Increased landowner outreach capacity
- Cross-outcome benefits (wetlands, climate change, shorelines, SAV, etc.)

Management Board Ask:

- Support in applying the latest science to inform new habitat based black duck Outcome indicator
  - Technical assistance with establishing a new baseline, acreage targets
  - Assistance with Decision Support Tool (DST) outreach to decision makers
  - Assistance with encouraging funding partners to prioritize use of Decision Support Tool
  - Encouragement of strong partner coordination

Climate

Monitoring & Assessment Outcome: Continually monitor and assess the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects.

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

Challenges:

- Scientific Capabilities: data variability and accessibility
- Collaboration across GITs
- No quantitative endpoint to outcome
- Fiscal challenges associated with monitoring recommendations
- Uncertainty of climate science
- Impact of climate on BMPs

Based on what we've learned

- Modify work plan format and narrow into four main areas
    - Shoreline condition and response;
    - Climate change on BMPs;
    - Inland and urban flooding;
    - Stream health condition
- Potentially narrow the focus of the workplan to report on those activities that the Climate Resiliency Working Group directly impact

Management Board Ask:

- Addressing recommendations for BMP Siting and Design data/research needs
- Developing a prioritized list of specific data needs for use by Citizen Science Programs
- Promoting utilization of Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Smart Framework & Decision-Support Tool
- Incorporating climate change into the Phase III WIPs

Cross Outcome Considerations

Restoration Metrics –

- Wetlands
- High pollution loading
- Marsh migration
- Low food availability (black duck)

Conservation Metrics –

- Wetlands
- Healthy Watersheds
- Marsh Migration
- High food availability (black duck)

Brown (restoration) and **Blue** (conservation) = High co-benefit opportunities