



**CSPDC Chesapeake Bay TMDL  
 Watershed Implementation Plan  
 Stakeholder Meeting**

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
 CSPDC Office, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401  
 Hybrid meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Call

**Meeting Summary**

In attendance:

Shayna Carter, City of Harrisonburg	Hunter Moore, CSPDC
Adam Schellhammer, VCC	Rebecca Joyce, CSPDC
Robert Hickman, Natural Bridge SWCD (virtual)	Kent O’Donohue, Town of Bridgewater (virtual)
Sara Jordan, DEQ	Georgi Tomisato, Shenandoah Green
Fred Blanton, Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee	

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Hunter Moore welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting whether in-person or virtually. She asked the group to introduce themselves.

**Flood Mitigation and Resiliency Acquisition Projects**

- **Adam Schellhammer, VCC**

- Adam Schellhammer, Executive Director of the Valley Conservation Council, presented on nature-based solutions for flood mitigation and land acquisition for resiliency.
- Adam started with an explanation of water cycles, and how the water moves through landscapes for predevelopment, deforestation, and pasture conversion. Timelines for the pathway of water through natural vegetation is much longer and results in less magnitude.
- Nature-based solutions can mitigate flood, drought, erosion, and landslides and also decrease vulnerability to climate change while creating benefits for the community.
- These solutions can be applied to river basins (reforestation, green embankments, and wetlands) and urban areas (parks).



- Adam discussed sponge capacity and protection of wetlands. Restoring or protecting wetlands can improve water quality and reduce flooding. Healthy wetlands filter, absorb and slow runoff. A one-acre wetland can store about 1 million gallons of water.
- Adam talked about local examples, looking upstream to plan these solutions for flood mitigation, and about resources for funding projects like this.
- A question was asked if VCC would only acquire a large parcel of land. Adam answered that VCC has no acreage minimum.
- The group discussed the potential of a tract of land near the Augusta Health Hospital and areas in the City of Staunton.
- Kent asked about deforestation and better curve numbers with meadow landscapes. Adam agreed that high value meadows with lots of vegetation can sometimes be better than a forested area. Sometimes there are giant ruts in forest, where the water will flow through.

### **Fall Training**

- Hunter shared that the CSPDC is working on developing a fall training that would educate residents on how to make their yards more environmentally friendly and implementing residential BMPs. The CSPDC has been in touch with a couple partners for guest speakers. This workshop will most likely be a about 1.5 hours, on a weekday evening. Once the details are finalized, Hunter will share the event with stakeholders.
- Georgi and Fred said they have seen interest in this sort of workshop through their work with Shenandoah Green and would share the workshop information through their networks.

### **2023 CSPDC Regional Deliverables**

- Hunter updated the group on the new WIP 2023 draft scope of work they received recently from DEQ. The new scope is more focused on BMP implementation activities. With the Chesapeake Bay TMDL goal coming up in 2025, DEQ is asking bay-PDCs to shift to more implementation for 2023.
- The CSPDC will be submitting implementation-focused regional deliverables to DEQ on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. There have been a lot of questions about the definition of implementation and what this program will look like from bay-PDCs. Bay-PDCS will be meeting with DEQ to discuss these questions.
- Through the DEQ contract, \$58,000 is received for the WIP program. Bay-PDCs have discussed whether DEQ wants to see these fund directly go to implementation or used for facilitating BMP projects, through grant writing and grant administration services of the PDC. Many BMP projects are expensive and cost more than \$58,000. With the CSPDC



region being large and with many unregulated communities, these funds would not go very far for direct BMP implementation.

- The CSPDC plans to schedule one-on-one, in-person meetings with each of their unregulated localities, to try to reel them back into the WIP program, and possibly identify BMP projects for their communities. BMP implementation is still voluntary for unregulated communities and so this has been a challenge for many bay-PDCs.
- As the 2023 scope is developed and finalized, the CSPDC will share this information with WIP stakeholders.
- The group discussed the PDC's role in DEQ's WIP efforts, and outreach & education activities.
- Georgie with Shenandoah Green discussed their education activities and events, and how that could tie in with the PDC's work.
- Kent suggested that an incentive for unregulated communities could be to selling the reductions or credits from their BMP implementation project to MS4 localities.
- Adam suggested looking at DEQ's data for impaired streams, to help prioritize projects in the region.
- Kent discussed the qualitative and quantitative requirements of their MS4 permit and plans to dig into qualitative activities (education and outreach) when quantitative requirements are met.

### **Community Updates**

- Hunter asked the group if there was any other news, business, or updates.
- Shenandoah Green is coordinating the Climate March on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> in Staunton VA.
- Adam mentioned their pre-bid meeting for the stormwater retrofit and conservation planting project at the Staunton Innovation Hub. They are trying to use the VCAP program for funding and hope to start construction in June 2023.
- Hunter said the next WIP meeting is scheduled for December 7th and David Hirschman will be the guest speaker to discuss NFWF funding.

### **VIII. Adjourn**

- With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

### **Upcoming 2022 meeting dates:**

December 7th