



## Climate Resiliency Workgroup

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1:30 – 3:30 PM EST

Join by Webinar:

<https://umces.webex.com/umces/j.php?MTID=m3a54c0e5a721ac6c7b51f4d9e6a3dd00>

Join by Phone:

+1-408-418-9388 and enter access code: 2631 122 0326

Meeting password: z3aSSVjAw32

Event webpage:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/climate-resiliency-workgroup-meeting-february-2024>

*This meeting will be recorded for internal use to assure the accuracy of meeting notes.*

### **Agenda**

**1:30 PM**      **Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Announcements – Mark Bennett, Co-Chair (USGS), Jackie Specht, Co-Chair (MD DNR) and Julie Reichert-Nguyen, Coordinator (NOAA) [10 minutes]**

*Focus of meeting:*

- *Debrief of GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation Project workshop*
- *Provide requested feedback on current efforts within the CBP partnership*
- *Hear about current GIT-funded projects that might be of interest to workgroup*

*Workgroup Announcements:*

- [\*Marsh Migration Corridor Envelope\*](#) (MMCE) data are now available on the Chesapeake Bay Program's GIS portal. Available as both ArcGIS Layers and raster data, the Chesapeake Bay Program produced the MMCE for Maryland and Virginia to support the geospatial screening of potential marsh migration corridors under future sea level rise scenarios using the methodology developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science ([\*Mitchell et al., 2023\*](#)).

**1:40 PM      Debrief: GIT-Funded Partnership-Building and Identification of Collaborative Tidal Marsh Adaptation Projects Workshop [25 Minutes]**

Julie will provide a debrief on the workshop that took place in January as a part of our workgroup-supported GIT-Funded Marsh Adaptation project. This workshop brought together various stakeholders from the two regional focus areas (Middle Peninsula, VA and Wicomico River, MD) to discuss the opportunities for large-scale marsh adaptation in these regions.

**Workgroup Feedback Requested:**

**2:05 PM      USGS Ecosystems Mission Area: Priority Ecosystems Studies Large Landscapes Update (Taylor Woods, USGS) [25 Minutes]**

Taylor will present on this USGS effort, which focuses on 5 regions including the Chesapeake Bay to a) model annual streamflow events (floods, low flows) for all streams (including ungaged streams) 1980-2020, b) forecast climate and land-use/land-cover change effects on streamflow events at all streams in the future 2021-2100, and c) perform a vulnerability assessment of stream fishes to climate & land-use change-induced changes in streamflow. Her team is requesting feedback in the early stages to help inform the project.

**2:30 PM      Beyond 2025 Climate Small Group Talks Recommendations (Bo Williams, EPA & Breck Sullivan, USGS) [30 Minutes]**

Bo and Breck will present the recommendations that were developed by the Climate Small Group Talks that are taking place as a part of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 Effort. This group is charged with forming recommendations around climate change to inform the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Once finalized, the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee (SC) reviews the recommendations, they will be integrated into the SC's final product to the Executive Council.

**Lightning Talks: Current GIT-Funded Projects of Interest**

**3:00 PM      Protecting Chesapeake Bay SAV Given Changing Hydrologic Conditions: Priority SAV Area Identification and Solutions Development (Brooke Landry, MD DNR) [10 Minutes]**

Brooke will be providing an overview of the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Workgroup's GIT-funded project, "Protecting Chesapeake Bay SAV Given Changing Hydrologic Conditions: Priority SAV Area Identification and Solutions Development." This project will identify high-priority SAV areas within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and determine which best management practices (BMPs) could be most effective in protecting those areas from loss during high-flow events/years using GIS spatial analysis/modeling and existing SAV, flow, land-use, and water quality data. With this information, steps can be taken to target high-priority SAV areas for implementation of BMPs and land management policies that will protect or restore those priority SAV habitats/

**3:10 PM      Optimizing Riparian Forest Buffer Implementation for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (Katie Brownson, USFS) [10 Minutes]**

Katie will providing an overview of the Forestry Workgroup's GIT-funded project, "Optimizing Riparian Forest Buffer (RFB) Implementation for Climate Adaptation and Resilience." This project increase the implementation of RFBs within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed through the a) synthesis and communication of information and guidance on the climate adaptation benefits of RFBs, b) identification of options to maximize climate adaptation benefits of RFBs and improve resilience of RFBs to climate change, and c) identification of characteristics of priority areas for riparian restoration and conservation.

**3:20 PM      Opportunities, Partner Announcements and Wrap-up [10 Minutes]**

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

Through the [Small Watershed Grants \(SWG\) Program](#), delivered in partnership with EPA and the CBP partnership, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

All proposals must be submitted no later than **April 3, 2024**. NFWF will host an optional applicant webinar at 1:00PM on Tuesday February 13th. Interested parties must register for the webinar [here](#). For those who cannot participate, a recording of the webinar will be posted to NFWF's website by Thursday, February 15th. In addition. Interested applicants can also schedule individual proposal consultations with NFWF staff using this [link](#). Prospective applicants are also encouraged to contact [CBSF field liaisons](#) to vet potential project ideas prior to contacting NFWF staff directly.

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) to conserve, protect, and restore vital fish and wildlife habitat of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

Through the [Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense \(WILD\) Grants Program](#), NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects that

enhance conservation, stewardship, and enhancements of fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Bay watershed.

**All proposals must be submitted no later than April 10, 2024.** NFWF will host an optional applicant webinar at **10:00AM on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**. **Interested parties must register for the webinar [here](#).** For those who cannot participate, a recording of the webinar will be posted to NFWF's website by Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, interested applicants can also schedule proposal labs with NFWF and FWS staff using [this link](#). Prospective applicants are also encouraged to contact [CBSF field liaisons](#) to vet potential project ideas prior to contacting NFWF staff directly.

**3:30 PM      Adjourn**