Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Healthy Landscapes Goal Team Meeting - July 30th 2026

Management Strategy Development

Adaptation Workgroup

Outcome refresher

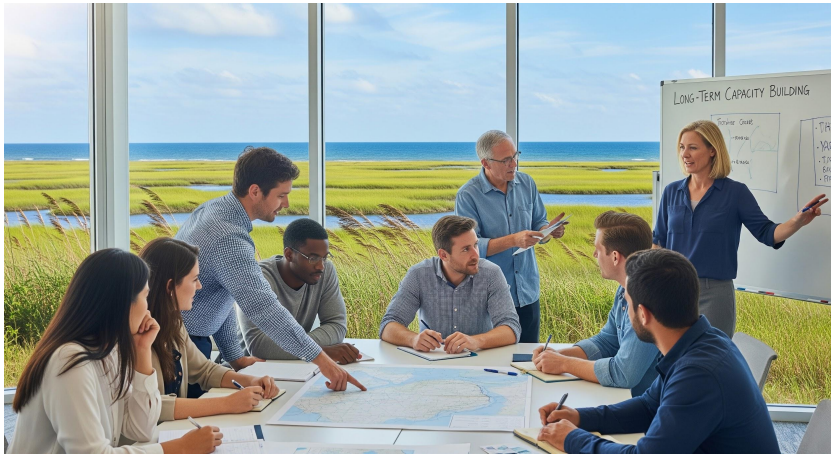
Increase the capacity for pursuing solutions, including those that are nature-based, to improve planning and responses to changing conditions while balancing long-term resiliency of watershed communities, economies and ecosystems.

- By 2040, support at least seven sub-watershed areas with knowledge-sharing and technical assistance to identify adaptation options with a preference for nature-based solutions. These solutions include restoration and protection projects that will help address risks to people, infrastructure and habitats from changes in temperature, precipitation and landscapes.

- By 2040, inform and lead to an increase in the implementation of the identified adaptation options that prioritize and integrate nature-based solutions in the above sub-watershed areas

Adaptation Workgroup Principles

- Serve as a connector and translator
- Build strategic capacity for adaptation
- Use a place-based and needs approach
- Prioritize implementation with science and planning
- Foster an action-oriented partner network



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Value Added Strategies

- Empower networks through partnership-building and shared-learning to advance innovation with nature-based solutions for changes in precipitation, storm events, temperatures, and sea level.
- Advance pre and post-monitoring of nature-based solutions to inform adaptive management through the development of common best practices.
- Standardize innovation to better adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Baseline Metrics

No baseline - Use **existing datasets** to develop by subwatershed area (starting with one and building up)

1. Environmental trends, vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans
2. Support activities to empower jurisdictions/ communities to develop information.

New Baseline - Defined by current capacity of localities within a subwatershed to address climate adaptation needs and existing use of NBS

Tracking

Document workgroup's and participating partners' evolution through the

adaptation planning to implementation pipeline

Future indicators will aim to quantify the additive benefits across implementing NbS for prioritized end-points, eg:

- reduced flooding damage
- resilient habitat
- reduced erosion
- etc.

Situation Analysis + Challenges

Challenges	Within CBPs ability to influence	Within CBPs ability to act	Outside of CBP's ability to influence
***Lack of quantitative adaptation metrics and indicators for evaluating long-term resilience enhancement.**		X (act)	
***Lack of centralized NbS project-tracking database**		X (act)	
***Regulatory and permitting challenges that stall innovative nature-based engineering solutions.**	X (inform)		
***Short-term horizon (under 5 years) of major resilience grants, which discourages long-term adaptation planning and monitoring of progress of desired adaptation end-points.**	X (inform)		

Management Approaches

Management Approach 1.1 Develop selection strategy for the subwatersheds to focus workgroup's adaptation support efforts

Using a phased timeline, candidate sub-watersheds will be selected based on explicit climate vulnerability indices, geographic differences, and common adaptation needs.

Management Approach 1.2: Strategic Network Mapping and Connector Framework

The workgroup will serve as a strategic "connector" and "translator" to bridge the gap between high-level science and localized action[cite: 6]. Rather than attempting to track every independent project across the watershed, the workgroup will build a targeted directory of local restoration practitioners, planners, soil conservation districts, and community champions within selected sub-watersheds. This network will be used to exchange peer-to-peer lessons, share successful state-level archetypes (such as Maryland's Whole Watershed fund or Virginia's coastal resilience framework), and match localized technical assistance needs with available regional expertise.

Management Approach 1.3: Place-Based, Needs-Driven Technical Assistance for Additive Benefits

To ensure equitable and impactful implementation, the workgroup will structure its meetings and assistance around one or two sub-watersheds at a time. The combined expertise of participating agencies and organizations will prioritize efforts that deliver clear "additive benefits" — maximizing the overlap between community protection (e.g., urban tree canopy for heat cooling, green infrastructure for flood reduction) and critical ecosystem services (e.g., stream and wetland restoration for water quality and fish habitat). [Add marsh adaptation example]

Management Approaches ctnd

Management Approach 1.4: Document best practices for NbS monitoring and data collection to assess long-term resilience at the project and landscape-scale

The workgroup will develop and implement a survey or data call to identify existing and proposed NbS of various types and at various scales that have been or are planned to be the subject of post-implementation monitoring to identify examples of successful monitoring practices. This work will be coordinated with ongoing efforts supported by the workgroup and the Climate Resilience Workgroup.

Management Approach 1.5. Develop standardized data sharing mechanisms to support development of adaptation metrics and indicators

The workgroup will evaluate NbS monitoring metrics from the practices identified in Management Approach 1.4 to identify meaningful, common measures of performance across NbS types to recommend for use in the subwatershed-based initiatives and local, regional, and state adaptation initiatives.

Next Steps

2026-2027 - develop criteria to select subwatershed areas

- Prioritize areas where NBS can provide additive benefits for communities and ecosystems

2027-2032 - starting with one/two areas, support identification of projects, provide technical assistance where needed

2032-2040 - expand support provided to more watershed areas, quantify additive benefits

How to measure success

1

Capacity and Engagement

- Number of watersheds supported
- Number of partners engaged
- Progress in assessing local capacity

2

Planning and Implementation

- NBS identified
- Data-sharing practices adopted

3

Outcomes

- Understand how to quantify impacts, such as reduced flooding, erosion, resiliency, and other community impacts