2022 WETLANDS WORKSHOP
JULY ## - ##, 2022

Purpose: Bring together key people to identify actions to overcome the barriers of implementing nontidal and tidal wetland restoration and accelerate progress towards the Wetlands Outcome identified in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Outcomes:

1) Understanding of the barriers that limit the rate of nontidal and tidal wetland restoration that is necessary to achieve the 2025 Wetlands Outcome.
2) Identification of innovative approaches, including changes to existing programs and proposing new programs, to increase the implementation of nontidal and tidal wetland restoration.
3) Within three months following the workshop, work with partners and workshop participants to develop an action plan that outlines steps and a timeline for dedicating resources to implementing these approaches.

DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1 (PM)/WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS *(~15 MIN)*

- Welcoming Remarks, *TBD*
- Workshop Overview and Housekeeping Notes, *Sherry Witt*
- Introductions (may need to add more time depending on how many participants we have, or we could do them during small group breakouts)

DAY 1 (PM)/SESSION 1: UNDERSTANDING OF THE BARRIERS

- **Chesapeake Bay Wetlands Overview Presentations**
  - 2025 Wetlands Outcome & Status, *Chris Guy, USFWS* (includes discussion on the data used to obtain wetlands outcomes)
  - Tidal Wetlands, *Bill Jenkins, EPA* (Pam follows on with questions to Bill)
  - Non-Tidal Wetlands, *Pam Mason, VIMS* (Bill follows on with questions to Pam)
  - Wetlands Barriers, *Amy Jacobs, TNC* (Jack McPherson (DU) follows on with questions to Amy) (based on 2016 TNC Report, describes which barriers we are limiting for this workshop and why)
  - Overview of Federal Funding from the Environmental Finance Center, *Stephanie Dalke* (This presentation could also be a read ahead or part of opening presentation vs. a stand-alone presentation)

- **Panel Presentations: Addressing Funding Challenges**
  - **Federal Funding Panel** (i.e., Infrastructure Bill, Farm Bill)
    - Tidal Panel Breakout
      - Panel Moderator: *TBD (Rich Mason?)*
      - Panelists: *USACE (TBD), NOAA (TBD), NFWF (TBD), USFWS (TBD)*
    - Non-tidal Panel Breakout
      - Panel Moderator: *TBD*

- Panelists: *NFWF (Jake Riley), EPA (TBD), NRCS (Leon Tillman), USFWS (Mike Slattery), USACE (TBD), (Rick Bennett)*
    - Panel Questions:
        - What are the constraints or federal limitations of the federal funds?
        - What are the opportunities to overcome constraints to the federal funds?
        - How do we secure capacity to be able to utilize federal funding?

- **State & Non-Federal Panel**
    - Panel Moderator: *TBD*
    - Panelists: <mark>Six state jurisdiction representatives</mark> *(program managers that work with both federal and non-federal funds), CBT, CBFN (Jamie Baxter), corporations, foundations*
    - Panel Questions:
        - What is the states' role in attaining the 2025 Wetland Outcome?
        - What will it take for the states to ensure Outcome attainability?
        - How can you work around these constraints (e.g., law, policy, guidance/interpretation)?

- **Grantee Panel: TBD**

- **Key Takeaways from Session 1**

DAY 2 (AM)/SESSION 2: APPROACHES & ACTION PLAN TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION

- **What the Chesapeake Bay Partnership Can Learn from Successful Case Studies/Projects**
    - Presentation considerations for one tidal and one non-tidal case study/project: innovative funding and partnerships, considers looking within the Chesapeake Bay before looking at other regions, looks beyond examples from one state (i.e., Maryland), is applicable anywhere, perhaps considers why a project that was not successful, helps to have the discussions in the follow-on small group sessions.
        - Tidal Project (e.g., Wicomico Dredge Project (*Dave Curson, Audobon*), Audubon project, Midbay project)
        - Non-tidal Project (e.g., Delmarva Partnership, Pokomoke project)
    - Presentation Discussions:
        - How does this information help my organization?
        - What would it take to do many more of these projects to accelerate the rate of wetlands restoration?
            - What do you need?
            - What possible commitments are you willing to make?
        - Can these ideas (if project is outside of the Bay) work in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed?

