

## **08/15/2023 - Wetlands Workgroup Meeting: Tidal**

**MEETING:** Wetlands Workgroup Meeting: Nontidal

**DATE/TIME:** 08/15/2023, 10:00 - 12:00 ET

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- Introductions by jurisdiction.

### **JAMBOARD FOLLOW UP**

*Presenter: Tess Danielson (Workgroup Vice Chair)*

- At our last workgroup meeting we asked a series of questions using a Jamboard to get your input on the Wetlands Outcome and the workgroup as a whole. 5 categories stood out from those responses: wetland tracking, wetland challenges, wetland promotion, wetland policy, and wetland goals.
- Meeting participants voted on the prioritization of the 5 categories above using a Menti. The results were:
  1. Wetland Challenges
  2. Wetland Goals
  3. Wetland Tracking
  4. Wetland Promotion
  5. Wetland Policy

### **Comments/Questions:**

- **Kevin Du Bois:** Can you explain what you mean by wetland challenges?
  - **Tess Danielson:** The kind of hurdles we need to overcome to reach our objectives.
  - **Sadie Drescher (in chat):** Also, getting the space/permissions to implement the wetlands is an obstacle/challenge.
  - **Kevin Du Bois:** Capacity issues in terms of having enough companies that know how to implement living shorelines and have nursery capacity for wetland plants I see as more of a challenge than how to build a tidal wetland.
- **Chris Guy:** These are the top five priorities, but that doesn't mean other ones won't be addressed.

### **BEYOND 2025**

*Presenter: Bill Jenkins (HGIT Co-Chair)*

- The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee advises the development of recommendations to meet the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) charge to the Principals' Staff Committee on charting a course beyond 2025.
- Committee co-chairs: Anna Killius (CBC) and Martha Shimkin (EPA).
- Steering Committee includes representatives from the jurisdictions, federal agencies, GITs, and Advisory Committees. In the process of adding NGO voice.
- How to stay informed:
  - Website: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/beyond-2025-steering-committee>.
  - Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Meeting Schedule (1:00p – 4:00p.): Jul 27, August 24, September 21, October 26, November 30, December 21.

Comments/Questions:

- **Pam Mason:** Why not include someone from the wetland workgroup on the steering committee?
  - **Gina Hunt:** We are still trying to understand the extent of what needs to get done. The voices we do have need a common understanding to move forward and I don't think we are there yet, so there may be concern if more voices join and there's no way to pick favorites.
  - **Julie Reichert-Nguyen** (*in chat*): Weren't top priorities identified: Forest Buffers, Wetlands, Climate Change, and DEIJ - it would seem they need appropriate representation from these groups in these initial conversations.
- **Kevin Du Bois:** One of the ways to address some of the concern is to read the [Reaching 2025 Report](#) and comment on the wetlands section.

**SACKETT VS. EPA DISCUSSION**

- **Kristin Saunders** (*in chat*): Innocent question: will an indirect impact of the Sackett decision potentially result in more demand for wetland restoration work, requiring more resources, staffing, etc when we are already struggling?
  - **Pam Mason** (*in chat*): Maybe. Depends on how states respond. All Bay state aside from Delaware have a nontidal law.
  - **Chris Guy** (*in chat*): Kristin, the ultimate answer to your question is that we don't know. But it puts conservation of unprotected wetlands front and center. Needs to be local or states protecting wetlands.
- **Kevin Du Bois:** Loss of wetlands due to Sackett will push us back in terms of climate sequestration, making it more difficult to buffer the effects of future climate change.
- **Pam Mason:** Wetland protection processes work best when all levels of governance are engaged.
- **Sadie Drescher:** Wondering what state reps think will happen in their daily work and how this ruling impacts it. Hard for me to grasp what is coming without this perspective.
  - **Tess Danielson:** As far as I know I think the jurisdictional determinations from the feds is on hold right now. So, that is impacting regulatory and potentially voluntary projects and how those wetlands are classified.
- **Chris Guy:** The Bay Program is not limited to this decision because we aren't doing regulatory work. We don't define wetlands as waters of the US.

**PARTICIPANTS (31):** Pam Mason (VIMS), Tess Danielson (DOEE), Nancy Schumm (CoG), Chris Guy (USFWS), Dede Lawal (CRC), Bill Jenkins (EPA), Gina Hunt (MDNR), Adrienne Kotula (CBC), Alison Santoro (MDNR), Amanda Poskaitis (USFWS), Ben Sagara (DWR), Elliott Campbell (MDNR), Gregory Podniesinski (PA DCNR), Heather Hepburn (MDE), Jayme Arthurs (NRCS), Jennifer Dietzen (DOEE), Julie Reichert-Nguyen (NOAA), Katie Stahl (USFWS), Katheryn Barnhart (EPA), Kenneth Smith (DNREC), Kevin Du Bois (DoD), Kevin Mclean (DEQ), Kristin Saunders (UMCES), Leah Franzluebbbers (USFWS), Mark Biddle (DNREC), Matthew Robinson (EPA), Megan Fitzgerald (EPA), Melissa Yearick (USC), Sadie Drescher (CBT), Sarah Hilderbrand (MDNR), Sarah Koser (CBT)