Maryland Wetland Program Update

Joint Mid-Atlantic Wetland Work Group and New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Work Group Meeting

Presented by:

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Maryland Department of the Environment

November 12-14, 2024

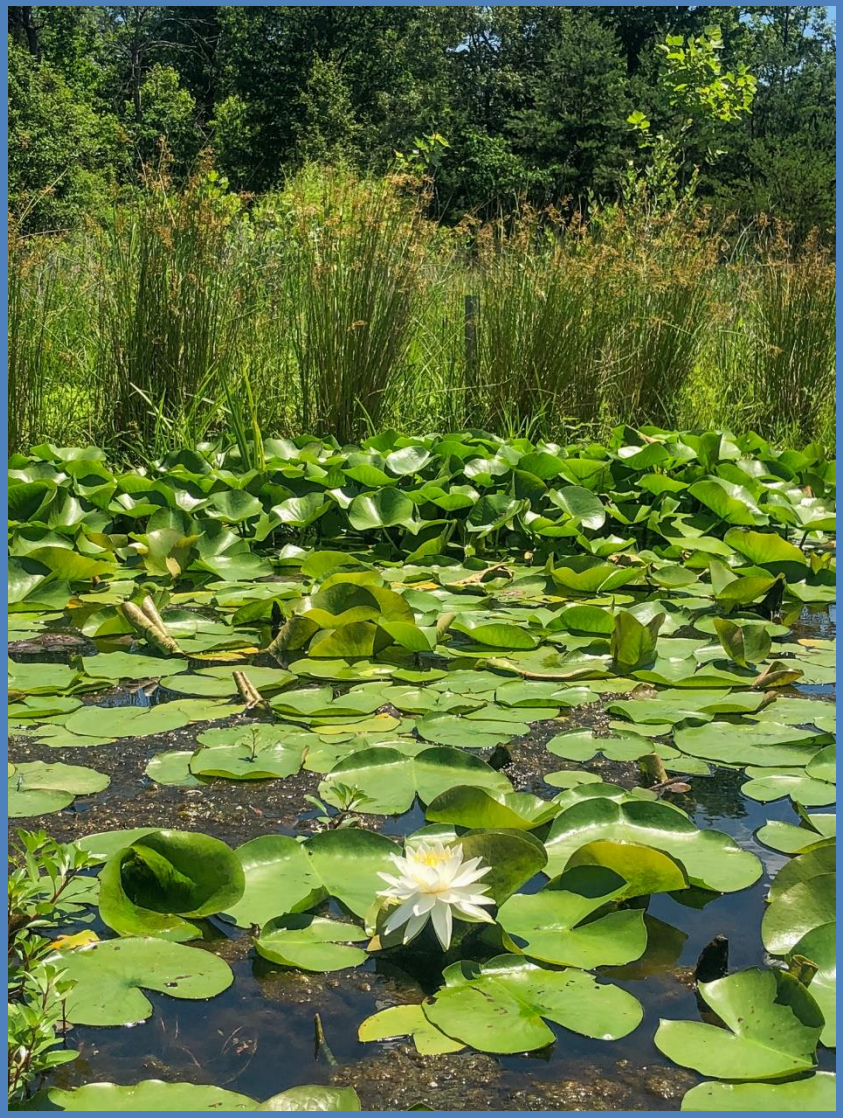
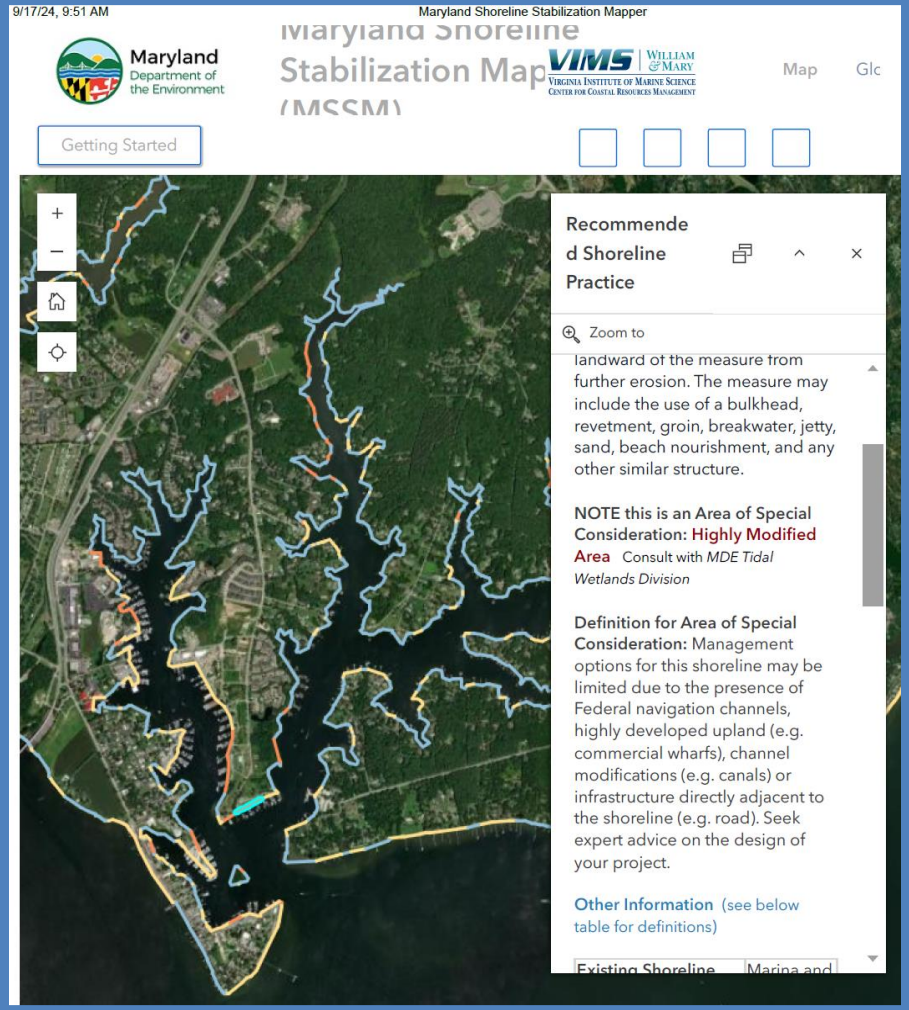


