

BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM

Chesapeake Bay Program



Logic and Action Plan: Pre- Quarterly Progress Meeting

Wetlands – 2021-2022

Long-term Target: 85,000 acres

Two-year Target: 29,548 acres (based on 2017 progress)

Instructions: Before your quarterly progress meeting, provide the status of individual actions in the table below using this color key.

Action has been completed or is moving forward as planned.

Action has encountered minor obstacles.

Action has not been taken or has encountered a serious barrier.

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/ Adapt
What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?	What current efforts are addressing this factor?	What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?	What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?	What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?	How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?	What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?
Funding and incentives	Accumulation of State plans, programs, and initiatives in Virginia that could act as an example.	Co-benefits of wetlands may not be emphasized in conservation and restoration. Additional credit for creating or restoring wetland as habitat, including as part	5.4 Work with the Communication Workgroup to develop state-specific factsheets that identify State plans, programs, and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration and implementation of living shorelines.	A factsheet has been produced for each jurisdiction. One Factsheet for Virginia.	Factsheets will identify the co-benefits of wetlands and incentivize restoration.	There is a dis-connect between what folks think they know about wetlands funding and programs, and what they actually know

		of other creditable BMPs, would help advance the goal.	5.5 Present the state-specific factsheets to the Principal's Staff Committee for awareness along with a recommendation for cross-program prioritization of these actions by the Bay States as a wise use of limited resources.	Factsheets have been presented to the MB and PSC. Kevin duBois presented in VA.	Greater awareness at the PSC level can help prioritize wetland restoration throughout jurisdictions.	
Communication with landowners	The Nature Conservancy's NFWF funded project "Accelerating Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by Strengthening Partnerships and Increasing Landowner Engagement" will directly address this work starting January 2020	Landowner interest and willingness for conservation/restoration; Incomplete information for public engagement	2.4 Support Bay Program efforts to develop targeted messaging towards coastal landowners about shoreline protection options, particularly living shorelines.	Participation of WWG members. Presentations made to the WWG on this project.	Builds capacity for information exchange between CBP partners and landowners.	
			5.3 Identify/ create "Wetland Outreach Coordinators" in each state/ priority area that will identify key outreach opportunities, find funding for the right programs, and provide a way to address competing messages.	TNC is lead.		Project delayed by COVID-19 and work is ongoing.
			2.1 Expand inventory of wetland programs that fund wetland restoration in each state to include tidal and non-agricultural wetlands, as well as any other non-traditional funding sources.	Programs added to inventory.	Increases information available to public and helps support linkages for practitioners.	

	Identifying/interviewing landowners for new success stories, collaboration with CBP web and communications team to better market the WetlandsWork.org site and increase traffic	Incomplete information for public engagement	2.3 Improve WetlandsWork.org by adding new success stories, implementing the marketing strategies that were developed to increase traffic of the site, and improving security and certifications to ensure site access to all.	2-3 stories added per year. Number of site visitors increases over time according to site analytics.	Provides additional information to the public about the benefits and opportunities for wetland restoration on private lands.	Only one story has been added. As a result of not having an additional staffer on board, we have not had the capacity to add additional success stories to the website.
	Creation of a standing agenda item at Wetland Workgroup meetings to discuss legislation and policy related to wetland restoration	Incomplete information for public engagement	2.2 Identify legal or regulatory barriers to wetland creation and enhancement and develop strategies to overcome these obstacles on an annual basis.	Presentations regarding this topic made to the workgroup on a semi-regular basis. Chairs lead a facilitated convo on barriers. 3-4 presentations	Increases knowledge of barriers to WWG members and creates opportunity for discussion of solutions.	
Communicati on with decision- makers	Accumulation of State plans, programs, and initiatives in Virginia that could act as an example	Co-benefits may not be emphasized in conservation and restoration decision-making	5.2 Work with CBP Communications Office to update existing co-benefit fact sheet to increase engagement and address leadership and practitioners.	Updated factsheet is completed.	Increases understanding of wetland co-benefits to decisionmakers (agencies, MB/PSC members, etc.).	This update has been halted due to capacity issues, resulting from the loss of a staffer.
		Co-benefits may not be emphasized in conservation and restoration decision-making Lack of awareness on the breadth and impact of wetland mowing Bay-	5.4 Work with the Communication Workgroup and State partners to develop state-specific factsheets that identify State plans, programs, and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration and implementation of living shorelines.	A factsheet for each jurisdiction is completed.	Identifies role of wetlands for multiple state goals and encourages wetland restoration in each jurisdiction.	Presently, only one factsheet has been completed. The development of additional factsheets has been halted due to capacity issues, resulting from the loss of a staffer.

