



Beyond 2025 Shallow Water Habitats and SAV Workgroup Session

JANUARY 12, 2024

GINA HUNT, CHAIR SWHT, HGIT CO-CHAIR

BROOKE LANDRY, CO-CHAIR SWHT, SAV WORKGROUP CHAIR

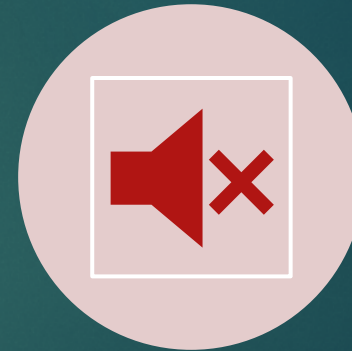
Please.....



WRITE YOUR NAME AND
ORGANIZATION IN THE CHAT



NOTE- THIS MEETING IS
BEING RECORDED BUT
WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE



MUTE YOURSELF UNLESS YOU
ARE SPEAKING DURING THE
DISCUSSION

Who We Are

The Shallow Water Habitats Small Group:

LEADS-

- ▶ Gina Hunt, Habitat GIT Co-Chair
- ▶ Brooke Landry, SAV Workgroup Chair

INVITED CESR CONTRIBUTORS-

- ▶ Denice Wardrop – Chesapeake Research Consortium
- ▶ Kenneth Rose – University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

MEMBERS-

- ▶ Larry Sanford, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- ▶ Bruce Vogt, Sustainable Fisheries GIT
- ▶ Laura Cattell Noll, Local Government Initiative Director
- ▶ Stefanie Tallion, VA Natural and Historic Resources
- ▶ Chris Guy, Fish & Wildlife Service
- ▶ Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission
- ▶ Jessica Blackburn, Stakeholders' Advisory Committee

Agenda

- 30 mins – Intro and presentation (Brooke Landry)
- 60-90 mins– Questions and Discussion

Presentation



PURPOSE/
EXPECTATIONS



BEYOND 2025
BACKGROUND



SMALL TOPIC
GROUPS



SHALLOW
WATER HABITATS
VISION/SCOPE



GUIDING
QUESTIONS
FOR DISCUSSION



NEXT STEPS

If you have questions during the presentation, please put them in the chat.

The chat will be monitored.

Purpose & Expectations

- ▶ The intention of this session is to hear from **SAV Subject Matter Experts** where they see the opportunities for shallow water habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and the Bay Agreement.
- ▶ While CESR has generated a lot of shallow water discussion, it does not define or limit our discussion. It also does not suggest abandoning deep water or the TMDL, but rather expanding our efforts in shallow water in an effort to accelerate conservation and restoration efforts in the area of the Bay that supports living resources, and which resonates the most with people.
- ▶ We are looking for feedback on how to expand these shallow water efforts (i.e. continue and expand current efforts, new efforts, new engagement practices.)
- ▶ Share your ideas and be specific. Tell us not only the *what*, but the *how*, *where*, or the *why*.

Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response

An Independent Report from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Chesapeake Bay Program
Annapolis, MD

May 2023

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee

The Chesapeake Bay Executive Council (EC) charged the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) with recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* leading up to and beyond 2025. With that charge, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 Steering Committee (B25SC) has created five "Small Groups" to form recommendations around cross-cutting, high-level topics, including Climate, Healthy Watersheds, Clean Water, People, and Shallow Water Habitats.

The Shallow Water Habitats Small Group (SWHSG) is attending SWH-related workgroup meetings, holding listening sessions, and scheduling office hours to hear shallow water habitat ideas and feedback from stakeholders, communities, and shallow water habitat experts on issues and recommendations moving beyond 2025.

- ▶ Prioritize and outline the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025.
- ▶ Report back to the Executive Council at its 2024 annual meeting (October) with recommendations that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025.

The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee is comprised of partner signatories, federal agencies, advisory committees, and GIT representatives.