Photo: MDE

What is your agency's biggest success in the past two years?

- Creation of the checklists and forming new shoreline management teams to modernize the permitting process
- New tracking system for tidal wetland mitigation and living shoreline projects
- Maryland Shoreline Stabilization Mapper
  - Completion of mapper https://cmap22.vims.edu/MSSMTool/
  - Active outreach to various venues and new educational material photo (top) MDE(below): Canva

What is your agency's biggest success in the past two years? (cont.)



https://cmap22.vims.edu/MSSMTool/

Scrolling through information notes presence of:

- **Existing marsh**
- **SAV**
- **Fetch distance**
- **Bank height**
- **Nearshore depth**

Challenges

What is your agency's biggest environmental challenge right now?

- **Implementation of the Living Shoreline Protection Act**
- **Criticisms of stream restoration project successes**
- **Community education at the residential scale on benefits of success of living shorelines**
- **Lack of staff to follow up on the success of restoration projects**

Photo: MDE

Requested Feedback and Collaboration

- Opportunities to streamline permitting processes for living shorelines and stream restoration where federal authorizations are also required

- How other agencies analyze and address resource tradeoffs

- Specific actions related to addressing climate change in regulatory review:
  - culvert sizing
  - storm modeling
  - significant filling of a resource (tidal or nontidal) resulting in resource conversion (uplands conversion, etc.)

Climate Change: What is your agency doing or thinking about to address climate change?

Photos: MDE

- **Science & Planning: Harness science and planning to account for changing climate conditions such as rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and prolonged droughts**

- **Climate Smart Water Permits: Review regulatory approval procedures and permits to ensure they support the safe and sustainable management of water resources and infrastructure in the context of a changing climate**

Climate Change: What is your agency doing or thinking about to address climate change?

- **Green, Blue, & Traditional Infrastructure: Accelerate the implementation of green, blue, and traditional infrastructure to enhance resilience**

Photo: MDE

- **Emergency Preparedness & Response: Periodically update and exercise response procedures to safeguard public health, water resources, and critical infrastructure from increasingly frequent and severe emergency incidents due to climate change**

Photo: MDE

Climate Change: What is your agency doing or thinking about to address climate change?

