



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Healthy Landscapes Goal Team Meeting - September 30, 2026

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions Outcome

DRAFT Management Approaches

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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



AI-Generated

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Feedback Timeline



Current:

- August 11, 2026: Received comments from HLGT
- September 4, 2026: Received comments from Adaptation Workgroup and interested parties

Future:

- September 30, 2026: HLGT meeting
- October 7, 2026: Adaptation Workgroup Office Hours

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.

- Target 1: 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.
- Target 2: 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

Management Approach 3.1.1



Develop Criteria and Stakeholder-Based Selection Strategy for Focus Sub-watersheds

Key Selection Criteria

- **Geographic Diversity:** Urban/rural, tidal/nontidal areas.
- **Vulnerability Indices:** Climate exposure & ecological data.
- **Institutional Capacity:** Existing or planned local support.
- **Adaptation Needs:** High-priority threats like flooding & heatwaves.
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** Potential for NbS application.

Implementation Approach

- **Incremental Phasing:** Onboard 7 focus sub-watersheds over time.
- **Funding Leverage:** Align with funding programs (e.g., Sentinel Landscapes, NFWF, Whole Watershed Act)
- **Cross-Outcome Synergy:** Focus on landscape-scale resilience across outcomes.
- **Mapping Tools:** Partner with CBP GSAT for criteria mapping.

Addressing Key Challenges

- **Operational Selection:** Supports decisions for which sub-watersheds to align with available expertise.
- **Impact Assessment:** Creates manageable areas to define and identify impacts of changing conditions.
- **Resource Optimization:** Maximizes long-term adaptation planning and progress.

Management Approach 3.1.2



Build Strategic Coalitions through Stakeholder Engagement and Connector Framework

Role as "Connector & Translator"

- **Bridge the Gap:** Connect high-level climate science to localized action.
- **Network Mapping:** Assess local and regional practitioners (e.g., land trusts, soil conservation districts, restoration partnerships).
- **Reduce Redundancy:** Maximize existing relationships across sub-watersheds; coordinate with HLGT, Local Government Leadership, and SET.

Strategic Framework & Exchange

- **Peer-to-Peer Exchange:** Facilitate knowledge-sharing.
- **Technical Alignment:** Match sub-watershed technical needs with regional expertise.
- **Empower Networks:** Build self-sustaining coalitions that can identify (Target 1) and implement (Target 2) adaptation approaches.

Addressing Key Challenges

- **Boots-on-the-Ground:** Overcomes limited operational capacity for localized relationship-building.
- **Landowner Awareness:** Bridges gaps in awareness for land-use transition & easements.
- **Grant Writing:** Supports local governments with complex federal grant proposals.

Management Approach 3.1.3



Support Place-Based, Needs-Driven Technical Assistance for Additive Benefits

Tailored Assistance & Scope

- **Spectrum of Strategies:** Prioritize NbS and coordinate with other workgroups on hybrid/gray infrastructure.
- **Cross-Workgroup Collaboration:** Partner on overlapping goals like wetlands and forests.
- **Scaling Additive Benefits:** Aim for projects that support hazard mitigation, water quality, & habitat provision at watershed-scale.
- **Pipeline Navigation:** Guide progression from Concept (Target 1) to Implementation (Target 2).

Adaptation Solutions Spectrum

- **Tidal & Coastal:** Wetland restoration & living shorelines.
- **Nontidal & Upland:** Tree canopy, forest conservation, stream/floodplain management.
- **Infrastructure:** Green infrastructure & stormwater/floodplain upgrades.
- **Capacity & Policy:** Resilience plans, outreach, financing, & enabling policy.

Addressing Key Challenges

- **Permitting Barriers:** Addresses regulatory hurdles stalling innovative nature-based solutions.
- **Proposal Development:** Supports watershed-scale analyses for funding proposals.
- **Pipeline Capacity:** Overcomes technical capacity gaps from concept to implementation.

Management Approach 3.1.4



Promote Adaptation Monitoring, Data Integration, and Implementation Tracking

Monitoring & Data Integration

- **Standardized Mechanisms:** Document best practices for project and landscape scales.
- **Data Collection:** Use surveys and data calls to track existing and proposed NbS.
- **Implementation Success:** Evaluate project outcomes and performance over time.
- **Synthesize Insights:** Translate data into actionable resilience insights.

Data Sharing & GSAT Coordination

- **GSAT Alignment:** Coordinate on data-sharing mechanisms and spatial tools.
- **Actionable Products:** Transform findings to guide local and regional planning.
- **Target Support:** Directly support Target 1 (Identify) and Target 2 (Implement).
- **Performance Indicators:** Establish metrics for additive watershed benefits.

Addressing Key Challenges

- **Lack of Metrics:** Establishes quantitative adaptation metrics and indicators for long-term resilience.
- **Tracking:** Overcomes the lack of a centralized adaptation project database.
- **Baseline and Tradeoffs:** Fills long-term dataset gaps needed for NbS planning.

Management Approaches Summary

3.1.1. Advance adaptation to changing environmental conditions for at least seven sub-watersheds.

3.1.2. Empower collaborative networks to achieve additive community and watershed-scale resilience benefits through combined resources and expertise.

3.1.3. Deploy expertise, translate data, and build on lessons learned to assist partners in successfully identifying and implementing projects for additive benefits to enhance resiliency at the local and sub-watershed-scale.

3.1.4. Ensure monitoring and dataset insights from focus sub-watersheds are transformed into actionable products that assess long-term resilience and guide local/regional planning.



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Questions

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Coordinator: Julie Reichert-Nguyen (NOAA)



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EXTRA SLIDES

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 and other solutions to inform adaptive management through the development of common best practices.
- Standardize innovation to better adapt to changing environmental conditions.

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

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