

# Stewardship Quarterly Progress Meeting Summary

## February 17, 2022

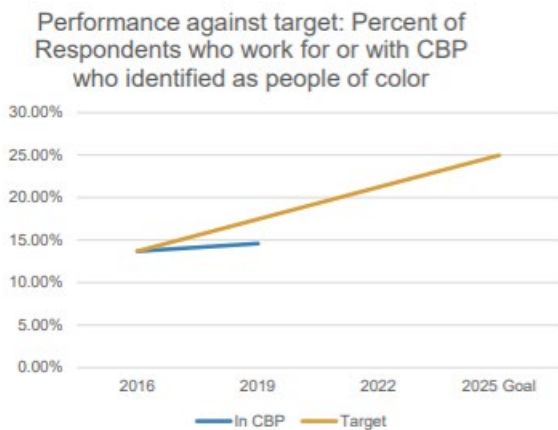
### Diversity



<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/diversity>

**Outcome:** Identify stakeholder groups that are not currently represented in the leadership, decision making and implementation of conservation and restoration activities, and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage them in the partnership's efforts.

#### Expected vs Actual Progress



#### Successes:

- Established steering committee that includes all jurisdictions in addition to stakeholder organizations
- SRS narrative question 5
- DEIJ Statement, Strategy and Implementation Plan

#### Challenges:

- Barriers to outward facing actions, including activities focused on environmental justice.

#### On the Horizon

- Increasing interest and funding to address Environmental Justice needs and equitable distribution of non-EJ funding opportunities.
- The new administration treats organizational diversity separately than environmental justice
  - DEIA Executive Orders: EO 13988, EO 14020, 14035 "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in the federal government"
  - EJ Executive Orders: EO 13985 "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved communities through the federal government"
- Social Science needs: Improve data collection for our current indicator and develop new indicator(s).
- Fiscal needs: Work in tandem with DEIJ consultant to complete internal-facing actions so the DWG can focus on implementing outward-facing priority actions.
- Policy needs: Develop unified stakeholder engagement approach, appropriate for CBP, to building meaningful, long-term relationships that result in sustainable benefits to stakeholder communities.

#### We plan to:

- Improve awareness of who is able to benefit environmentally and financially from Bay funding activities
- Establish annual workplans with HBCUs with whom we have an MOU

- Work with communications team to identify opportunities to improve stakeholder engagement through formal CBP communications.
- Increase outreach to organizations through *Diversity Workgroup Presents*: webinars
- Conduct a pilot project working with stakeholder groups such as individuals with prior justice system involvement.

**Help Needed:**

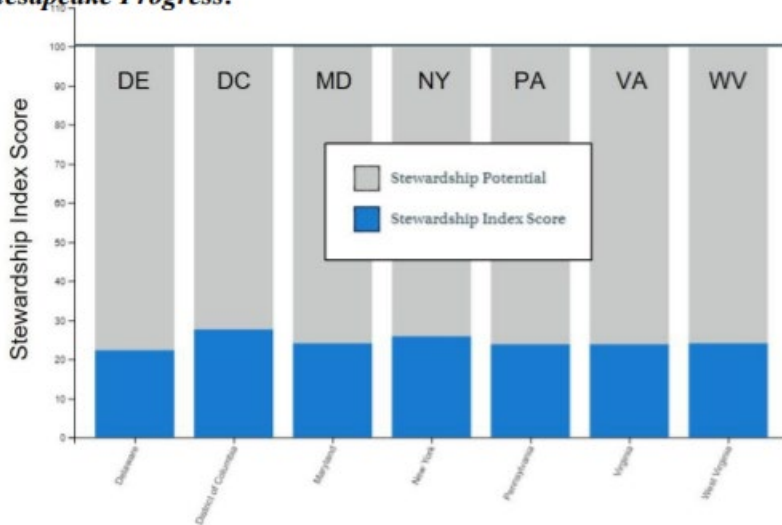
- Report demographic information of participants in the Bay Program from signatories to improve accuracy and reliability of current Diversity Indicator data.
- Improve DEIJ considerations when making appointments to participate in the Bay program
- Support development of new tracking initiative to measure signatories Diversity Outcome-related activities. This will contribute to tracking progress toward Diversity Indicator(s).

**[Citizen] Stewardship** 

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/citizen-stewardship>

**Outcome:** Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.

**Expected vs. Actual Progress:**  
*from Chesapeake Progress:*



- A score of 100 would indicate that all residents or a jurisdiction are doing everything they can in their daily lives to improve water quality and environmental health, including personal actions, volunteering and advocating for the environment.

**Success:**

- Elevating social science within CBP. More work underway will inform this:
  1. Behavior Change Forum 2/10/2022
  2. Social Science Assessment project (GIT-funded)
- Bringing attention to importance and progress towards stewardship by incorporating the new indicator into the [Chesapeake Bay Report Card](#).
- Workgroup has begun reconvening with lots of energy.

**Challenges:**

- Capacity/Staffing Changes
- Stewardship Index and behavior change website took more resources and time than anticipated, delaying other actions.

- Need to discontinue use of word “citizen” in favor of a more inclusive term.
- Missed opportunity to coordinate with Diversity Workgroup
- Federal restrictions on surveying/collecting data are a barrier to measuring progress and tracking impact.

