

Northeast Wetland Monitoring and Assessment: State Goals

NEBAWWG Meeting

May 2, 2013

Albany, NY

State Goals

- Start a monitoring program
- Assess wetlands using a standardized method to:
 - Identify sources and causes of degradation
 - Success of restoration and mitigation projects
 - Identify loss of functions
- Develop protocols to assess biological assemblages
 - Vegetation, macroinvertebrates, algae
- Report on wetland condition (305b/303d)
 - Implement water quality criteria
- Expand use of wetland monitoring data to inform other programs

Obstacles to Accomplishing State Goals

- Funding
 - Staff time
 - Uncertainty
- Competing priorities
- Uncertainty on how to integrate with other programs
- Lack of clarity regarding state obligations

How can EPA assist the states?

- Funding
 - Implementation grants AND development grants
 - Multi-year funding option
- Technical assistance
- Promote M&A as a regional priority
- Support state staff participation in meetings
- Communicate with other WQ programs at Federal level to promote integration and coordinate WQ efforts

How can the workgroup support the states?

- Promote importance of wetland monitoring and protection
- Technical support
- Opportunities for networking/partnering/tech exchange
- Coordinate communication with other WQ programs
- Advocate for implementation funding
- Advocate for clarity on M&A obligations
- Forum - develop strategies to M&A climate change