

Wetlands Resources MAT: Teleconference on 2/15/18

*Notes by Tim Ellis

Attendance: Rick Savage (CarWA), Bo Dame (Chowan University), Brandon Puckett (NERR/NCCR), Pete Kalla (USEPA), Mike Schafale (NCNHP), Kirk Havens (VIMS), John Stanton (USFWS), Michelle Henicheck (VADEQ), Kim Mathews (USEPA), Tim Ellis (APNEP), Dean Carpenter (APNEP)

Meeting started at 1:05 PM.

DC - Reviewed the last workshop activities and outlined the focus of today's discussion. Today's plan is to go through the list of indicators and confirm designations as either Tier I or Tier II. Dean and Tim will pull everything together next week and review with the STAC at their March 2nd meeting.

MS - Asked if criterion of data availability is part of determining tier assignment, as he thought that was part of our discussion last time but thinks the instructions are different now (i.e., feasibility vs. importance).

DC - Having no data shouldn't be a reason to exclude something that the group thinks is important; KH echoed this sentiment.

RS - Reported that Ginny Baker (NCDWR) is tied up in another meeting and will be unable to attend today's phone call. Asked MS to review what he and GB have worked on since the last meeting regarding the wetland vegetation indicator and associated metrics.

MS - Recap of the email that GB sent out to the team. Group agreed that this one is an easy Tier I. MS encouraged the team to review the emails and that there is more in-depth discussion on this indicator and associated metrics at the next meeting. PK also emailed the group on this and offered a slightly different perspective; he also encouraged the team to review all the emails and we can revisit the discussion at the next meeting.

Group consensus to keep herptofauna as Tier II. MS did some investigating on this but the team needs to have more discussion and review of this indicator.

Group consensus to keep the colonial bird survey as Tier I. It was noted that the SALCC discussion from last meeting was not captured well in the notes but they have a beach bird index that this team can adapt to our needs (i.e., spatial clip to the A-P region). JS noted that he still needs to reach out to Travis Wilson of NCWRC.

JS will produce a map of bird paths across forested wetlands for the team to review and discuss further if this indicator would be better handled by the Terrestrial Resources MAT. Group consensus that other potential bird indices will be a Tier II but the team may tackle this in the next week or so through emails, pending the map produced by JS.

MS - Noted that it is important to involve bird folks from the Terrestrial MAT in these discussions; Terrestrial MAT members assigned to this indicator are Rua Mordecai (SALCC), David Allen (NCWRC), and Wendy Stanton (USFWS).

BD - Asked if this team should be considering waterfowl.

JS - Responded that he is unsure about waterfowl given data availability but he will give it more thought and the team can discuss it more at our next meeting.

Group consensus to keep butterflies as Tier II. MS sent an email to the team about his investigation on amphibian and butterfly indicators, and he noted again the importance of discussing this indicator with the Terrestrial MAT.

Group consensus to keep the extent of wetland vegetation by type as Tier I.

For wetland landscape, DC informed the team that John James (USEPA) is investigating this more for the Terrestrial MAT with regards to uplands. Group consensus to ask JJ to also include wetlands in his investigation, as well as to designate this indicator as Tier I to match the Terrestrial MAT designation.

There is no new information to discuss today regarding wetland hydrology, so the team suggested keeping this indicator as Tier I for now.

MH - She investigated wetland buffer and sent an email to the team; she noted that she plans to do more investigation on this. PK noted to make a correction to the notes by removing him from this and adding MH. Group consensus to keep this indicator as Tier I.

There was some discussion on invasive species; the consensus by the group was that there is a need to investigate these metrics more but keep it as Tier I now. MS reported that the Terrestrial MAT also designated this indicator as Tier I, and he noted the importance of coordinating this team's efforts on invasives with the similar efforts by the Terrestrial MAT.

Adjourned at 2:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM:

John Stanton will produce a map of bird paths across forested wetlands for the team to review.