Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

==Wetlands Workgroup Meeting: Tidal & Nontidal==
Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 10:00-1:00 ET
Link to the Meeting Materials

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Presenter: Pam Mason (VIMS retired)

OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME ASSESSMENT TASK, BIG QUESTION, & OUTCOME VS OUTPUT
Presenter: Bill Jenkins (EPA)

- Wetlands & Black Duck 2-pagers due February 27th
- Wetlands & Black Duck 2-pagers will be presented to the Management Board on March 13th
- Big Question: What advice do you have for the Management Board on how to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes within your GIT?
- Logic Model: visual way to present your understanding of the relationships among the resources you have to operate your program, the activities you plan, and the changes or results you hope to achieve
    - Inputs: what is invested - the resources that go into a program
    - Outputs: what is done/produced/accomplished
    - Outcomes: the results – the effect of that output on the desired result
- Secret Sauce for a good outcome
    - Clear in its objective
    - Measurable
    - Has partner commitment
    - Has a monitoring program
    - Identified resources
    - Work is centered on benefits to people and living resources

Discussion:

- **Amy Jacobs:** Is there a parallel process that is occurring for the Management Board to evaluate the overarching Bay goal(s)?
    - **Chris Guy:** The Principals' Steering Committee (PSC) is focused on Vision Principles and Goals. MB has been tasked with Outcomes and Governance.
- **Sarah Koser:** Regarding "resources identified" in the secret outcome sauce - will this include funding sources?

- **Chris Guy:** Right now, there's no new funding proposed, so we are doing things with existing resources.

WETLANDS & BLACK DUCK OUTCOME ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

Presenter: Pam Mason (VIIMS retired), Nancy Schumm (City of Gaithersburg), Tess Danielson (DOEE), & Alicia Berlin (USGS)

- Current Wetlands Outcome: Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban), but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.
- Wetlands Outcome shortcomings
  - The Wetlands Outcome is not realistic as is.
  - It should: include conservation/protection, be split between tidal and nontidal wetlands, account for tidal wetland loss & marsh migration, and crosswalk with other habitat/fisheries outcomes.
  - To come up with a value, a baseline of existing wetlands should be established, projected loss/gain from climate change should be accounted for, and the percentage of the current goal reached should be known.
  - The outcome needs to be consistent with wetland goals/outcomes across jurisdictions and not only focus on agricultural land.
- Connection to other outcomes
  - Black Duck
  - Forest Buffers
  - Protected Lands
  - Climate Adaptation
  - Fish Habitat
  - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Current Black Duck Outcome: By 2025, restore, enhance and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.
  - Changing black duck to an output and include others that can be associated with wetlands (i.e. other bird guilds).
- Don't need to include what the goal language will be at this point.

Discussion:

- **Chris Spaur:** Dangerous to commit to any sort of split number between tidal/nontidal. Former highly vulnerable to SLR impacts that we cannot control. (Notable acceleration 2010 onward). Instead, not committing to numbers allows greater flexibility (presumably).
  - **Jeryl Phillips:** Secret Sauce ingredients include measurable and monitorable, so kind of need a specific number?
  - **Alison Santoro:** I asked this in an office hours meeting, because there are so many things listed in the secret sauce that we don't have, like dedicated funding. The outcome doesn't need to meet all of the secret sauce ingredients, just the SMART goals.
  - **Pam Mason**: Agree that it's difficult to project numbers with uncertainty, but we can take that into consideration.
- **Keith Bollt:** Implicit in what others have said, but very important to also include climate change when setting a wetlands goal. The 2021 EC Charge expects the CBP partnership to incorporating climate change in all we do.
- **Julie Reichert-Nguyen**: FYI: Climate Adaptation feedback from members is leaning towards updating and making it science-focused and not implementation focused. Ideas included identifying focus areas to develop nature-based adaptation options from a more holistic watershed approach that includes tidal and nontidal. Measurable would include successfully developing adaptation options for the focus areas.
- **Keith Bollt:** Blue crab has a range.