**On the horizon:**

- New or increased funding sources (Federal, some state) will be available that can support stewardship efforts, particularly on the ground efforts.
- Cross-Outcome opportunities: Can connect stewardship strategies to assist with reaching targets for forest, riparian buffer, tree canopy, wetlands and land conservation Outcomes.
- Increased awareness of and emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) has and will continue to demand improved approaches to stewardship that are more effective at engaging watershed residents.
- Exploring possibility of offering stormwater credits for behavior change.

**Adapt:**

- Establishing the baseline focused more on individual actions.
- Now need to do more to build community leaders or champions to help inspire and mobilize community action.
- Aiming to work from the bottom up and from the top down.
- Increase diversity at all levels.



**We plan to:**

- Building Stewards
  - Train practitioners/local governments to use [chesapeakebehaviorchange.org](https://chesapeakebehaviorchange.org)
  - Utilize other existing tools, e.g. mapping resources to prioritize where to work
  - Increase emphasis on DEIJ best practices, coordination with Diversity WG
- Gaining Champions
  - Define, identify, successfully engage with and build more “champions” (community leaders and mobilizers, role of local governments, others).
- Network Development
  - Build the professional community among stewardship practitioners
  - Share best practices, scale up successful models
- Equitable and Inclusive Restoration
  - Recommend to discontinue using the word ‘citizen’ in favor of a more inclusive term. Considering formal request of CBP.
  - Employ best practices regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) for improved approaches to stewardship that are more effective at engaging watershed residents.
  - Coordinate regularly with the Diversity WG.
  - Assure representation from all watershed jurisdictions and coordination with Local Leadership Workgroup, to stay in touch with local needs and issues.
  - Encourage use of existing tools to help focus efforts (CBP Equity Dashboard, etc.)

**Help needed:**

- Further integrate social science at CBP
  - Help Promote use of behavior change website.
  - Direct staff to identify cross-Outcome opportunities to engage people in stewardship.
  - Provide advice on changing terminology used in Stewardship goal and Outcome statement.

## Public Access Site Development

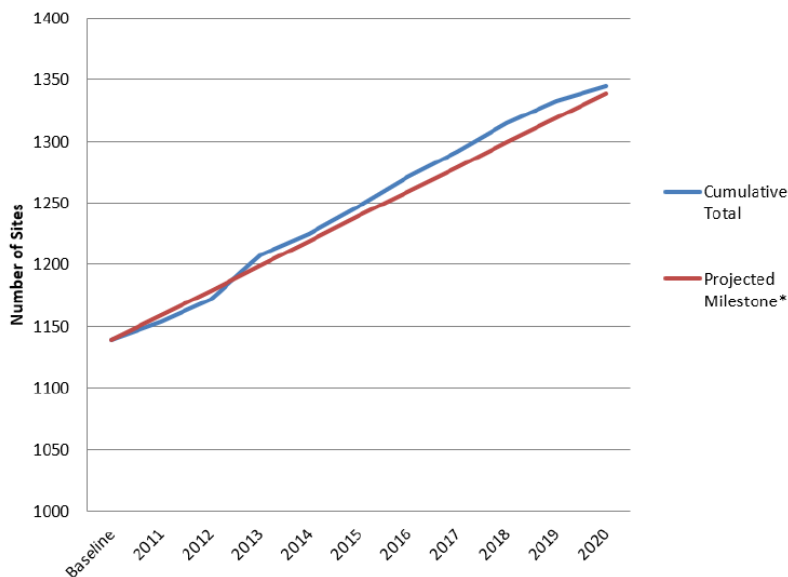


<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/public-access>

**Outcome:** By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.

**Expected vs. Actual Progress:**

**Existing Public Access Sites**



**Successes:**

- Public access workgroup functions as a learning community
- GIT Funded project on the Benefits and Barriers to public access
- Pairing public access with other programs (ex. park improvements or stream restoration)
- Lowering match requirements for grants/ weighting scoring criteria to support traditionally underserved communities

**Challenges:**

- Cost associated with maintenance impedes the implementation of new sites
- Workgroup members have limited influence on funding strategies

**On the horizon**

- Developments that have and will continue to impact our work:
  - COVID-19 resulted in record usage

- Backlog of sites in need of renovation/ maintenance
- Capacity of partners to apply for public access grant funding
- Increased cost (ex. materials, ADA accessibility)
- Climate change

**We plan to:**

- As a workgroup...
  - Continue convening the workgroup as a learning community
  - Finish and distribute the results of the Benefits and Barriers to Public Access research project to jurisdictions and other CBP workgroups
- In our individual jurisdictions...
  - Continue collaboration with state agencies to address public access infrastructure
  - Work may be influenced by how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act is allocated by the Federal Government and States

**Equitable and inclusive restoration...**

- Benefits and Barriers to Public Access Research
- Examples of work happening in each of the States
  - PA SCORP includes a “recreation for All” priority
  - PA DCNR mapped high need areas for water, trail, and park access
  - VA DCR updated grant criteria to benefit underserved communities
  - VA DWR hired George Braxton as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
  - DE DNREC lowered match requirements for Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails programs
  - MD DNR developed maps that identify areas that may have gaps in the availability of public water access.
  - MD DNR developed the Maryland Park Equity Tool

**Help needed:**

- Best practice: Encouraging pairing public access site development with other projects taking place in your agencies (ex. stream restoration, park improvements, land acquisition)
- Continue public access site development work going on in your agency. Consider the use of infrastructure funding to accelerate our progress.
- Explore solutions for the ongoing issue of maintenance in your individual agency.