



Protected Lands Workgroup Meeting

Monday April 24th, 2023

4:00 - 5:00 PM Virtual meeting via [Link](#)

(US) +1 619-728-5829

PIN: 434 539 231#

Attendees		
Anthony Bobo Jr	Ashley Rebert	Aurelia Gracia
Ben Alexandro	Britt Slattery	Cheryl Wise
Damien Ossi	Joel Dunn	John Rowe
John Wolf	Kerri Batrowny	Michelle Campbell
Rebecca Gwynn	Ashton Berdine	Renee Thompson
Sara Coleman	Wuillam Urvina	

[SLIDES](#)

Introductions

- Name and Organization

Adaptive Management Process

- Biennial progress review process & expectations
- STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM (SRS):
 - This is the CBP's adaptive management system that runs on two-year cycles providing broad direction for management of the work.

Logic & Action Plan

- Review of Management Approaches and some key actions
- Logic & Action Plan
 - Identifies: Factors affecting the field of work under an Outcome, and the workgroup's ability to achieve an outcome (including gaps, what's happening now, what needs to happen) = the logic.
 - The actions partners commit to taking over the next 2 years to manage the above. It articulates what the members expect to achieve by taking those actions.
 - Responsible parties
 - This can be anybody. It can be:

- Workgroup (WG) as a collective
 - Individual WG partners as appropriate
 - Individual WG partners leading a committee
 - Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP)
 - Outside partners or champions we identify
 - Combination
- Basics
 - Outcome: OUTCOME: By 2025, protect an additional two million acres of the lands (above 2010 baseline) throughout the watershed currently identified as high-conservation priorities at the federal, state, or local level – including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality.
 - On track to meet the 2M ac overall (~95%) if continue protecting ~150K ac/year
 - The current plan is arranged in 5 management approaches (MA)
 - MA 1: Accelerate protection of lands in accordance with current science through collaboration across sectors to align all partners and resources needed to meet and exceed the Outcome target, working toward protecting 30% of the watershed by 2030 (2.4 million acres above the 2025 Outcome target).
 - MA 2: Improve public health through increasing green spaces in under-resourced communities; and address equity, diversity, and inclusion through community-focused efforts.
 - MA 3: Provide watershed-wide conservation data and analysis to help identify potential conservation priorities and focus on where increased benefits can be achieved.
 - MA 4: Expand conservation financing and additional resources for accelerated land protection as well as to sustain and enhance organizational capacity for agencies and land trusts.
 - MA 5: Recommend conservation policy options to reach targets for protected acreage and conserved ecosystem services.
- How are the actions and management approaches decided?
 - The Workgroup is responsible for developing the Logic & Action plan. There are 7 steps to establish the logic of the plan and what are the areas of work we want to tackle.
- Comments
 - I think there is a lot of opportunity to help support across the protected lands outcomes (including the Land use Methods and Metrics and Land use Options Evaluation outcomes) re policy options. Those outcomes are targeted at reducing land conversion and protection of course is a big part of that.

Action Discussion

- Potential for actions to be accomplished by July
- How will implementing actions work?

Jamboard Comments & Notes

- 1.3.a. Advance the protected lands work outlined in the Directive, which states "Prioritize achieving our outcomes to conserve and restore wetlands, forest buffers and urban tree canopies for both increased resilience to climate impacts and to assist in meeting national goals for achieving 30% of lands and waters conserved by 2030."
 - Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is coordinating implementation of the Virginia Wetlands Action Plan, which includes protection and restoration of wetlands habitat. Establishing an interagency workgroup to prioritize activities.
 - Joel Dunn / If possible, work with State Legislatures/Administrations to secure 30x30 commitments, like the Maryland the Beautiful legislation that just passed.
 - John Wolf/USGS - Better leverage geographic targeting of land conservation projects to achieve multiple benefits. (NEXT PLAN)
- 1.3.c. Coordinate with the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup to identify needs relevant to land conservation, such as protecting land for managed retreat for coastal areas, so they can be addressed throughout the work.
 - John Wolf/USGS - This is currently underway with the Climate Resiliency WG GIT Funded project.
 - WVLT could use this guidance.
- 1.4.b.i. Conserving acres of tidal and nontidal wetlands and forests of highest value to water quality, including (when possible) land with existing riparian forest buffers;
 - John R - WVDOT is currently in the process of conserving an additional 5000 acres of non-tidal forest and is also working on funding proposals to conserve additional forest land.
 - Kerri/Delaware- Those Divisions involved in the DE Open Space Program are actively working to conserve land via fee acquisition or conservation easement.
- 1.4.b.ii Restoring wetlands and riparian forest buffers and/or implementing BMPs on existing conserved acreage to contribute to water quality, stream health and brook trout habitat goals; and
 - Kerri/Delaware- I'm not aware of the specifics but the DNREC Division of Watershed has a new program targeted at farmers to restore riparian buffers
 - Michelle/DOEE- Wetlands Workgroup is working on tracking metrics towards wetland restoration. Can look at consolidating metrics with them
 - PA has committed funding for riparian forest buffer installations. I would need to check with our Rivers Program to learn about our progress to date.
 - WVLT could possibly contribute to this with its portfolio of protected lands
 - Joel Dunn/ Expand the Rapid Stream Delisting program from PA to all watershed states, leveraging the forthcoming 3D streams maps.

