

# **Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Climate Change Coordinator:**

## **Infiltrating the Entire Partnership and Its Shared Decision-making Processes**

**CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee  
September 10, 2014**



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*A Watershed Partnership*

## ***2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement***

### **Resiliency**

Changing climatic and sea level conditions may alter the Bay ecosystem and human activities, requiring adjustment to policies, programs and projects to successfully achieve our restoration and protection goals for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. This challenge requires careful monitoring and assessment of these impacts and application of this knowledge to policies, programs and projects.

**Goal: Increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and human communities to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.**

***Monitoring and Assessment Outcome:*** Continually monitor and assess the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects

***Adaptation Outcome:*** Continually pursue, design, and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.

# Agreement Bottom-lines

## Goal:

- Increase resiliency to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions

## Make it happen by:

- Assessing effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects in the face of changing climate
- Designing and constructing restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency

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# Coordinator Roles/Responsibilities

- Incorporate climate change considerations into the partnership shared decision making
- Build and enhance the institutional capacity to prepare for and respond to climate change
- Establish mechanisms for the prioritization of evaluation of impacts from and adaptation to climate change
- Facilitate information exchange between researchers and decision-makers

# Shared Decision Making

- Develop mechanisms for building consideration of climate change into the partnership's decision making processes
- Assess vulnerability; prioritize adaptation response strategies
- Ensure that the Partnership's Management Strategies include:
  - Evaluation changing conditions on both the cost and efficacy of the restoration and protection actions
  - Targeting implementation of management options that increase resilience or facilitate adaptation to changing conditions

# Institutional Capacity

- Build the capacity among partnership professional staff and researchers to understand and address the consequences of changing climatic conditions
- Build capacity for informal collaboration across organizational, jurisdictional and disciplinary boundaries
- Coordinate data collection/tool development for use in planning for and implementation of restoration and protection efforts that build community and ecosystem resilience

# Impacts/Adaptation Prioritization

- Secure adoption of a decision framework to identify climate change impacts/effects on the performance of specific management practices, restoration actions, and protection measures
- Use assessment of climate vulnerability to set priorities for increasing the ecosystem resiliency
- Ensure the Partnership's decision makers understand the consequences of their decisions in light of widely available information about the plausible range of future conditions.

# Facilitate Information Exchange

- Build/direct an integrated, interdisciplinary team of climate change professionals focused on climate change research, coordination, and information sharing.
- Identify and pursue opportunities to develop and advance collective research priorities
- Work through team to set up information portal as the means to share and funnel data, information, tools and products into the Partnership's shared decision processes



# Questions



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