



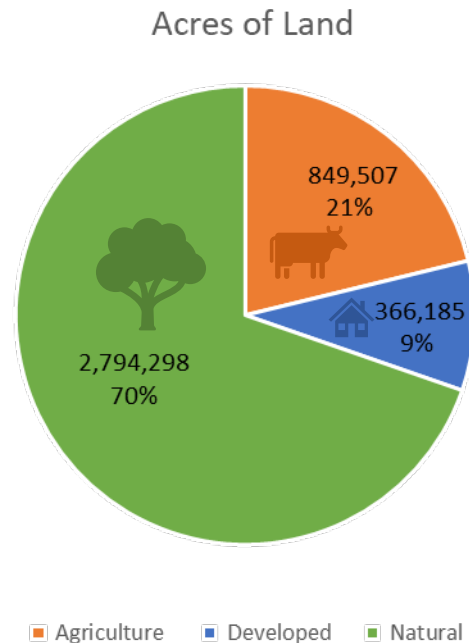
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# NY Chesapeake Bay Wetland Action Plan

Wetland Workgroup Meeting  
February 16, 2022

# Chesapeake Bay's Northern Headwaters

- Upper Susquehanna River and Chemung River Basins
- Portions of 19 counties in NY are within the watershed boundary
  - 70% of the watershed is forested, wetlands, or water
  - 1.6% is non-tidal floodplain wetlands
  - 1.5% is headwater or isolated wetlands



# Strategic Planning

- Form NY Chesapeake Bay Wetland Action Team
- Address barriers to implementation
- Account for climate change



Photos from USC Wetland Team

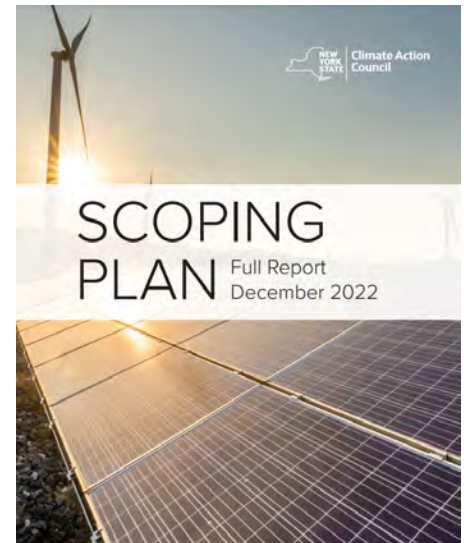
# NY Wetlands

## 1975 Freshwater Wetlands Act

- Wetlands that are 12.4 acres or considered of unusual local importance and the 100-foot buffer around each wetland are protected under this regulation.

## Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

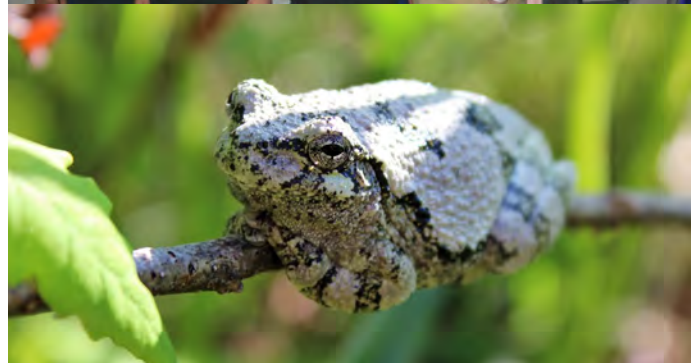
- Threshold for freshwater wetland protection will drop from 12.4 to 7.4 acres in 2028
- Implementation of the expanded protection will require changes to regulations, updated guidance, and greater administration and enforcement



# Upper Susquehanna Coalition

The USC provides on the ground implementation and technical support in the areas of agriculture, stream corridor rehabilitation, and wetland restoration.