BREAKOUT SESSION REPORT OUTS

Breakout Group 1 - Wetlands
- Indicators of tidal wetlands: Black ducks, fish productivity
- Indicators of nontidal wetlands: Brook trout, something that links to stream health
- Outcome: Improve connectivity of habitats that support resilient systems that can adapt to climate change
  - Includes wetlands and other habitats associated with those wetlands
  - Acknowledging that habitats may change due to climate change
  - Thinking about the whole complex – connection between wetlands, streams, floodplains, and buffers
- Outputs: Percent increase because that integrates conservation/protection and restoration & each jurisdiction implements one large-scale or equivalent area of several smaller restoration or conservation projects per year
  - Gives a target for each jurisdiction and adds specificity
  - Connectivity can be a measurement/output
- Overall recommendation: Replace or Update

Breakout Group 2 – Wetlands
- There's conversation about increasing, but there should also be conversation on how we manage declines that may happen in certain habitat types and how to start prioritizing. By function?
- Move away from acres and more towards ecosystem functions
- Outcome: Add conservation and climate change considerations
- Difficulty to establish a baseline in current mapping efforts, so how would we evaluate progress?
- Overall recommendation: Update

Breakout Group 2 – Black Duck
- Combine with wetlands outcome by including wetland habitat and use black duck as an example species and include people benefits (hunting, birdwatching, fish habitat)
- Not only use black duck as the species
- Overall recommendation: Combine

Breakout Group 3 – Wetlands
- Outcome: Add conservation and antidegradation, include separate tidal/nontidal outcome, change to be a percentage instead of acreage, keep enhancement
- Output: Collaborate with other wetland action teams, adopt the Black Duck outcome as an output
- Overall recommendation: Update

Breakout Group 3 – Black Duck
- Outcome: Update to guild-based outcome to incorporate other dabblers, add protect/enhance prioritized wetlands, restore degraded wetlands
- Output: Collaborate with other workgroups (SAV, forests, etc.) & ACJV, DU, Audubon, etc.
- Inputs: Identify habitat types (NTW vs. Tidal; +wetland vegetation types) for black ducks, monitor/update location/numbers of existing populations, suitability models for BD and other dabblers, models for climate change, consider conflicting outcomes - promote approach to keep coastal forests and support migrating wetlands (create framework?)
- Overall recommendation: Update

Breakout Group 4 – Wetlands
- Outcome: Consider splitting into two outcomes (tidal and non-tidal)
  - Or would this be two outputs to support a wetlands outcome?
- Do we add language about ecosystem services?
- Inputs: Wetlands mapping & landowner engagement

- Overall recommendation: Update or Replace

Breakout Group 4 – Black Duck
- Output: Determined the habitat type guilds that supports a variety of waterbird species
- Overall recommendation: Consolidate

ATTENDEES (47): Pam Mason (VIMS retired), **Nancy Schumm** (City of Gaithersburg), **Tess Danielson** (DOEE), **Alicia Berlin** (USGS), **Dede Lawal** (CRC), **Chris Guy** (USFWS), **Bill Jenkins** (EPA), **Gina Hunt** (MD DNR), **Nick Staten** (CRC), **Greg Noe** (USGS), **Bryce Bailey** (RES), **Jeryl Phillips** (VIMS), **Cassandra Davis** (NY DEC), **Michelle Campbell** (DOEE), **Amy Jacobs** (TNC), **Aaron Deiter** (DNREC), **Jeff Lapp** (NAWM), **George Doumit** (DNREC), **Megan Fitzgerald** (EPA), **Emily Young** (ICPRB), **Kevin Mclean** (VA DEQ), **Sarah Koser** (CBT), **Su Fanok** (TNC), **Karinna Nunez** (VIMS), **Aaron Wendt** (DCR), **Aaron Blair** (EPA), **Alison Santoro** (MD DNR), **Lorie Staver** (UMCES), **Andrew Larkin** (NOAA), **Chris Spaur** (USACE), **Sarah Hilderbrand** (MD DNR), **Julia Fucci** (CRC), **Julie Reichert-Nguyen** (NOAA), **Mitch Hartley** (USFWS), **Erin Reilly** (VIMS), **Emily Heller** (EPA), **Keith Bollt** (EPA), **Marla Stelk** (NAWM), **Andy Baldwin** (UMD), **Melissa Yearick** (USC), **Amanda Poskaitis** (Underwood & Associates), **Matt Robinson** (EPA), **Tess Thompson** (VT), **Breck Sullivan** (USGS), **Seth Keller** (USACE), **Mary Bennett** (DOF), **Sadie Drescher** (CBT)