

**WETLAND  
WORKSHOPS  
OFFICE HOURS  
OCTOBER 2022**

**Management Board tasked Bay Program with:**

- ▶ **Bringing key people together to overcome barriers to ensure wetlands outcomes**
- ▶ **Understand major barriers**
- ▶ **Identify innovative approaches**
- ▶ **Develop an action plan**

# WETLANDS OUTCOME AND STATUS

85,000 acres created or restored 150,000 acres enhanced by 2025.

Approximately 9,000 restored, to date. 0 acres enhanced, so we are way off track.

# BARRIERS

Outcome assumes that existing wetlands are protected and that volunteer actions are adding to overall wetland acreage

## BARRIERS

Diffuse network of poorly funded practitioners causes us to constantly reinvent the wheel.

- no clear strategic vision
- Inconsistent Landowner engagement
- Capacity within organizations generally lacking
- Funding is ephemeral and largely based on competitive grant programs.

# 2022 WETLANDS WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

## Session 1 Where Have We Been?

Presentations: Wetlands Outcome and status, historical barriers, and historical funding

## Session 2: Where Do We Want To Go From here?

Looking at Innovative and creative projects in the watershed discussing strategy to recreate success

## Session 3: How Do We Access funding?

Panel of federal and jurisdictional partners discuss how money flow to on the ground projects to support the Bay Program wetland Outcome.

## Session 4: How Are We Going To Get There?

Action Plan

**Action Plan**



Presentation to Management Board December 8<sup>th</sup>, PSC February meeting



small group discussions to develop strategies for repeating success to feed into the action plan



small group discussion constraints and the best way to leverage funding to ensure capacity and resources to repeat the success in Session 2.



**Groups by state to work on strategic actions from workshop**

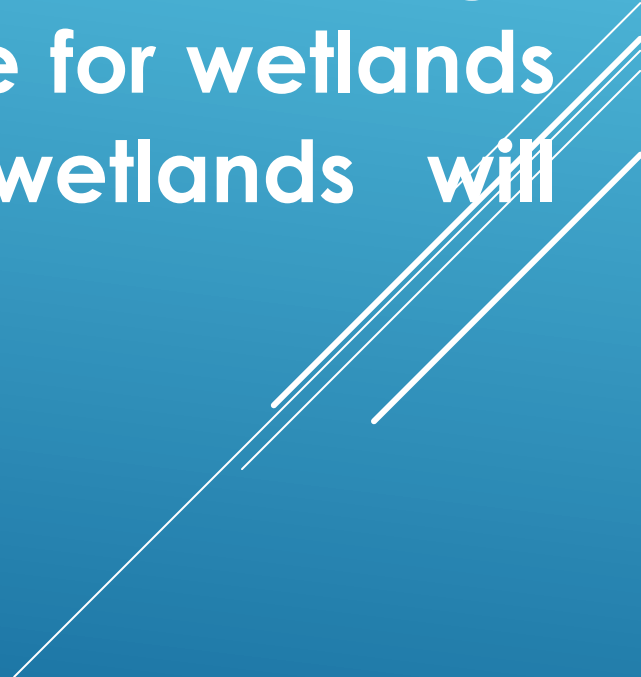
# FOUR THEMES REMAINED CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE WORKSHOP:

- Develop cohesive strategy for tidal and nontidal wetlands across the watershed to include site selection and priorities that take into consideration 10 goals and 31 outcomes associated with the Chesapeake Bay 2014 Agreement.
- Dedicated increased long-term capacity is needed to accelerate efforts – because of the time and complexity to complete wetland restoration projects, grant funded capacity does not retain and grow expertise resulting in constantly re-learning.

# FOUR THEMES REMAINED CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE WORKSHOP:

- Outreach and design are priority areas to grow capacity to increase the pipeline of projects and advance them to implementation.
- New and increased funding should be directed to the states to build wetland capacity. This is critical to be able to access and leverage increased federal funds that will be available.

“Even if we can adopt and implement all the recommendations outlined in this report, we must change the paradigm to recognize that the baseline for wetlands is not static, but, without intervention, wetlands will continue to be lost.”





**“To be effective, any future agreements for the Chesapeake Bay partnership need to acknowledge climate change as a significant stressor on wetlands and take the continuing loss into account when establishing future outcomes.”**