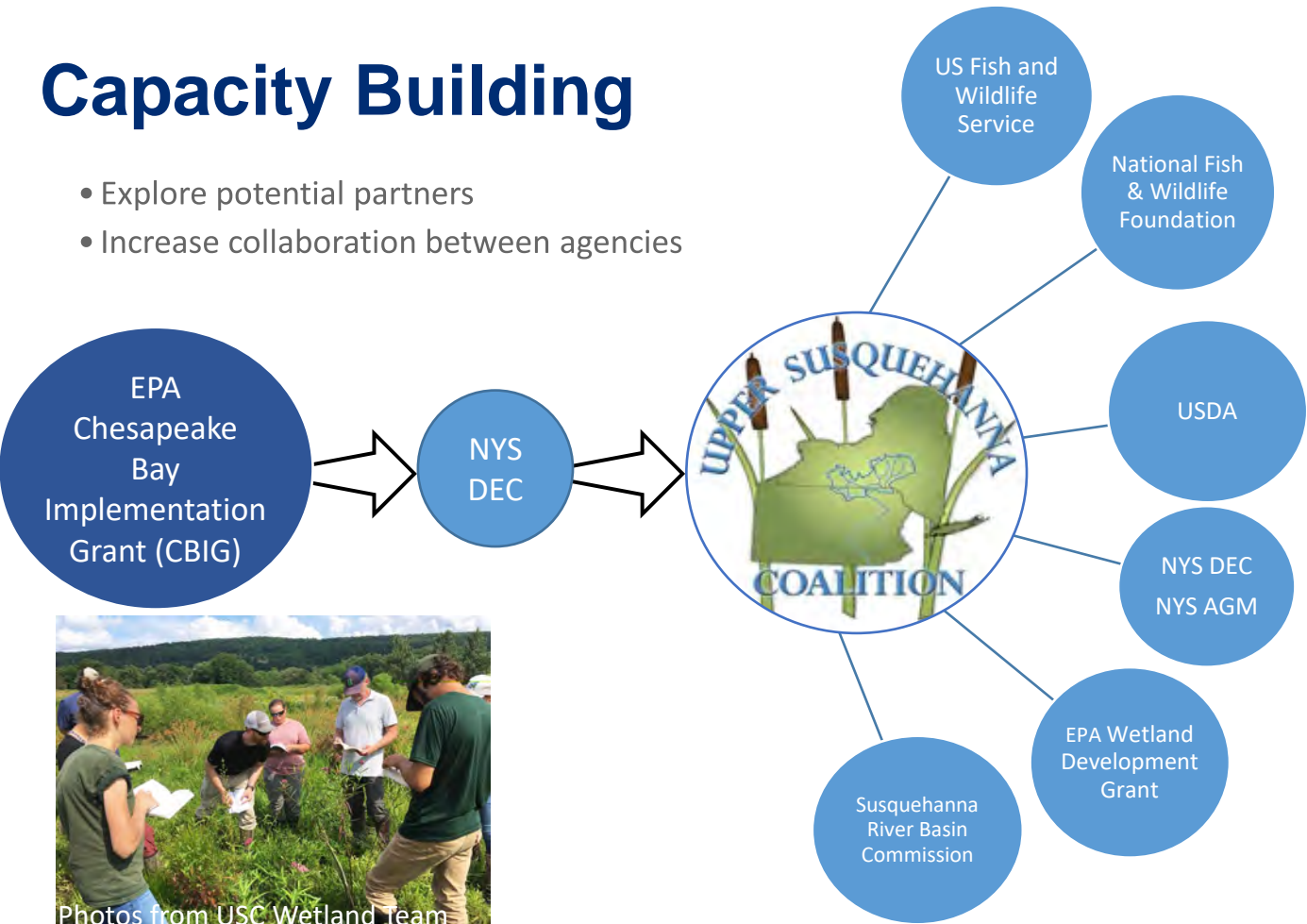
- Designated Wetland Team
  - Innovation
  - Sustainability
  - Partnerships
- USC Wetland Program was 2014 Environmental Excellence Award Winner and 2015 US EPA Environmental Champion for Exceptional Work to Protect the Environment.



Photos from USC Wetland Team

# Capacity Building

- Explore potential partners
- Increase collaboration between agencies



Photos from USC Wetland Team

# Outreach

## Landowner Engagement

Highlight co-benefits and ecosystem services

- Habitat restoration
- Flood resiliency
- Water quality



Photos from USC Wetland Team



# Sustainable Funding to Support Wetland Restoration

Continue to secure funds to support staffing, planning, design, implementation, and administration of grant funds



Photos from USC Wetland Team