

# Mid-Atlantic Wetland Workgroup (MAWWG) Virtual Spring Forum - May 11, 12, and 13, 2021

*Sharing Research, Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Wetland Management*

## AGENDA

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### To Access the Meeting

MS Teams will be used as our virtual meeting platform. Sessions can be accessed through the following meetings links or by clicking on the agenda headings for each day. Sessions will open by 9:15pm each day to allow for early login and any necessary troubleshooting.

[Session 1 – Tues, May 11 from 9:30-12:00 pm](#)

[Session 2 – Wed, May 12 from 9:30-12:00 pm](#)

[Session 3 – Thurs, May 13 from 9:30-12:30 pm](#)

### MAWWG Purpose

The Mid-Atlantic Wetland Workgroup (MAWWG) facilitates a community of practice among scientists and regulators to improve the quality and quantity of wetlands and inform resource management, including sharing strategies to monitor, assess, conserve and restore tidal and non-tidal wetlands in a scientifically sound and implementable manner with a focus on state, tribal and federal programs.

MAWWG forums often spur new projects and partnerships that lead to collaborative efforts to leverage efficiencies and strengthen management of aquatic resources across the region. Information is transferable and facilitates the linkage of regional, state, tribal, and federal programs.

Participants include federal, state and tribal scientists and regulatory personnel, academia, and not-for-profit groups.

### MAWWG STEERING COMMITTEE

**DNREC:** Mark Biddle

**MDE:** Denise Clearwater

**PA DEP:** David Goerman

**WV DEP:** Elizabeth Byers

**VIMS:** Pam Mason

**DOEE:** Jennifer Dietzen

**NJ SEA:** Teresa Doss

**EPA R3:** Danielle Algazi, Christine Mazzarella, Jeff Lapp, Margaret Zacharias and Madison Fink (ORISE)

**EPA R2:** Jaclyn Woollard, Marco Finocchiaro

**US Corps Baltimore District:** Beth Bachur

## **AGENDA: Session 1- Tuesday, May 11, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

*Objective – Share information on wetland metrics and monitoring techniques across states/regions*

### **9:30-9:45 am: Welcome, Steering Committee Introductions and Agenda Review**

Jeffrey Lapp, Chief, Wetlands Branch, Water Division, EPA Region 3 and Danielle Algazi, Enhancing State and Tribal Program (ESTP) Lead, EPA Region 3

### **9:45-10:15 am: Using the Unvegetated-Vegetated Marsh Ratio (UVVR) Metric to Improve the Management, Assessment, and Monitoring of Wetlands**

Dr. Neil Ganju, Research Oceanographer, Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center (USGS) will demonstrate the use of the UVVR metric in wetland management and risk assessment.

### **10:15-10:45 am: Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment – Development & Connections**

Michael Bourdaghs, Environmental Research Scientist, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will briefly outline the key Rapid FQA development steps and its application within Minnesota's multi-agency wetland program context.

### **10:45-11:00 am: Adapting Minnesota's Rapid FQA to West Virginia**

Elizabeth Byers, Senior Wetland Scientist, WV DEP Watershed Assessment Branch will discuss the Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment and how it is an integral part of West Virginia's wetland monitoring and functional assessment method.

### **11:00–11:10 am: Break**

### **11:10–11:25 am: Developing a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Network**

Todd Lutte, Field Scientist, Wetlands Specialist, Field Services Branch, EPA Region 3 will present the development of this framework for consistent, long-term data collection.

### **11:25-11:55 am: Exploring Common Metrics for Assessment Methods in the Mid-Atlantic – Part 1**

Mark Biddle, Environmental Program Manager and Lead Wetland Scientist, DNREC will facilitate an interactive session with participants dividing into four groups to discuss common metrics in Level 1 or 2 Condition Assessments for freshwater wetlands: 1) hydrology; 2) habitat/vegetation; 3) soils; and 4) landscape/buffer metrics. Participants should bring examples of the top 1-3 metrics that are working well across a broad spectrum on wetlands in your area.

### **11:55-12:00pm: Session 1 Wrap-Up**

**AGENDA: [Session 2 - Wednesday, May 12, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM](#)**

*Objective – Share modeling tools, monitoring techniques, and case studies in climate change, sea-level rise and state tidal and non-tidal wetlands to increase resiliency and support informed management decisions*

**9:30-9:40 am: Welcome and Agenda Review**

Medessa Burian, Assistant Director, Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland

**9:40-10:10 am: Exploring Common Metrics for Assessment Methods in the Mid-Atlantic - Part 2**

Mark Biddle, Environmental Program Manager and Lead Wetland Scientist, DNREC will share results from the Part 1 discussion followed by a discussion of next steps and action items.

**10:10 – 10:40 am: Forecasting Sea-level Rise Impacts on Tidal Marsh Extent and Distribution**

Dr. Karinna Nunez, Research Scientist, Center for Coastal Resources Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Science will present on the development of the Tidal Marsh Model within the SCHISM framework.

**10:40-10:55 pm: Break**

**10:55-11:25 am: Urban Land Trust Partnering with Coastal Communities: Retreating from Sea Level Rise Through Conservation**

Skip Stiles, Executive Director, Wetlands Watch will discuss their work in Norfolk, Virginia on rolling easements as an approach to retreat and wetland migration.

**11:25-11:55 am: Long-Term Monitoring in New Jersey's Tidal Wetlands**

Metthea Yepsen, Research Scientist and Kirk Raper, Wetland Scientist, Division of Science and Research, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will discuss the work of the New Jersey Tidal Wetland Monitoring Network to identify current conditions and trends of tidal wetlands in New Jersey to improve resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems. Co-Author: Lori Lester

**11:55-12:00 pm: Session 2 Wrap-Up**

**12:00-12:30 pm: Well Wishes Video to Rob Brooks**

## **AGENDA: Session 3 - Thursday, May 13, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

*Objective – Share existing monitoring, metrics and assessment programs and partner updates*

### **9:30-9:45 am: Welcome, Agenda Review and EPA update**

Danielle Algazi, Enhancing State and Tribal Program (ESTP) lead, Wetlands Branch, EPA Region 3

### **9:45-10:45 am: Partner Updates - Part 1**

Each partner will have 15 minutes to share state wetland program activities.

- WV: Elizabeth Byers and Brian Bridgewater
- DE: Allison Rogerson
- MD: Denise Clearwater
- VA: Michelle Henicheck

### **10:45-10:55 am: Break**

### **10:55 am-11:20 am: An Overview of Maryland Wetland Assessment Methodology (MDWAM)**

Frank Plewa, Wetland Specialist, U.S. Army Corps Engineers - Baltimore District, will give a background and update on the development of MDWAM for non-tidal wetlands.

### **11:20-11:45 am: Revised Performance Standards for Wetland Mitigation in Virginia**

Jeanne Richardson, Mitigation SME, US Army Corps of Engineers-Norfolk District and Sarah Woodford, Mitigation Specialist, VA Department of Environmental Quality will discuss the revised performance standards and monitoring requirements for wetland mitigation sites in Virginia.

### **11:45- 12:30 pm: Partner Updates - Part 2**

Each partner will have 15 minutes to share wetland program activities

- PA: Dave Goerman, Ephraim Zimmerman and Dr. Mary Ann Furedi
- DC: Jennifer Dietzen
- NJ: Kathleen Waltz and Metthea Yepsen

### **12:30 pm: Adjourn**