



Adaptation Workgroup Office Hours

October 7th, 2026
12:00-1:00pm

Purpose: This meeting aims to review key decisions from the September Healthy Landscapes Goal Team meeting regarding management strategies. Additionally, participants will provide high-level feedback on the draft Adaptation Management Approaches ([here](#)).

Recap on edits to Adaptation Subchapter:

- Incorporate general language on cross-collaborations with other workgroups (WG); not an exclusive list until coordination with other groups occurs.
- Call out the signatory/jurisdictions in the second and third approach to address the point that signatories will help with coordination.
- Add “REPI” in front of “Sentinel Landscapes.”
- For approach 1, include words to capture social and economic vulnerability along with climate vulnerability.
- For approach 1, include text on, “changes in hydrology.”
- For approach 2, also state riparian forest buffers.
- For approach 2, “assistance will focus on ...” add more text in regard to local and regional economies.
- For approach 3, add “WG and Members will provide tailored assistance...”

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

(12:00 – 12:10)

We will run through any announcements for the workgroup. Attendance for signatory and at-large voting members.

Announcements:

- [The Marsh Resilience Summit 2027](#), February 9-10, 2027, in Cambridge, MD

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Lead: Ben McFarlane, Co-Chair, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and Julie Reichert-Nguyen, Coordinator, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO)

Materials: n/a

Discussion:

- Julie will share a new marsh dataset developed by Maryland Department of Natural Resources (POC: Nicole Carlozo); will look to have their team join future Adaptation WG Meeting.
- The 2027 Marsh Resilience Summit, February 2027 in Cambridge, MD. Registration and call for posters open next week. There will be work sessions available (1 hour).
- Reach out to Julie with any announcements or presentations on Adaptation, etc.
- [NOAA funding opportunity](#) open on advancing coastal flood protection; research grant. Looking for letters of intent by November 9th and is focused on predictive flood models and working with decisionmakers and insurance policies, etc. Please reach out to Coordinator and Co-Chairs for collaborative project ideas with WG members.

II. Summary of Healthy Landscapes Meeting (12:10 – 12:20)

Julie will summarize any key decisions from the September Healthy Landscapes Goal Team (HLGT) meeting pertaining to the management strategy. Please visit the Healthy Landscapes September Meeting webpage [here](#) for more information.

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Lead: Julie Reichert-Nguyen, Adaptation Workgroup Coordinator

Materials: Presentation slides

Key Points:

- They appreciated how comprehensive the approaches are.
- They emphasized highlighting the cross-workgroup nature of the adaptation work; particularly mentioned stream health and protected lands.

III. Management Strategy Review (12:20 – 12:50)

Members will provide high-level feedback on the draft Adaptation Management Approaches for inclusion in the draft Healthy Landscapes Management Strategy to be submitted to the PSC.

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Lead: Ben McFarlane and Julie Reichert-Nguyen

Materials: Draft adaptation outcome subchapter

Discussion:

Kevin Du Bois: for funding leverage, we should be more precise on REPI to sentinel landscape program.

- Ben: Approach language is to *intend to do this strategy* but nothing is set in stone and will be workshopped with the group. ***HLGT meeting mentioned there won't be a lot of funding from CBPO, so we need to understand available funding programs.***

Taylor Woods: have you thought about connecting with the other workgroups for sub-watershed selection? Brook Trout would be a good option because their charge might synergize well with ours—potential for cross WG collaborations.

- Ben: Stream Health, Wetlands, Public Lands and others were all brought up at the HLGT meeting. ***We will incorporate language to include this, but won't make an exclusive list at the moment so that we do not end up unintentionally volunteering for other groups.***

- Julie: there are a lot of options and a lot of work to leverage when developing criteria to select these watersheds. For instance, there is the Living Resources Assessment being led by NCBO in collaboration with various CBP partners identifying key areas to focus efforts in shallow water habitats.

Jason Dubow: the definition of role can be figured out by the WG and this could be done in meetings and discussion. But when we get to activities, ***should the lead be the WG or should it be the signatory?*** It is not clear who is the lead in the Management Approach. We should set those expectations.