- 1.4.b.iii Developing or accelerating conservation programs/initiatives that allow for marsh migration in coastal areas and that protect/restore green infrastructure for inland flood mitigation.
 - The Climate Resiliency WG has done some work in this area, so perhaps we can work with them?
 - Maryland is working to expand the coastal resilience easement program (only two completed so far)
- 2.2.a Each jurisdiction develops annual plans and secure new or utilize existing funding mechanisms to implement greening projects in under-resourced communities, working through federal, state, and local governments and other partners. Projects might include green infrastructure that provides environmental benefits to water and air quality, cooling, flood protection and resiliency, while prominently providing for passive or active recreational use to contribute to local residents' health and wellness. Utilize mapping resources and projects provided through CCP and CBP to identify communities and inform planning.
 - Much of the watershed in WV should qualify. WVLT would like to contribute to this goal
 - Maryland is finalizing a new Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation (LPPRP) Plan - could identify underserved communities to highlight
 - Joel Dunn / MD just passed the Greenspace Equity Program, which directly addresses this item.
 - Damien/DC DOEE. DC is starting to protect/conservate land using easements and is looking at LWCF to fund that, particularly east of the Anacostia river.
 - Maybe this action is about compiling existing work vs. requiring new plans. (NEXT PLAN)
- 2.3.a. Build upon and utilize ongoing work among CBP partners to evaluate what the professional community is learning and convene partners to share best practices and identify means for increasing equity in land protection financing programs throughout the watershed. Focus primarily on projects funded through CBP, such as those about identifying and serving under-resourced communities, determining adequacy of greenspace, identifying barriers to water access, increasing equity practices among grantmakers, etc.
 - Kerri/Delaware- DE has recently hired the state's first Environmental Justice Coordinator
 - Much of the watershed in WV should qualify. WVLT would like to contribute to this goal
 - Annual conference or workshop to share successes (NEXT PLAN)
- 3.1 Track progress toward the Outcome target.
 - Ben, CCP/CC: I think getting the protected lands data and the protected lands indicator on track is the most important task of the PLWG right now.
 - Kerri/Delaware- the division of Parks to the management agency for the Open Space Program in which 4 agencies are eligible
 - I envision a sub group focused on streamlining the Protected Lands indicator (data collection and analysis)

- John Wolf - We need to streamline the process of collecting protected lands from the jurisdictions using a common and consistent framework compatible with PADUS
- Joel - 3.1 Working in concert with USGS, secure agreement from the states on a standard format for reporting protected lands data.
- Check accuracy of the WV data
- 3.2.b. Facilitate regular means for state, federal and non-governmental partners in the Chesapeake watershed to share information and active work and identify future mapping and analysis needs and areas for collaboration.
 - The PADUS folks need to be looped in here I think.
 - John Wolf/USGS - This is critical for long-term success. Ches Conservancy and USGS will elaborate on this at a future (next) meeting.
- 4.2.e Provide guidance materials to partners to assist in enhancing natural resource, climate and ecological goals in easements.
 - The TNC Resilient Protection Framework project is drafting language for coastal resilience easement management plans
 - Harness previous work on this 2018 Conservation Finance workshop
 - WVLT could definitely use guidance in this endeavor.
 - Rebecca Gwynn / DWR will coordinate with the Virginia United Land Trust members to get feedback on practices for enhancing natural resources, climate and ecological goals in easements.
 - Rebecca Gwynn / VaULT is developing additional materials in partnership with state agencies to identify funding options, match, and any geographic limitations or requirements.
 - Kerri/Delaware- there are so many funding sources out there for acquisition but sometimes the problem is being aware of all of them and the match aspect.
- 5.1 Work with partners across sectors to identify and recommend policy changes that will accelerate protection of lands to achieve mutual goals and outcomes throughout the watershed.
 - In partnership with the Land use outcomes, local leadership workgroup and others. Harness best practices and communication resources previously developed
 - Env. Law Institute submitted a proposal with MDNR support to Sea Grant Law Center to examine resilience easements across several coastal states (NEXT PLAN)

Next Steps

- Topics for the May Workgroup meeting
 - PL Indicator - will discuss logistics and collecting data annually [we'll bring up DOD lands issue in May]
 - Starting the internal reflection for SRS – share a few slides from the 2021 review
 - Updates from members

- Ideas from members
- Regular meeting times – what works?
 - There was no opposition to having the meetings on the last Wednesday of the month. In terms of time, there was no specific time that worked for everyone so I will have to play it by ear.
- Action Items
 - Things to follow up on from the Jamboard session
 - 1.3.a
 - Establishing an interagency workgroup to prioritize activities.
 - Work with State Legislatures/Administrations to secure 30x30 commitments
 - 1.3.c
 - Initiate communication with the Climate Resiliency WG to gain more information regarding their GIT Funded project and how it can relate to this Logic & Action Plan target.
 - 1.4.b.ii
 - DNREC Division of Watershed has a new program targeted at farmers to restore riparian buffers.
 - Would the number of acres restored be tracked?
 - Wetlands Workgroup is working on tracking metrics towards wetland restoration. We should look into consolidating metrics with them.
 - Expand the Rapid Stream Delisting program from PA to all watershed states
 - 2.2.a
 - Maybe this action is about compiling existing work vs. requiring new plans. (NEXT PLAN)
 - 2.3.a
 - Annual conference or workshop to share successes (NEXT PLAN)
 - 3.1
 - We need to streamline the process of collecting protected lands from the jurisdictions using a common and consistent framework compatible with PADUS
 - Working in concert with USGS, secure agreement from the states on a standard format for reporting protected lands data.