



2024 CSO Spring Member Meeting

Technical Assistance for Natural Infrastructure Implementation in Frontline Communities

Project Leads

Coastal States Organization, National Wildlife Federation

Funding Source

National Wildlife Federation

Project Status

We are providing assistance to a number of state/territory Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMPs): VA, WA, OR, MD, NY, MA. Project teams includes partner community representatives, leaders, community action groups, and State/Territory CZMPs.

Project Purpose

The primary goal of this project is to help mitigate the barriers that frontline communities face accessing and utilizing natural and nature-based infrastructure (NNBI) approaches, by assisting Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMPs) in delivering community technical assistance and **strengthening the relationships between CZMPs and the communities they serve.**

Approach

- **Recognize** that “frontline communities” look different in every location, and rather than utilizing a blanket categorization, this technical assistance is intended for community groups that have been historically and/or continue to be under-resourced
- **Empower** frontline communities to consider NNBI in their decision making by facilitating improved access to institutional knowledge and social capital relating to NNBI decision making
- Provide **additional capacity** to frontline communities in planning, siting, design, and implementation of NNBI
- Facilitate **cross-jurisdictional** or regional coordination on shared NNBI priorities
- **Amplify** and elevate frontline community voices that are seeking to dismantle barriers they face in implementing NNBI

Current efforts

Virginia: We are in the beginning stages of working with the VA CZMP as they plan how to best support community relocation visioning processes as well increase their network of trusted relationships.

Washington: We facilitated a peer to peer sharing opportunity between WA & MD's CZMPs around the state-level coordination of capacity opportunities.

Oregon: We provided editing support for OR CZMP's grant submission to the NOAA Climate Regional Resilience Challenge.

Maryland: We are slowly transitioning from convening around capacity building to discuss how we might support their network of practitioners in getting projects on the ground.

New York: We are working with two communities (Smithtown and Wolcott) prioritized by the NY CZMP to support their natural infrastructure needs – including the development of a nine-element plan and strategies for coastal bluff protection.

You! *Want to work with us?* Get in touch for assistance around consensus building, facilitation, allyship, emergent thinking – we’re here to support you in nurturing, developing, and stewarding relationships with groups at the frontlines of climate change.

How will other members benefit?

Opportunities for peer learning from these initial efforts

Potential to expand and scale up to other states in coming years, depending on funding and capacity.

Free technical assistance to amplify and strengthen relationships of coastal programs with frontline communities.

Would you like some technical assistance?

Email (or come chat with us in person!):

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