



Common Metrics

Megan Fitzgerald, EPA R3 Wetlands Branch

2024 Joint MAWWG-NEBAWWG

Northampton, MA

Nov 12-14, 2024

Where have we been...

- 2022 MAWWG-NEBAWWG mtg
 - Outlined methods, protocols from each of the programs across states
- 2023 MAWWG mtg session
 - Discussing next steps, define objective statement
 - As a group there are a lot of ideas about what this project could/should be
- 2024
 - May survey re the objective statement, top outcomes/outputs
 - Related efforts nationally (NWCA) and regionally (long-term regional monitoring network, RMN) – common terminology, common protocols, etc.
- EPA R1 and NE Corps District
 - Developing a functional assessment methodology for NE states – with that they did pull together other functional assessments to inform their tool. Should be out for review by end of the year.

2023 MAWWG Meeting

- Site selection & monitoring protocols
 - Starting with Invasive species, Level 1 metric
- Data management challenges & appropriate analysis
 - Discussed how to leverage WRR
- Leveraging existing partnerships/activities
 - RMN, NWCA, existing condition assessments (RAMs)
- Funding needs & a timeline
- The “Why”
 - Represent a needed efficiency for states and tribes that have limited resources to focus on wetland issues.
 - Scientific credibility and defensibility of common metrics used to assess wetland condition.

Objective Statement

To standardize a suite of metrics to allow comparison of wetland function and condition within and across wetland type and ecoregion present in MAWWG-NEBAWWG states. Standardizing the metric protocols and names , and when possible, methodologies, will improve staff capacity to address questions involving resource pattern changes related to climate change or other natural or anthropogenic processes. Further, standardized protocols can inform regulatory review and restoration planning, including the development of performance standards and appropriate monitoring requirements.

Objective Statement

To ~~standardize~~ identify a suite of metrics to allow comparison of wetland function and condition within and across wetland type and ecoregion ~~present in MAWWG-NEBAWWG states~~. Standardizing the ~~metric~~ suite of metric protocols and ~~names terminology, and when possible, methodologies,~~ will improve staff capacity to address questions involving resource pattern changes related to climate change ~~or~~ and other natural or anthropogenic processes. Further, standardized protocols can inform regulatory review and restoration planning, including the development of performance standards and appropriate monitoring requirements.

Objective Statement

To **identify** a suite of metrics to allow comparison of wetland function and condition within and across wetland type and ecoregion. Standardizing the **suite of** protocols and **terminology** will improve staff capacity to address questions involving resource pattern changes related to climate change **and** other natural or anthropogenic processes. Further, standardized protocols can inform regulatory review and restoration planning, including the development of performance standards and appropriate monitoring requirements.

How to fill the gaps....

- Spreadsheet should include functional and condition assessments within each participating state
- Goal would be to develop a cross walk between the indicators/protocols and the functions/services we care about
 - What protocol(s) can be used to inform XX function/condition
 - Create a list of indicators
- **To do → the 2022 spreadsheet should be reviewed/updated**
 - Add info from CT; ensure functional assessments are included for each state
 - Develop cross walk between suite of indicators and list identified functions/values/services

Next Steps/To Dos

- #1 - update the 2022 Condition/Function Assessment Spreadsheet
- #2 - ?
 - Looking for recommendations
 - Acknowledge our limited capacity
- We should discuss when Common Metrics Effort is "*Complete*"