

Wetland Workgroup August Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2020

Conference Call

Pam Mason (VIMS)	Megan Ossmann (CRC)	Chris Guy (USFWS)	Alison Santoro (MD DNR)
Sarah Hilderbrand (MD DNR)	Jeff Hartranft (PA DEP)	Bill Jenkins (EPA)	Kevin DuBois (DoD)
Leah Franzluebbbers (USFWS)	Elizabeth Byers (WV DEP)	Anne Wakeford (WV DNR)	Randy Owen (VMRC)
Jaclyn Woollard	Michelle Henicheck (VA DEQ)	Mark Biddle (DE DNREC)	Alana Hartman (WV DEP)
Alison Rogerson (DE DNREC)	Melissa Yearick (USC)	Amy Jacobs (TNC)	Joel Carr (USGS)
Jen Dietzen (DOEE)	Greg Podniesinski (PA DCNR)	Katheryn Barnhart (EPA)	Denise Clearwater (MDE)
Chris Spaur (USACE)	Carin Bisland (EPA)	Audra Martin	

Action Items:

- Reach out to Pam and Megan if you are interested in working on STAC workshop proposal.
- Reach out to Pam and Megan with ideas for future meeting topics.
- Running list of future meeting topics/presentations:
 - Joint meeting with Forestry Workgroup
 - Wetland mowing
 - FEMA region III person - mitigation work and more broadly how their programs might support wetland restoration
 - Proposed changes to stream restoration protocol 1
 - Restore America's Estuaries coastal restoration toolkit (<https://restoreyourcoast.org/>)
 - Beaver management and wetland restoration

Welcome and Introductions (*Pam Mason, Chair*)

- Todd Lutte (EPA) introduced as new co-chair of the Wetland Workgroup.
 - Been in Wetlands Program for past 18 years, mostly enforcement and now field services.
- Chris Guy introduced as new Habitat Goal Team Coordinator.

Review of Logic and Action Table and Workplan (*Pam Mason*)

- Strategy Review System (SRS) is the Bay Program's process of adaptive management.
- Normally on a two-year cycle, but because the group was behind last year, we need to repeat the process this year to get back on track and in the correct cohort.
- Went through Logic and Action plan to review actions
 - Green – action has been completed or is on track
 - Yellow- action has encountered a minor barrier
 - Red – action has not yet begun or has encountered a major barrier
- Action 1.1 – on track
 - Chesapeake Conservancy is working on more accurate mapping, research at USGS and Bay Program to develop new approaches to wetland mapping
 - Joel Carr: USGS just got funding for LiDAR correction across the Bay for coastal, tidal, and nontidal wetlands – already done for Blackwater marsh complexes. Keep your eyes out for this, interested in data sharing.
- Action 1.2 – complicated issue, have not yet tackled this
- Action 2.1 – Just haven't gotten to this yet
- Action 2.2 – On track – discussed having presentations regarding legislation and policy and have already started doing this.
- Action 2.3 – Minor barriers
 - Still need to get DoD access to site, as well as improve marketing of site.
 - Megan: Have been working on success stories, but latest one was delayed due to COVID since CBP comm team was unable to travel to site to take photos of landowner until recently.
- Action 2.4 – has not yet started
- Action 2.5 – On track
- Action 3.1 – On track – planning to submit STAC workshop proposal in February 2021
 - Will begin assembling a group and brainstorming over the next few months
 - Kevin DuBois: When MD does progress evaluation, they look at edge of stream output, which means they can't include shoreline management BMPs in their progress. An issue for DoD – no credit because they use an edge of stream analysis instead of edge of tide.
- Action 3.2 – On track
- Action 3.3 – On track – always open to hearing suggestions for presentations
- Action 4.1 – Not yet started
- Action 4.2 – Not yet started – actions that require collaborating with other teams are more challenging, especially due to COVID and the virtual environment
- Action 5.1 – Barrier – 2020 Marsh Resiliency Summit did not occur
- Action 5.2 – Not yet started – need to work more closely with communications team on several of these actions
- Action 5.3 – In progress
 - Amy Jacobs – just got a signed agreement and project is starting to kick off. Delmarva has a coordinator, PA and VA do not have anyone on board yet
 - If anyone is interested in engaging on this, please reach out and let Amy know

- Action 5.4 – In progress
 - Kevin – still collecting information from jurisdictions, moving forward with a pilot fact sheet for Virginia (working closely with communications team to develop)
 - Emily will be on a temporary assignment for the next four months
- Action 5.5 – depends on Action 5.4
- Action 5.6 – In progress
 - Changed slightly with the GIT-funding proposal to assess landowner attitudes towards wetland mowing – results of this project can help inform a WWG position on regulations of wetland mowing
- **Questions:**
 - Amy: compared to other workgroups, do we have a lot of items?
 - Carin: varies in length by group – several workgroups this past round have decided to cut down number of actions because it was too overwhelming
 - Carin: must also evaluate how each of these actions impacted the factors affecting progress, and which have been more successful in moving the needle
 - Amy: feels like table is overwhelming – Pam is the one moving most of these actions forward, with some exceptions. It might benefit us to focus and identify people for each action
 - Chris Guy: hearing similar challenges in other workgroups – outcome is not being achieved yet we’re working on these actions every day
 - Opportunity to address this issue across all the workgroups and coordinate “asks” to the Management Board

West Virginia Wetlands Functional Assessment Tool (*Elizabeth Byers, WVDEP*)

- Questions:
 - Pam: Are you satisfied with the four categories of soil criteria you determined– is it working well?
 - Elizabeth: It is – spent several years testing soil metrics to see how they correlate with function, and it seems to work well.

Updates to Virginia’s Living Shorelines Legislation (*Randy Owen, VMRC*)

- Questions:
 - Pam: What is bioengineered?
 - Randy: Don’t want to name product because it is trademarked, but concrete-based products that use oyster shells
 - Kevin: Restore America’s Estuaries has put together a citizen’s toolkit to help them understand more about living shorelines – are you aware of this?
 - Randy – not aware of this

The Way Forward

Next meeting date: October 20th