		wide. Conflicting perspectives from federal, state, and local regulatory entities on whether wetland mowing is a regulated activity or whether wetland mowing constitutes a violation of law. Lack of an official Chesapeake Bay Program position on whether	5.5 Present the state-specific factsheets to the Principal's Staff Committee for awareness along with a recommendation for cross-program prioritization of these actions by the Bay States as a wise use of limited resources.			
	The City of Norfolk, VA treats unpermitted wetland mowing as a violation of State wetland regulations and conducts enforcement to stop it. The courts have affirmed this approach.	efforts to cease wetland mowing would count towards wetland enhancement goals and outcomes.	5.6 Identify the occurrence of wetland mowing throughout the Bay and prepare a Wetland Workgroup position on the regulation and cessation of wetland mowing and whether documented areas of restoration would count towards CBP wetland enhancement goals.	Creation of factsheet.	Describes adverse effects of mowing and increases awareness of negative impacts which can then be used to encourage regulatory/policy changes.	Developed RFP for GIT funded project to assess extent of mowing. Twice advertised, not yet awarded.
		Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate.	1.1 Encourage ongoing commitment to improving tidal and nontidal wetland mapping by working with CBP GIS and modeling teams to support best available science.	WWG engagement with mapping experts and presentations/conv os with the WG at meetings.	Improves communication and information exchange between workgroups and improves wetland mapping efforts, which contributes to more effective research and analysis related to land use.	
Communicati on with practitioners	Compiled a list of presentations to schedule for upcoming	Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups	3.3 Work with other Bay Program goal teams, work groups, and partners to continuously inform work group	Each meeting (6 annually) has at least 1 science presentation	Improves understanding within WG and encourages sharing of information	- Collaborated with CRWG on a joint meeting in Dec.2021. Science presentations have been made at every

	workgroup meetings	within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate. Reoccurring errors and delays in reporting acreage numbers from states	members of latest information, science, technology, tools, policy, and funding opportunities related to tidal and non-tidal wetland restoration.	related to these topics.	within organizations and among partners.	meeting. Improved transferability of ideas.
			5.1 Hold a panel discussion at Marsh Resilience Summit to present this action plan & identify partners and paths forward	Marsh Summit was not held.		Marsh Summit was not held—however, several other presentations were given that covered this action item. -STAC workshop in Mar.2022 - Restoring Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop in Aug.2022 - Resilient Coastal Wetlands and Communities Multi-Regional Workshop - MD Sea Grant Large-Scale Wetlands Workshop in Oct.2022
		Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate. Reoccurring errors and delays in reporting acreage numbers from states	4.1 Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water quality, other complementary living resource commitments, and habitat.	Shared conversations and joint meetings occur.	Improved information exchange across WGs and GITs.	The LAP was overly ambitious and additional unanticipated activities commanded time and effort from the WWG

	CBPO is exploring options to fund a Living Resource Data Manager position that would support multiple Living Resource Outcomes within the Habitat GIT outcomes	Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate. Reoccurring errors and delays in reporting acreage numbers from states	1.2 Make recommendations to improve the form and process of inputting NEIEN data collection for each State, as well as confirm the accuracy of information reported.	Updated and accurate wetland data gets contributed to the watershed model. An improved process for reporting data within jurisdictions is created.	Addresses inaccuracies in the current data reporting process, which helps us better understand progress toward the Wetlands Outcome.	This has resulted in the funding of Devereaux Associates to develop a habitat specific accounting process.
Data and reporting	Land use workgroup is seeking input on updated land use/land cover classification scheme.	Potential inaccuracies in model efficiencies result in inaccurate crediting	1.1 Encourage ongoing commitment to improving tidal and nontidal wetland mapping by working with CBP GIS and modeling teams to support best available science.	WWG engagement with mapping experts and presentations/conv os with the WG at meetings. Worked with GIS mapping team	Improves communication and information exchange between workgroups and improves wetland mapping efforts, which contributes to more effective research and analysis related to land use.	
		Current BMP crediting in the Bay Program often causes "perverse incentives" that prioritize other BMPs (such as buffer restoration) over wetlands restoration	3.1 Develop a proposal for a STAC workshop that will address developing a systems approach toward BMP crediting.	Completed proposal is submitted. Hybrid meeting held March 2022. Working on report. 40 participants. Well received and good conversations	Improved accounting processes for wetlands projects are created.	Spent a ton of time on verification working with WQGIT. Did not anticipate this and it took a lot of time
	Ongoing research by USGS as part of their 2025 workplan.	Ongoing research is needed to better understand the factors affecting	3.2 Assess risks to coastal habitats by forecasting vulnerability and resiliency of coastal	Risk assessment reports/tools/etc. are created as a result of these studies. GIT	Increases likelihood for wetland persistence.	Need to coordinate CRWG

