

## 2022 Wetlands Workshop – A Focus on Questions to be Answered During Workshop

**Purpose:** Bring together key people to identify actions to overcome the barriers of implementing nontidal and tidal wetland restoration and accelerate progress towards the Wetlands Outcome identified in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

**Workshop Outcomes:**

- 1) **Understanding of the barriers** that limit the rate of nontidal and tidal wetland restoration that is necessary to achieve the 2025 Wetlands Outcome.
- 2) **Identification of approaches**, including changes to existing programs and proposing new programs, to increase the implementation of nontidal and tidal wetland restoration.
- 3) Within three months following the workshop, work with partners and workshop participants to **develop an action plan** that outlines steps and a timeline for dedicating resources to implementing these approaches.

### **Session 1/Day 1: Where Have We Been? (Workshop Outcome #1)**

- **Welcome & Opening Comments**
- **Chesapeake Bay Wetlands Overview**
  - 2025 Wetlands Outcome & Status ([where we are as it relates to the outcome](#))
    - Tidal Wetlands ([overview of efforts in the Bay](#))
    - Non-Tidal Wetlands ([overview of efforts in the watershed](#))
  - Wetlands Barriers & Grantee Challenges ([from the 2016 TNC report](#))
  - History of Funding Efforts, *Environmental Finance Center*

### **Session 2/Day 1: Where Do We Want to Go? (Workshop Outcome #2)**

- **Voices from the Field: Lightning Round Panel – Novel Approaches to Wetland Restoration, Creation & Enhancement** (e.g., criteria used, strategies for funding, how did you engage partners around funding, what was the most successful components of this project) (be specific on answering questions)
  - MD non-tidal project: Pokomoke ✓
  - MD tidal project: Wicomico or Swan Island/Blackwater ✓
  - VA non-tidal project: WJ Davis
  - VA tidal project: TBD
  - DC tidal project: TBD
  - DC non-tidal project: Urban Wetlands Restoration with FWS
  - DE tidal: Wilmington (TBD)
  - DE non-tidal project: Longfields
  - PA non-tidal project: TBD
  - NY non-tidal project: TBD
  - WV non-tidal project: TBD
  - Outside watershed project: DE Basin?
- **Lightning Round Panel Discussions:** ([consider using Jamboard or Menti to ask these questions](#))
  - *What strategies did you hear that we want to adopt or modify?*
  - *What would it take to do many more of these projects to accelerate the rate of wetlands restoration? What do you need? What possible commitments are you willing to make?*
- Lunch break
- **Small Group Discussions** (tidal, non-tidal, leadership, practitioner/leadership)
  - **Group 1 (Tidal Practitioners):** *What are the ideas for tidal wetlands that can put us on schedule to move us closer to our Outcome?*
  - **Group 2 (Non-tidal Practitioners):** *What are the ideas for non-tidal wetlands that can put us on schedule to move us closer to the Outcome?*

- Group 3 (Leadership): *What governance changes need to be made at the local, state, or federal level to maximize attainment of outcomes?*
- Group 4 (Practitioners and Leadership): *What are the programs that have the greatest amount of funding we can access for non-tidal and tidal wetlands? Why are some programs being undersubscribed?*
- **Small Group Report Outs & Discussion**
  - *Top three actions from each breakout group (tidal, non-tidal, leadership, practitioner/leadership)*
- **A Look Ahead to Day 2**

### **Session 3/Day 2: How Do We Leverage Funding? (Workshop Outcomes #1, #2)**

- **Opening Comments**
- **Panel: Funding Opportunities**
  - Panel Presentations:
    - Federal
    - State
    - Non-Federal (includes NFWF)
  - Panel Discussions:
    - *How can we leverage funding sources to ensure more wetlands restoration, creation, and/or enhancement?*
    - *What constraints in the funding mechanism represents the biggest constraint to outcome attainment?*
    - *How do we secure capacity to be able to utilize federal/state funding?*
    - *Based on what we learned today, how much funding can we access for wetlands restoration on behalf of our organization/jurisdiction (based on a set of assumptions)?*
    - *What action(s) can the federal, state, or grantee organization take based on what you heard today that would move us towards Outcome attainability by 2025?*
- Lunch break

### **Session 4/Day 2: How Are We Going to Get There? (Workshop Outcome #3)**

- **Prioritization of Ideas from Session 2 Report Outs**
- **Action Plan Proposal**
- **Small Group Discussions (Idea 1, Idea 2, i.e., Match, Capacity) Break out group by state?**
  - *How do we incorporate these new approaches/ideas into our processes and efforts for non-tidal and tidal wetlands?*
  - *How do we address them in the development of an action plan?*
- **Small Group Report Outs & Discussion**
  - Presentation of approaches (Idea 1, Idea 2, etc.)
- **The Way Forward: Preparing for and presentation at the November Management Board Meeting**
- **Next Steps & Closing Comments**