- **Nontidal wetland mitigation: Proponents of mitigation sites are asked to describe how their project will be resilient to climate change**

- **Nontidal waterways: Applicants are informed of changing climate and potential for new flood risks. Applicant has the responsibility to consider flood risks**

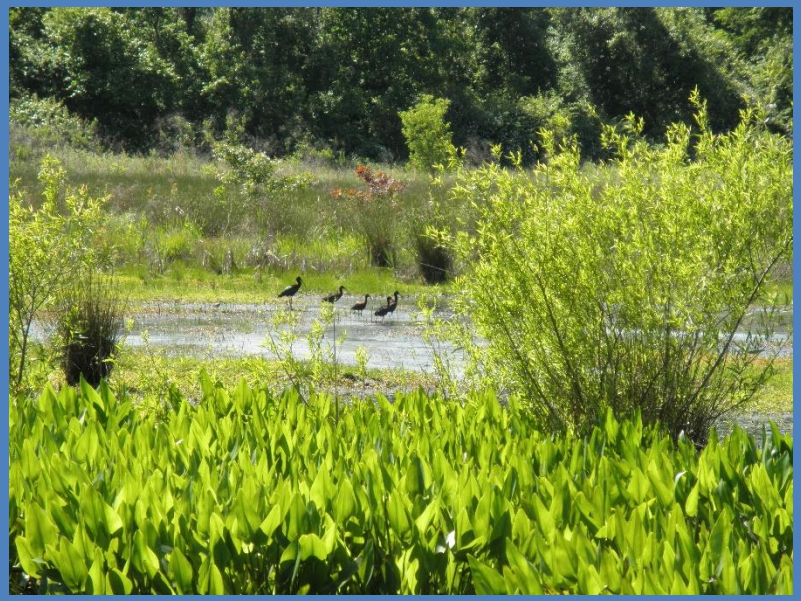


Photo: MDE

Climate Change: What is your agency doing or thinking about to address climate change?

- **Case-by-case consideration of designs to support tidal wetlands based on 2050 sea level rise projections**
  - Structures/sills in tidal waters can be higher
  - More high marsh rather than low marsh

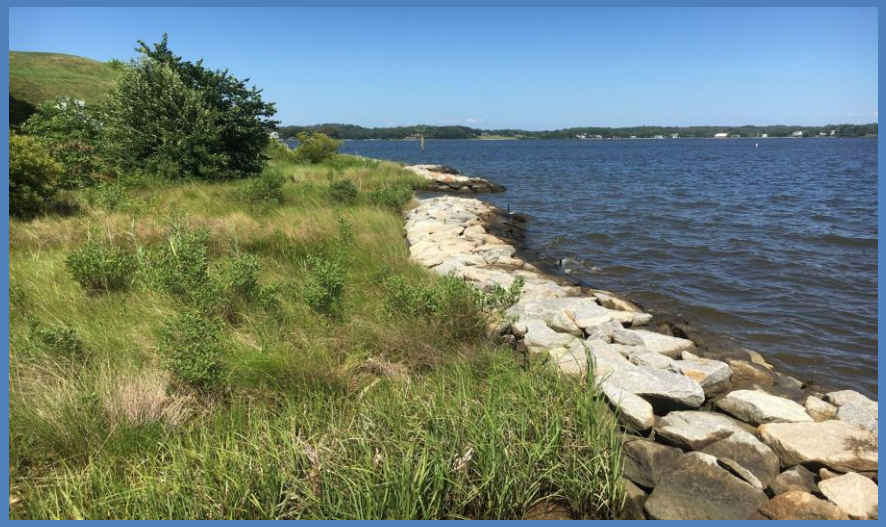


Photo: MDE

Climate Change: How are you coordinating with other state agencies or across state lines?

Photo: MDE

- Quarterly Living Shoreline Multiagency Subgroup Meetings that are MDE-facilitated with federal and state agency partners
- Participate on Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resiliency Workgroup
- Specific checklist associated with coastal resiliency that was created through collaboration with federal and state agencies for living shoreline projects