		the prioritization and restoration of wetlands	systems to future change.	Funded wetlands workgroup project complete.		
	Work with Modeling and GIS Teams to mine the Phase 3 WIPs for priority wetlands for water quality and habitat co-benefits.	Ongoing research is needed to better understand the factors affecting the prioritization and restoration of wetlands Data related to SLR and marsh migration is not available/accessible in one place, making it difficult to use.	4.1 Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water quality, other complementary living resource commitments, and habitat. 4.2 Lead the implementation of FY20 GIT-funded project “Synthesis of Shoreline, Sea Level Rise, and Marsh Migration Data for Wetland Restoration Targeting.”	Wetland restoration targeting occurs as a part of the planning process.	Maximizes co-benefits for wetland projects.	
			5.2 Work with CBP Communications Office to update existing co-benefit fact sheet to increase engagement and address leadership and practitioners.	Presentations made to WWG seeking linkages to project outcomes to marsh restoration planning and priorities Updated Virginia factsheet is completed.	Project can be used as an example of how to best use available data for wetland restoration/conservation targeting in different areas. Increases understanding of wetland co-benefits to decisionmakers (agencies, MB/PSC members, etc.).	Project final report submitted to the CBT on Sept 30, 2022. Got some questions as to the need for the factsheet, which was surprising given lack of decision makers engagement and leadership
Leadership and commitment	Creation of a standing agenda item at Wetland Workgroup meetings to address legislation and policy related to wetland restoration		2.2 Identify legal or regulatory barriers to wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement and develop strategies to overcome these obstacles on an annual basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations regarding this topic made to the workgroup on a semi-regular basis. - Chairs lead a facilitated convo on barriers. - Restoring Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop 	Increases knowledge of barriers to WWG members and creates opportunity for discussion of solutions.	

			1.3 Investigate a bay-wide status and trends process.			There is a need for greater coordination with the Land-Use Workgroup, who is currently working on this.
	The City of Norfolk, VA treats unpermitted wetland mowing as a violation of State wetland regulations and conducts enforcement to stop it. The courts have affirmed this approach.	See above under “Communication with Decision-makers”	5.6 Identify the occurrence of wetland mowing throughout the Bay and prepare a Wetland Workgroup position on the regulation and cessation of wetland mowing and whether documented areas of restoration would count towards CBP wetland enhancement goals.	Creation of factsheet.	Describes adverse effects of mowing and increases awareness of negative impacts which can then be used to encourage regulatory/policy changes.	GIT funding project stalled due lack of bids

ACTIONS – 2020-2021

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 1: Improve wetland mapping, and the wetland restoration reporting and tracking process					
1.1	Encourage ongoing commitment to improving tidal and nontidal wetland mapping by working with CBP GIS and modeling teams to support best available science.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide input on new LULC classifications pertaining to wetlands 2. Invite presentation from GIS Team at WWG meeting. 	Wetland Workgroup, CBP GIS Team, CBP Modeling Team	Bay-wide	<p>December 2021</p> <p>Committed time at 5-6 meetings to confer with USGS GIS folks to provide direction and input on improved mapping/ modeling. WWG selected an improved mapping of non-tidal wetlands to support for 2022 GIT funding project</p>
1.2	Make recommendations to improve the form and process of inputting NEIEN data collection for each State, as	Work with Living Resource Data Manager (LRDM) (assuming proposed position is funded) to:	Wetland Workgroup, Habitat GIT, CBP Data Center,	Bay-wide	Two years from start of LRDM position