- Julie: the thought is that the WG is a convener and finding connections across the watershed. For instance, host meetings around learning or topics that are of interest for the WG as a whole. We will need the signatory partners to play a big role with taking the information and moving forward with our activities. That's why ***network mapping would be helpful in identifying these collaborations.***
- Ben: for this approach, focusing on what the WG will be doing is important since we develop the criteria and incorporate science but we can include a sentence on working with signatories to coordinate these activities. These watershed based activities will likely be governmental and some non, maybe state or local. ***Calling out the signatories/jurisdictions in the second and third approach might be a good way to address the point that signatories will help with coordination.*** The approach is to help build networks and identify who is working on the ground in different places, and this will vary and depend on the sub-watersheds and we need to make sure we capture different levels of partners. We will certainly help push the ball forward to facilitate connection building.
- Arianna: would it be helpful to have a meeting with the Local Govt WG?
- Julie: we have been in contact with Local Govt WG and included them in our draft language as a partner.

Katie Brownson: Would it be possible to add Forest Buffers to the list of Nontidal & Upland adaptation solutions? Lots of benefits for stream cooling, infiltration, etc.

- Ben: ***word it as "riparian forest buffers."*** This is not an exclusive list, so we can continue to add more as they arise.

Kevin: I wonder if there is value in adding "supporting hazard mitigation and local economies". Keeping in mind the new Executive Order, it does talk about the effect on local economies. Maybe this language would make it stronger for government participation.

- Ben: we have had success in overlapping adaptation work with things like economic development, recreation, etc. ***"assistance will focus on .. ." and we will add more text in regard to economies.***
- Jason: will the technical assistance be shared with each other in WG meetings? And signatories implement/support through funding? Who is leading the technical assistance?
- Julie: Previously, we have hosted workshops to bring together experts to help with certain projects. Participants who had the technical expertise did help with analyses. The WG as a whole brings these conversations together, hosts workshops, etc., and then uses our network to help with that technical assistance and possibly from collaborations within the WG or identifying outside resources. WG does the convening and uses our network, which includes participating members, for the technical assistance.
- Ben: ***we should add "WG and Members will provide tailored assistance"*** so that it allows for smaller groups convening for high level technical assistance.

Krista: One of MARISA's projects for this year will be good to leverage for management approach 4. Just wanted to flag.

Amy: on the first slide (Management Approach 1), climate vulnerability could include social as well as environmental variables.

- Taylor: I had a similar thought to Amy on the first slide. I was wondering if overall flow regime/hydrology changes might be broader to replace or supplement 'flooding'.
- Ben: *we can adjust text to changes in hydrology.*

Taryn A Sudol: Our "work session" slot on the Marsh Summit agenda sets aside 70 minutes to host specific discussions. Maybe this workgroup has a topic that fits well with this. "Selecting subwatersheds" could be a great topic. Happy to work with you!!

Next Steps: We will be adding changes to the draft and will likely not have time to send out to everyone, but when we submit, we will share.

IV. Wrap-Up (12:50 – 1:00)
Share any additional announcements from members and interested parties.

V. Adjourn (1:00)

Next Meeting: TBD

Attendance (7 out of 11 voting members present)	
Name	Association
<i>Workgroup Leadership & Organizers</i>	
Ben McFarlane (Co-Chair)	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Julie Reichert-Nguyen (Coordinator)	NOAA
Peter Claggett (HLGT Coordinator)	USGS
Gabriel Duran (Staffer)	Chesapeake Research Consortium
<i>Signatory and At-Large Voting Members</i>	
Amy Freitag	NOAA
Arianna Johns	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ)
Ariel Trahan	Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
Ben McFarlane	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Krista Romita Grocholski	Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment
Megan Porta	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)
Patricia Leopold	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service
<i>Non-Voting Members</i>	
Jason Dubow	Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Kevin Du Bois	U.S. Department of War
Michael C Maddox	University of Maryland - Climate Resilience Network
Nicole Carlozo	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Taylor Woods	USGS
<i>Interested Parties</i>	
Katherine Brownson	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service
Marel King	Chesapeake Bay Commission
Mary Bennett	Virginia Department of Forestry
Matthew Konfirst	U.S. EPA
Taryn A Sudol	Maryland Sea Grant