

**Chesapeake RFB Networking Forum**  
Thursday-Friday, February 25-26, 2016

*Bishop Claggett Conference Center*  
3035 Buckeystown Pike  
Adamstown, MD 21710

**Objective:** *The objective of the forum is to:*

*1) provide an opportunity for practitioners to learn from each other about how to increase voluntary participation in riparian forest buffer (RFB) restoration and protection; 2) showcase successes in delivering RFB programs and practices; 3) boost outreach and partner coordination in delivering RFB programs; 4) introduce the RFB Management Strategy and 2-year Work Plans and identify obstacles to implementing these; and 5) develop more specific recommendations.*

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| <b>9:00</b>  | <b>Coffee &amp; Danish</b>  |
| <b>9:30</b>  | <b>Welcome</b><br>Joseph Bartenfelder, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture  |
| <b>9:35</b>  | <b>How Riparian Forest Buffers Help Us Meet Other Chesapeake Bay Goals –</b><br>Nicholas DiPasquale, Director of U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office   |
| <b>9:50</b>  | <b>Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative, FSA Perspective –</b> Brad Karmen, USDA FSA<br>Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs   |
| <b>10:00</b> | <b>Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative, NRCS Perspective –</b> Denise Coleman, State<br>Conservationist, Pennsylvania NRCS  |
| <b>10:10</b> | <b>Outreach Challenge Panel – Getting the Farmer to Say Yes – How does the<br/>RFB fit into the farm operation? –</b> Eric Sprague, Moderator.<br><br>Matt Ehrhart, Stroud Water Research Center<br>Joe Thompson, Potomac Conservancy<br>Jen Johns, Chesapeake Bay Foundation |
| <b>11:10</b> | <b>BREAK</b>  |

**11:30**            **Partnering for Outreach & Implementation** – Mike Linsenbigler, Moderator. The role of conservation districts and importance of coordination at the county level.

Bradford County Team: Jennifer Johns, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Nate Dewing, Bradford County Conservation District; and Mike Hanawalt, Bradford County NRCS

Carroll County Team: Travers Devine, Carroll County FSA, Beth Sanders, Maryland DNR, Stan Pennington, Carroll County Conservation District

Delaware County Team: Larry Underwood, Delaware County Conservation District; Brian Sheridan, Delaware County FSA; Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition; Tony Capraro, New York NRCS

**12:30**            **LUNCH**

**1:30**            **Leveraging Multiple Sources of Funding** – Terry Noto, Moderator. Strategies for using diverse funding sources.

Jake Reilly, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
David Wise, Stroud Water Research Center  
Clair Ryan, Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Seth Coffman, Trout Unlimited  
Eric Sprague, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

**2:30**            **BREAK**

**2:50**            **State RFB Task Force Report Updates** – Al Todd, Moderator. Updates on progress towards implementing actions in the state task force reports from the Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative.

Emily Horsley, VA FSA and Greg Evans, VA DOF  
Kevin Hinkle, WV FSA and Herb Peddicord, WV Division of Forestry  
Virginia Green, NY FSA  
Chyrstal Fetzner, PA FSA; Katrina Thompson, PA NRCS, Matt Keefer, PA Bureau of Forestry  
Anne Hairston-Strang, Maryland Forest Service, and Laura Cannon, Maryland FSA  
Sally Kepfer, Delaware NRCS

**4:15**            **Panel on RFB conservation easements.** Terry Noto, moderator.  
Strategies to implement permanent riparian forest buffers

Steve Strano, Maryland NRCS  
Glenn Carowan, Maryland DNR

**5:00**            **Refreshments**

**6:00**            **Dinner**

## **DAY TWO – Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> Agenda**

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**8:00**            **Coffee & Danish**

**8:30**            **Lightning Round** – Eric Sprague, moderator. Quick introductions to innovative and effective approaches from across the region.

Sampling of Presenters:

Katie Ombalski, ClearWater Conservancy  
Louise Lawrence, Maryland Department of Agriculture  
David Wise, Stroud Water Research  
Clair Ryan, Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Carla Hardy, West Virginia Conservation Agency  
Ryan Davis, Pheasants Forever  
John Schmidt, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition  
Todd Groh, VA Department of Forestry  
Anne Hairston-Strang, Maryland Forest Service

**9:45**            **BREAK**

**10:00**           **RFB Technical & Programmatic Policy Panel**

Matt Ponish, Virgil Ireland, FSA CEPD  
Katrina Thompson, Pennsylvania NRCS

**10:30**           **Discussion with RFB Technical & Programmatic Policy Panel**

**11:30**           **Wrap up**

**12:00**           **Adjourn**