	well as confirm the accuracy of information reported.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify where data, already captured on NEIEN, could be used as part of the measures of progress toward the wetland outcome. 2. Identify and implement modifications to NEIEN to maximize existing data reporting processes towards wetlands outcome. 3. Develop a training module and streamline processes that helps organizations, localities, states, and the federal government report data that could be accommodated with NEIEN to better track the associated data. 	NEIEN Contacts for each State		WWG and Chair, specifically, worked long and hard to support the efforts to fund a contractor for a wetlands accounting process to address short comings of NEIEN. Have worked with contractor on the new database criteria and metrics.
1.3	Investigate a bay-wide status and trends process.	Conduct an overview or audit of the regulatory and non-regulatory accounting processes and natural change for wetland status and trends.	Wetland Workgroup	Bay-wide	Not Started
Management Approach 2: Develop solutions to address barriers to wetland restoration.					
2.1	Expand inventory of wetland programs that fund wetland restoration in each state to include tidal and non-agricultural wetlands, as well as any other non-traditional funding sources.	Completed list of wetland programs in each state. Use wetland factsheets as a starting point for programs to investigate for inclusion.	Wetland Workgroup	Bay-wide	<p>December 2022</p> <p>Wetlands Outcome Action Plan will contain this information.</p>
2.2	Identify legal or regulatory barriers to wetland creation and enhancement and develop strategies to overcome these obstacles on an annual basis.	Incorporate policy as a subject matter for presentations at workgroup meetings on a semi-regular basis.	Wetland Workgroup , CB Commission, Conversations started in Outcome workshop.	Bay-wide	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Including regular presentations in WWG meetings</p>
2.3	Improve WetlandsWork.org by adding new success stories, implementing the marketing strategies that	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add 2-3 new success stories to the site per year. 2. Direct users to site to increase traffic 3. DoD access to site 	Wetland Workgroup, CBP Comm Office, Web Team	Bay-wide	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Check in on actions 2 and 3.</p>

	were developed to increase traffic of the site, and improving security and certifications to ensure site access to all.				Only one story has been added. As a result of not having an additional staffer on board, we have not had the capacity to add additional success stories to the website.
2.4	Support Bay Program efforts to develop targeted messaging towards coastal landowners about shoreline protection options, particularly living shorelines.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with CBP Communications Office on their implementation of 2018 GIT-funded project "Social Marketing to Improve Shoreline Management". 2. Support the Fish Habitat Action Team's 2019 RFP to build upon social marketing study by using recommendations to create targeted messaging toward coastal landowners. Coordinate with CCRM/VIMS steering committee members to support this next phase of the project. 	Wetland Workgroup CBP Comm Office Fish Habitat Action.		<p>December 2021</p> <p>TNC/ NFWF currently working on this</p>
Management Approach 3: Increase our technical understanding of the factors influencing restoration and enhancement success.					
3.1	Develop a proposal for a STAC workshop that will address developing a systems approach toward BMP crediting.	Engage scientists and jurisdictions (such as PADEP) technical staff in the development of this STAC Workshop Proposal.	Wetland Workgroup Other interested GITs/WGs (Stream Health, Forest Buffers, etc.) STAC	Bay-wide	February 2021
3.2	Assess risks to coastal habitats by forecasting vulnerability and resiliency of coastal systems to future change.	1. Explain how the non-tidal to tidal fresh habitats will change over time.	USGS (Noe)		Ongoing
		2. Provide managers and stakeholders with marsh vulnerability indices and the potential for change.	USGS (Ganju)		Ongoing

		3. Identify sites for detailed modeling effort to ascertain how climate change drivers impact waterbird habitat.	USGS (Prosser and Carr)		Ongoing
		4. Update our understanding of subsidence across the Bay.	USGS (McCoy)		Ongoing
		5. Ascertain controls of marsh habitat resilience and current state in order to project future marsh extent.	USGS (Guntenspergen and Carr)		Ongoing
		6. Engage stakeholders to address science needs and inform decisions.	USGS (Carr)		Ongoing
3.3	Work with other Bay Program goal teams, work groups, and partners to continuously inform work group members of latest information, science, technology, tools, policy, and funding opportunities related to tidal and non-tidal wetland restoration.	Regular presentations at workgroup meetings from both members and partners.	Wetland Workgroup CBP partners	Bay-wide	Ongoing Until there is greater capacity in this workgroup, this can never be green.
Management Approach 4: Prioritize areas for wetland restoration.					
4.1	Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water quality, other complementary living resource commitments, and habitat.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the availability and use of existing targeting and prioritization tools in the jurisdictions and assess need for new tools. 2. If needed, explore expansion of Virginia's Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT) or development of similar tool to develop prioritization criteria and identify priority areas for each state. 3. Coordinate with Black Duck and Fish Habitat Action Teams to identify wetland areas that are suitable black duck and fish 	Wetland Workgroup VA DEQ BDAT FHAT	Bay-wide	<p>December 2022</p> <p>Water quality recalcitrant to accepting wetlands as BMPs and remove crediting. This disincentivizes the wetlands workgroup from prioritizing working this item.</p> <p>However, we know that localities would like this crediting.</p>

