



“Crediting Conservation”

*Exploring policy options for
nutrient reduction value*

April 22, 2013 Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting

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Chesapeake Bay Commission

Chesapeake Bay Commission

Policy for the Bay

- Tri-State Legislative Commission
 - PA, MD, VA
- Established by state law
- 7 Members Each (21 total)
 - 2 Senate
 - 3 House
 - 1 Cabinet-level
 - 1 Citizen at Large



Chesapeake 2000 (C2K)

- Over 100 Commitments
- 5 Broad Goals
 - Water Quality
 - Habitat
 - Living Resources
 - Sound Land Use
 - Stewardship



Chesapeake 2000 (C2K)



Watershed Implementation Plans

■ ~~Over 100 Commitments~~

■ ~~5~~ 1 Overarching Goals

■ Water Quality

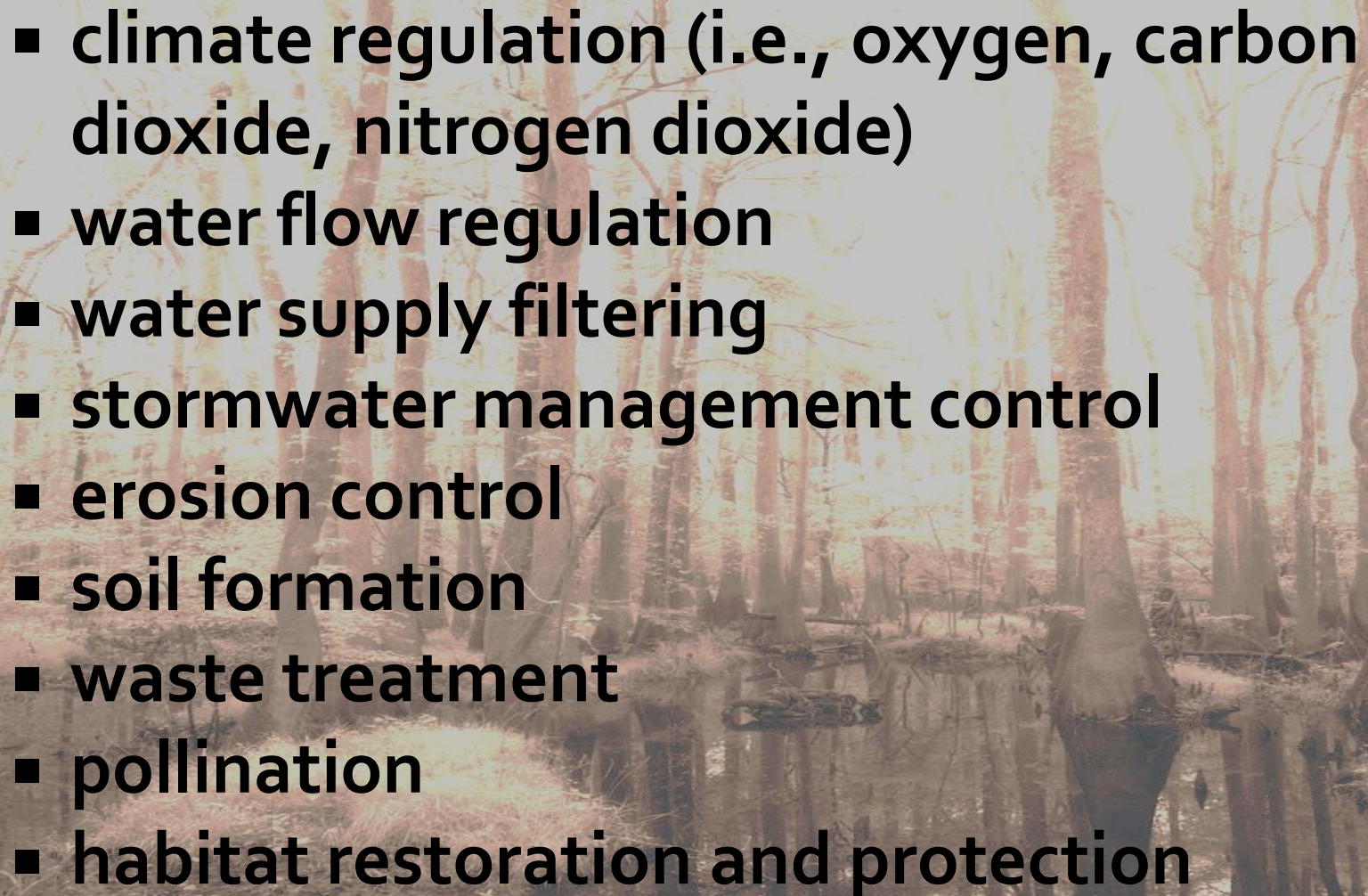
- Habitat
- Living Resources
- Sound Land Use
- Stewardship

Dissolved oxygen
Chlorophyll A
Water clarity

TMDL Focus



Fundamental Ecosystem Services

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- climate regulation (i.e., oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide)
 - water flow regulation
 - water supply filtering
 - stormwater management control
 - erosion control
 - soil formation
 - waste treatment
 - pollination
 - habitat restoration and protection

Progressive Attention

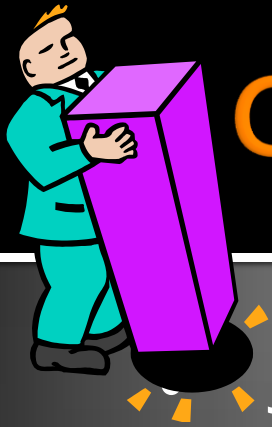


- 2001 "Keeping Our Commitment: Preserving Land in the Chesapeake Watershed", CBC
- 2010 "Conserving Chesapeake Landscapes", CBC/CC
- 2011 GIT 4 requested STAC workshop
- 2012 STAC workshop- adjusting pollution processing rates of natural landscapes
- 2013 CBC *"Crediting Conservation" Report*

Policy Option Concepts

1. Land protection as “credit multiplier” for BMPs
2. Water quality value by attribute(s)
3. Mitigation scheme- preservation can offset loading
4. Preserving land targeted for development by 2025






Conclusion: *Opportunity Exists*

- Jurisdictions' current systems for capturing, tracking and reporting land use data and tracking changes is inadequate
- Watershed Model would need refinement to use more specific spatial and temporal data

The TMDL focus on *water quality* in effect “devalues” land conservation as a tool to protect the health and resiliency of the Bay; change this!

The Beginning; Not the End

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- “Scoping Activity” for options
 - Next Steps: GIT₄?
 - Explore options in greater depth
 - Understand specific needs for each; what changes are needed?
 - Who needs to make changes? Bay Program? EPA? Jurisdictions?

CBC is ready to assist with state and federal policy making

Thank you!
Any questions?



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Policy for the Bay

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