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/beyond-2025-steering-committee>

Recommendations

- ▶ The recommendations to the EC will be at a high level.
- ▶ This is the path forward. How to include new science and considerations.
- ▶ We are not recommending the specific language for new or revised goals.
- ▶ There may be another Phase of Beyond 2025 work after the EC.

STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSED PRODUCTS BY EC2024

Where we are

Assessment of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement

- Reaching 2025 Report
- CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, SRS meeting report, other

Where do we want to be

Vision

- Current Partnership Vision – Reaffirm? Refine?

Path Forward

Impact assessment

- What is the ability of our Partnership to positively impact each goal and outcome?
- Do we have the right outcomes for our goals and the right goals for our vision?

What we do

Recommendation on what to do with the Watershed Agreement post-2025

- Extend? Amend? Rewrite?

How we work

Assessment of and recommendations for our overall partnership

- Partnership Structure
- Governance and Adaptive Management

Schedule

- ▶ June – Oct- Steering Committee met to discuss vision, topics, and process.
- ▶ Nov. – Feb. 2024: Topical groups convene, discuss, and develop recommendations to be considered by the Beyond 2025 SC.
 - ▶ Fish Habitat, Wetlands and Stream Health Workgroup Meetings in December
 - ▶ SAV Workgroup meeting on Friday January 12th
- ▶ Feb. 2024: 2-day SC Meeting to discuss small group recommendations.
- ▶ Mar.-April 2024: SC Meetings to review and adopt the first draft of recommendations.
- ▶ June- July 2024: Solicit public feedback on the Beyond 2025 SC recommendations.
- ▶ July-Aug. 2024: Revise and affirm the Beyond 2025 SC recommendations based on public input.
- ▶ Sept.-Oct 2024: Seek approval of Beyond 2025 SC recommendations from the Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee.
- ▶ Oct.- Dec. 2024: Present and request approval of Beyond 2025 SC recommendations from the Executive Council.



Small Topic Groups

Climate

- Recommendations to transform CBP partnership policies, programs, and projects to address the significant ongoing and future impacts climate change will impose on the Bay and its watershed and people across generations. Strategies to better incorporate climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency across the watershed and tidal Bay.
- Develop strategies to better incorporate climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency across the watershed and tidal Bay

Healthy Watersheds

- Considering the spectrum of health across all catchments in the Bay watershed, to be able to characterize health at the local level
- Information for decision-making that supports protection of intact habitats, as well as restoration and maintenance of degraded habitats
- Opportunity to integrate with state wildlife action plans, due for update in 2025, with state-defined priority habits and living resource.

Clean Water

- How interim goals focused on the 92 segments that make up the TMDL may change how we work and where and when we see improvements.
- What monitoring data and networks we have, how to make the best use of those before filling small watershed monitoring gaps

People

- Focus on systems-level and process-based recommendations that will ensure people are part of the vision for the Bay program.
- Define who the people of the Bay watershed are and who we need to reach.
- Ask whether and how people in each jurisdiction are or are not a part of the Bay partnership's work.

Shallow Water Habitats





Shallow Water Habitats

VISION-

Healthy and sustainable shallow water habitats that support resources, communities, and economies that are resilient to long-term changes in watershed conditions.

SCOPE-

Edges and Nearshore Waters of 3 ecological zones:

- Non-tidal Fresh
- Tidal Fresh
- Tidal Estuarine.

Questions and Discussion Session

Instructions and Guiding Questions



Go to:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/16YhPGNQerw7hqdW4UiOTnvQ4rbB3ChhGsavv7ueuELk/edit?usp=sharing>



Next Steps

- ▶ The Jamboard will be posted online.
- ▶ In the next few weeks, the Shallow Water Habitat Team will invite some subject matter experts to team 'office hours.' We will draft recommendations based on the feedback.
- ▶ The draft recommendations will be presented and discussed to the SC at the 2-day meeting at the end of February.
- ▶ Beyond 2025 Public engagement and comment will begin this summer.