		habitat and would be ideal for restoration.			Need to ask for Management Board help.
4.2	Lead the implementation of FY20 GIT-funded project “Synthesis of Shoreline, Sea Level Rise, and Marsh Migration Data for Wetland Restoration Targeting.”	Convene steering committee and work with contractor to complete project.	Wetland Workgroup Climate Resiliency Workgroup Other CBP interested parties	Tidal areas of the Bay	The final report was submitted to the CBT in Sept. 2022
Management Approach 5: Expand the involvement of local stakeholders.					
5.1	Hold a panel discussion at Marsh Resilience Summit to present this action plan & identify partners and paths forward.	Improved communication plan to achieve implementation of more living shorelines.	Wetland Workgroup, Funders, Natural resource management agencies & organizations		Marsh Summit was not held–however, several other presentations were given that covered this action item. -STAC workshop in Mar.2022 - Restoring Wetlands of the the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop in Aug.2022 - <u>Resilient Coastal Wetlands and Communities Multi-Regional Workshop</u> - MD Sea Grant Large-Scale Wetlands Workshop in Oct.2022
5.2	Work with CBP Communications Office to update existing co-benefit fact sheet to increase engagement and address leadership and practitioners.	Co-benefit fact sheet with updated language targeted to leadership and practitioners.	Wetland Workgroup CBP Comm Office	Bay-wide	December 2022 Only one Fact sheet developed for Virginia. The development of additional factsheets has been halted due to capacity issues, resulting from the loss of a staffer.

5.3	Identify/ create “Wetland Outreach Coordinators” in each state/ priority area that will identify key outreach opportunities, find funding for the right programs, and provide a way to address competing messages.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for each state to fund at least one outreach coordinator position. Work with TNC to support NFWF funded project “Accelerating Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by Strengthening Partnerships and Increasing Landowner Engagement”, which is directly addressing this work. 2. Generate a list of regulatory/enforcement contacts to coordinate with the outreach person. 3. Use the social marketing recommendations from the 2015 project “Landowner Attitudes Toward Wetland Restoration” to inform outreach approaches in this project. 	Wetland Workgroup TNC Local stakeholders	Bay-wide Delmarva, PA, VA	December 2022 Work is ongoing
5.4	Work with the Communication Workgroup and State partners to develop state-specific factsheets that identify State plans, programs, and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration and implementation of living shorelines.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A factsheet for each state in the Watershed that identifies that wetland restoration and living shoreline implementation provide co-benefits that meet multiple state goals. 2. Expand factsheet into website or social media site with designated webmasters to design and refresh the site periodically. 	Wetland Workgroup, CBP Communications Workgroup	Bay-wide	December 2021 Ongoing Only one was developed for Virginia, due to capacity issues resulting from staffing limitations.
5.5	Present the state-specific factsheets to the Principal’s Staff Committee for awareness along with a recommendation for cross-program prioritization of these actions by the Bay States as a wise use of limited resources.	Increased knowledge of wetland restoration and creation co-benefits. Greater number of projects with more partnerships.	Wetland Workgroup	Bay-wide	2022: Prepared and presented one factsheet for Virginia

5.6	Identify the occurrence of wetland mowing throughout the Bay and prepare a Wetland Workgroup position on the regulation and cessation of wetland mowing and whether documented areas of restoration would count towards CBP wetland enhancement goals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare factsheet on wetland mowing to build awareness on the issue and state the Wetlands Workgroup/Habitat GIT's position on wetland mowing cessation as a strategy to support wetland enhancement goals. Include information on options for native plant alternatives. 2. Present and provide the factsheet to the PSC for action by the jurisdictional partners. 	Wetland Workgroup, Communications Workgroup, Other CBP Partners	Bay-wide	December 2022 Ongoing Developed RFP for 2021 GIT Funded project to assess extent of mowing. Twice advertised and not yet awarded.
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