

## Guidance for State Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategies

In preparation for the April 27<sup>th</sup> Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Leadership Workshop, each state should be developing a Riparian Forest Buffer (RFB) Action Strategy. The Strategies should outline how each state intends to accelerate RFB implementation over the next 5-10 years, including how to meet buffer goals established in Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). States can use the findings from conversations with ERG during the pre-workshop Synthesis effort to inform Action Strategy development.

At the April 27<sup>th</sup> workshop, each state will provide a summary powerpoint presentation of their Action Strategy. Following the workshop, states will work to further refine their strategies and will be asked to provide a final written version of their Action Strategy within 60 days (by June 27<sup>th</sup>). If states would like input from the Chesapeake Bay Program Office before finalizing their Strategy, draft Strategies should be sent to Sophie Waterman ([swaterman@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:swaterman@chesapeakebay.net)) by May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Here are some questions that should be considered in the development of RFB Action Strategies:

1. What are your state's desired outcomes and when do you aim to achieve these outcomes?
  - a. What is the intended annual rate of RFB implementation to meet state WIP goals (2022-2025)? Beyond 2025?
  - b. What other outcomes will be needed to support implementation goals? For example, what trainings, partnerships, or planting supplies are needed?
2. After analyzing current efforts in your state, what are some key opportunities to increase rate of implementation? What strategies will be used to accomplish goals? For example:
  - a. Who are the key partners currently engaged with buffers and which partners will be engaged further to increase the rate of implementation?
  - b. Where in the state are the greatest opportunities to plant more buffers?
  - c. What existing public funding programs will be better leveraged to incentivize buffers?
  - d. How can buffer programs be made more accessible and desirable for landowners?
  - e. What outreach and communication strategies will be used?
  - f. How will technical assistance be made more effective and readily available?
3. How will maintenance be addressed?
4. How will climate change be addressed in RFB planting efforts (i.e., when, where and how you plan to plant buffers)?
5. Outline the ways in which the success of implementation efforts will be evaluated. What annual performance indicators will you use?
6. What role will state leadership play in implementing the Action Strategy?
7. What support is needed from CBP leadership?