



What is a Chesapeake Bay Program Wetlands Champion?

Wetlands play a vital role in sustaining aquatic life, providing habitat and sanctuary for numerous iconic Chesapeake Bay wildlife species, and serve as natural pollutant filters. However, climate change, land development, and other environmental and anthropogenic pressures threaten tidal and nontidal wetlands throughout the Bay watershed. In an effort to accelerate efforts to protect and restore wetlands, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership committed to identify “Wetland Champions.” The following information is intended to provide a snapshot of what this champion role may entail. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change, based on the needs and expectations of a specific jurisdictional or federal wetlands champion.

- Embraces a passion for wetlands and wants to be actively engaged in efforts to protect, restore, create, and enhance this critical living resource.
- Well-positioned to make a demonstrable difference – particularly in directing staff and funding towards wetlands work.
- Participates in committees where one can insert the role and importance of wetlands into the actions and dialogue of the partnership, including Principals’ Staff Committee, the Management Board, and wetlands associated technical workgroups.
- Leads efforts in a federal agency or state and local jurisdiction as part of a coordinated Chesapeake response in advancing wetlands.
- Staff support and technical expertise is available and ready to assist in raising the awareness of and in pursuing champion opportunities.
- Ability to promote and coordinate resources as necessary to help achieve the Wetlands Outcome under the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and potential upcoming Beyond 2025 efforts.
- Serves as a bridging entity and point of contact for the CBP for collaboration, communication, capacity, planning, finance, and implementation of wetlands projects.
- Encompasses – or can identify – the technical capabilities necessary to design and implement wetland restoration projects and help promote conservation strategies for protecting existing and reestablished wetlands.



Photo by the Chesapeake Bay Program