- **Small Group Discussions** (can have multiple groups of one group number to allow for about 7-9 participants in each breakout, have dedicated facilitator/note taker for each group)
    - Group 1: What are the ideas for tidal wetlands that can put us on schedule to meet our Outcome? (Tidal Practitioners) (or we can assign groups a specific solution to work through, such as capacity, match, or ideas being implemented in other watersheds)
    - Group 2: What are the ideas for non-tidal wetlands that can put us on schedule to meet our Outcome? (Non-Tidal Practitioners)

- o Group 3: What governance changes need to be made at the local, state, or federal level to maximize attainment of outcomes? (Leadership)
  - o Group 4: What are the programs that have the greatest amount of funding we can access for nontidal and tidal wetlands? Why are some programs being undersubscribed? (Practitioners and Leadership)
- **Small Group Report Outs & Discussion** (brief out top 3 action items from each group)
- **Key Takeaways from Session 2**

DAY 2(AM/PM)/SESSION 3: ACTION PLAN (consider having: (1) practitioners remain in this session, but leadership drop out and rejoin when the draft action plan is pulled together to be briefed to leadership for input/approval; or (2) participants provide input on content during the small group discussions that would go into the action plan, but have a core team work on it "overnight" and then present a cleaned up version for presentation on a second day for reaction, follow up, refinement, agreement.

- **Action Plan Proposal, *TBD*** (discuss the purpose of an action plan, how it will be implemented, and the process for how we develop it in Sessions 3 and 4) (Question: do we have a template of an action plan, or do we need to create one?)

- **Small Group Discussions: How do we incorporate these new approaches/ideas into our processes and efforts for nontidal and tidal wetlands? How do we address them in the development of an action plan?**
  - o Group 1: Idea 1 (identified from Session 2, tidal idea) (i.e., Match)
  - o Group 2: Idea 2 (identified from Session 2, non-tidal idea) (i.e., Capacity)
  - o Etc.

- **Small Group Report Outs & Discussion**

- **Key Takeaways from Session 3 Information**

DAY 3 (AM OR PM)/SESSION 4: PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

- Considerations: Day 3 will be scheduled 1+ days to a week out from Day 2 to allow a core group to assemble the content from breakout sessions and report outs into a draft Action Plan that will be sent to workshop participants in advance and presented to workshop participants on Day 3 for participant discussion, recommendations, and an informal endorsement.
- Presentation of the Draft Action Plan
- Jurisdictions Perspectives
  - o What is your feedback?
  - o Do you have recommendations for consideration?
  - o What will it take to get your jurisdiction's endorsement of the action plan that will be provided to the MB and PSC?

DAY 3/WRAP UP & CLOSING COMMENTS *(~20 MINUTES)*

- Review All Key Take Aways, Action Items, and Parking Lot
- Discuss Way Forward (ask who is willing to broaden the steering committee to flush out the action plan that will be "finalized" in 3 months post-workshop)
- Closing Comments, *TBD*

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<u>Agenda Development Notes</u>:

- Need to add in times, breaks, and whether this goes into a second day (or whether a second workshop is warranted – one for tidal and one for non-tidal).
- Assess the timing (once determined) and whether we have too many or not enough topics for our allotted time.
- Once we settle in on what the break outs should be, then we can work through the topics/questions that they will answer or work on in their break outs.
- Account for different learning styles/participation styles and select the right techniques.
- Do we have a balance of energy? Ensure there is high energy for meeting –allows for small group sessions, interactive participation, change of pace, breaks, etc.
- Is everyone getting a return on their investment of their time and participation?
- What will it feel like? Is the flow confusing or clear? Do we need to reorder the agenda?
- Is the meeting positive, does it look fun, worthwhile and exciting to look forward to?
- What will be different after this meeting? What will participants be talking about after the meeting ends, what will they remember?