

## Wetland Workgroup April Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2020  
Conference Call

### Purpose:

- 1) Hear updates to the wetland goals by jurisdiction based on the WIP III and discuss relevance to CBP Wetland Outcome.
- 2) Learn about the 2018 GIT-funded project "Social Marketing to Improve Shoreline Management."

### Welcome and Introductions (*Pam Mason, Chair*)

Pam Mason (VIMS)	Megan Ossmann (CRC)	Jeremy Hanson (VT @ CBP)	Denise Clearwater (MDE)
Carin Bisland (EPA)	Greg Noe (USGS)	Bill Jenkins (EPA)	Jeff Sweeney (EPA)
Leah Franzluebbbers (USFWS)	Emily Farr (NOAA)	Kevin DuBois (DoD)	Jennifer Greiner (USFWS)
Michelle Henicheck (VA DEQ)	Rich Mason (USFWS)	Chris Spaur (USACE)	Alana Hartman (WV DEP)
Alison Rogerson (DE DNREC)	Melissa Yearick (USC)	Joel Carr (USGS)	Mark Biddle (DE DNREC)
Robert Isdell (VIMS)	Gina Hunt (MD DNR)	Breck Sullivan (CRC)	Amy Jacobs (TNC)
Jaclyn Specht (TNC)	Dave Goerman (PA DEP)	Melissa Yearick (USC)	Jennifer Dietzen (DOEE)
Julianna Greenberg (CRC)	Rachel Felver (Alliance)	Rebecca Chillrud (CRC)	Jake McPherson (DU)
Mark Hoffman (CBC)	Jaclyn Woollard	Vanessa Van Note	Katie Brownson (USFS)
Doug Austin	Anne Wakeford		

### Action Items:

- Reach out to Pam and Megan with project ideas for GIT-funding.
- Reach out to Pam and Megan with ideas for future meeting topics.

- Reach out to Kevin and Emily if you are interested in assisting with fact sheets that identify state programs and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration or living shorelines
- Running list of future meeting topics/presentations:
  - Randy Owen - Upland conversions
  - Danielle Algazi - Wetland Program Development grants
  - Joint meeting with Forestry Workgroup
  - Hearing from VMRC rep
  - revisiting idea for STAC workshop for systems approach to BMP crediting
  - Wetland mowing

### **Wetland Indicator Data Updates & Progress towards the Outcome** *(Jeff Sweeney, EPA)*

#### Questions:

- Pam: Suggests clarifying title – Wetland Restoration *for BMP credits* because we still need to track voluntary restoration separately
- Kevin D: is this graph showing primarily freshwater wetlands?
  - Jeff: we do not know because they are not identified when reporting
  - Carin: these are wetlands on ag land, which would be mostly nontidal
- Kevin: making title more specific would help clarify
- Amy J: in phase 6 model, we have two types of wetlands – are states being asked to go back and differentiate, or is that just moving forward?
  - Jeff, no we are not asking states to go back
  - States have an opportunity to specify what the BMP applies to
  - Carin: it is a good idea to specify between floodplain and other treatments, because floodplain gets credited twice as much
- Denise C: reporting on wetland gain is misleading because some of it falls into a different BMP category – this is not an absolute wetland gain number because it's just limited to the TMDL
- Amy: in best scenario, we meet our WIP goals but were only halfway to 85,000-acre bay goal
- Rich M: Can you remind us what types of projects are considered enhancement?
  - Denise: enhancement was not included as a BMP, but rehabilitation was
  - Jeff: meant to say rehabilitation instead, used wrong term
  - Jennifer G: slide should say rehabilitation, enhancement is not yet considered a BMP
    - We have a summary slide that describes typical projects in each of the categories, will dig it up and include in notes *(added table to slides, posted in CBP calendar page)*
- Pam: is there anyone on the call who can provide context in where the numbers came from for the goals?
  - Carin: Phase 2 WIPs were calling for 85,000 acres – they didn't want restoration goals that were separate from the WIPs, but CBF brought up that for TMDL, you can change practices at any time and substitute wetland restoration for other BMPs. CBF wanted to make sure that there was a certain amount of restoration that would actually be done for wetlands

- Jennifer: came down to functional gain vs acreage gain and habitat value
- Pam: considering how much more we now know about wetlands, is it still appropriate to have 85,000 acres as a goal? Especially since we're only at 11%?
  - Amy: context for people to consider – we've lost about 1.5 million acres across the watershed, and about 1 million that can be restored and 1 million that can be rehabilitated. Restoring 85,000 acres is less than 6% of what we've historically had, and the amount of ag land that we're asking to restore is less than 1%
    - Strong advocate of not backing down on the goal in order to look better – it is a lofty goal that will take some new thinking, but it is realistic
  - Emily Farr: do we want to consider setting specific tidal vs nontidal goals?
    - Pam: problem with setting goal for tidal wetlands is that land is changing faster in tidal areas compared to non-tidal areas, and they are in a different place in the model
      - We can still differentiate our efforts and messages between tidal and nontidal audiences
    - Carin: reminder that the CB Agreement sets the goal, MS is designed to set the overall direction of the WG, and workplans are targeted to two-year actions
      - We should be considering where we want to target opportunities, but should not add an additional goal because it would have to be agreed to at PSC or EC level
  - Dave G: doesn't remember state wetland programs ever being asked about the feasibility of the goal
    - Size and scale of restoration varies widely among different geographic areas
    - Even with very low rates per acre, the cost is still enormous
    - These factors have never really been addressed
  - Pam: we need to improve our process in accounting for restoration and improve communication among agencies
  - Kevin: if the goals in the WIP are met, isn't that enough to show that the criteria to restore marine living resources are met? If we fall short of our wetland goal but meet the criteria for living marine resources, then does it matter that we fell short of our goal because we met it through the TMDL? And vice versa, if we meet our wetland goal but fail to achieve the goals of the TMDL, then would we have to do more?
    - Carin: this goes beyond what the TMDL is designed to do – TMDL won't necessary meet all the habitat requirements to meet the living marine resources requirements
    - Jennifer: important to look at all three components of outcome – restoration and rehabilitation and protection
  - Pam: bottom line - wanted to share this info to see where we were, encourage people to think creatively about how we will get wetland acres in the ground
    - WG needs to have conversations going forward about how to take advantage of this information and existing targeting tools, and well as get more engagement

## **Social Marketing to Improve Shoreline Management**

*(Rachel Felver & Rebecca Chillrud, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)*

### Questions:

- Jennifer: wetland mowing has come up in the WG several times – was that looked at here?
  - Rebecca: no, it was looked at in the lit review but not added to the final list of behaviors
- Jennifer: of these behaviors, are there any that jump out to the workgroup members?
- Rachel: we have a report on how the decisions on impact were reached by the experts, we can provide that

### **The Way Forward**

- If anyone has any meeting topic ideas, let us know
  - Pam: VMRC rep
  - Carin: revisiting idea for STAC workshop for systems approach to BMP crediting
    - Pam: maybe a presentation on how the accounting works to get a better understanding
  - Pam: wetland mowing
- Next meeting date: June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Megan: announcement about GIT-funding – next round of available funding is starting and proposals will be due in early summer, so if anyone has ideas email us
  - Jennifer: former projects included landowner survey, wetlands work website – think broadly and look at the workplans
  - Would need rough placeholder idea by May 20<sup>th</sup> for coordinator/staffer discussion
- Kevin and Emily: still working on identifying state programs and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration or living shorelines
  - Working on VA, will have conversation about other jurisdictions soon – reach out to Kevin and Emily if you are interested in assisting