



## Chesapeake Bay Program

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

### Forestry Workgroup Meeting

August 3, 2022

9:00am-11:00am

[Meeting Materials](#)

Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Inst, WV  
Rosey Santerre, WV DOF  
Brenda Sieglit, CBF  
Teddi Stark, PA BOF  
Ned Brockmeyer, PA BOF  
Kalaia Tripeaux, PA BOF  
Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition  
Julie Mawhorter, USFS  
Danielle Gift, USFS  
Molly Hassett, NY DEC

Dexter Locke, USFS  
Rachel Felver, ACB  
Sally Claggett, USFS  
Rob Schnabel, CBF  
Terry Lasher, VDOF  
Emily Heller, EPA HQ  
Kesha Braunskill, DE FS  
Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR  
Rebecca Hanmer, Chair

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### Tree Canopy Indicator Update

Julie opened by talking about how the indicator was developed. The new methodology to measuring tree canopy uses a broad definition of urban to account for all communities. We use planting data: Urban tree, Urban Forest, and Urban Forest Buffer, and the new land use change data to track gains and losses of tree canopy over time. The tree canopy indicator was originally only going to use the census urban area and clusters. It is very targeted and does not include communities that are more rural but still developed. The urban footprint is always growing. There was a proposed change to use the land use change matrices to help target specific changes of interest. This approach focuses on tree cover on developed and developing lands and looks past the urban clusters. Julie took this proposed update to the Water Quality Goal Team who had some concerns about the proposed changes because we should not be counting losses in the forest category because it is not “urban tree canopy loss”. The follow up to this concern is to have a conversation with the land use workgroup and some of the GIS folks to give better justification and rationale about counting specific changes of interest.

Julie noted that folks in the WQGIT are very model focused and that this change is harder to understand when you are in the modeling world. It should be noted that this indicator update does not impact the model and the way the model counts the trees. This is just a way to communicate tree canopy losses and gains in areas of development.

### *Discussion*

Folks agreed about the importance of counting all the loss of trees in developed and developing areas. A couple folks noted that we need to make sure that people are still seeing the progress vs what they are up against. We want to be able to call out what is happening on the land and parse out the progress. We are very much losing trees, but we are also putting trees in the ground. Rebecca made a comment about how the word urban has haunted us; people get a specific idea on what that means. The word urban may be something we want to revisit in the outcome language. Several people mentioned the fact that

are urban areas via the census clusters grew as well, but those updates do not happen as often as our data has captured the growth.

### **Updates on Previous GIT Funding projects**

#### Maintaining Forests in Stream Corridor Restoration- 2020 GIT Funding Project

The Center for watershed protection (CWP) was the contractor on this project. They shared their report recently for FWG folks to review. They focused on 3 countries 1 in MD 1 in PA and 1 in VA. There was a comment period that ended on August 1. Sally is working with the CWP to make sure that the report is wrapped up in a nice bow. There was a lot of information in the report and now it is getting slightly distilled to make sure that the right information is front and center. The information is there, but the way it was reported was not as strong as it should have been. There seemed to be a disconnect between the tree community and stream community. There needed to be a sharper distinction on keeping trees vs cutting trees in the name of stream restoration. Rebecca was able to send in some really good comments to the CWP that really advocates for trees in the riparian area. The final report will be sent out the workgroup.

#### Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable- 2021 GIT Funding Project

UMD Environmental Finance Center is the contractor for this project. It is designed to engaged local and state leaders throughout the Bay to address challenges and opportunities in advancing tree canopy goals. The hope is that there will be some development of solution pathways to encourage tree canopy. The steering committee is made up of a mix of local and state folks. There will be meetings at the front end to find the priorities and needs for each jurisdiction. The roundtable will have 60-80 guests to help develop new funding policy and programmatic solutions. After the round table there will be a report that will include actionable plans.

### **Table 1 for 2022 GIT Funding**

Sally and Julie went on to talk about the 2022 GIT funding proposals. We have 2 projects helping meet the 2 Forestry Workgroup outcomes: Tree Canopy and Riparian Forest Buffers.

The RFB project is currently titled *Leaning into the Multiple Benefits of Riparian Forest Buffers*. It will seek to address Science and Action for local and state governments to accelerate RFB restoration. The project will have two phases. The first phase will include an expert panel that will generate public friendly reports that address both the well-known and lesser-known benefits of buffers. These reports will be given to local and state officials and will also include a Cost/benefit analysis. The second phase of this project is the development of Actionable Plans for Riparian Forest Buffers at the state and local levels. These plans will be in plain language to ensure that officials can understand their contents and how to get trees into buffer zones. These plans would use the new high resolution riparian area GIS mask, and other available resources to prioritize action.

#### *Discussion on RFB Table 1*

Rob Schnabel emphasized including protection into these plans and reports. Also including rare and endangered species who benefit from RFB might help this proposal. Anne Hairston-Strang mentioned that we may want to talk to Elliott Campbell who is an expert in this area and may be able to help with the language in Table 1. In the proposal there is a list of benefits, Rebecca noted that talking with

experts would help build out that list. Judy Okay brought up pollinators and how we should capitalize on the fact that they are popular at the moment. Rachel Felver asked about including multi-functional buffers as an additional benefit. Sally liked that idea and its potential. Teddi brought up that most landowners are interested in the benefit to THEM, and not necessarily the environmental benefits. Sometimes that's MFRFBs, sometimes the potential for a privacy screen, shady spots, aesthetics, etc. But all of those are hard to quantify.

The Tree Canopy project is titled "Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities". It seeks to assess current capacity of regional public and private tree nurseries to meet current and future tree planting needs, identify key needs and strategies for meeting future demand through a coordinated, proactive approach, and provide a set of recommended actions to bolster supply of climate resilient trees for urban and rural contexts. The Bay Watershed Agreement has ambitious tree planting goals, for both tree canopy and RFB. One of the important limiting factors on achieving these goals is having an adequate supply of high quality, diverse, and climate resilient seedlings and larger stock trees to plant. This project will lay the groundwork for such a strategic approach by 1) a rapid assessment of the current network of tree suppliers serving the Chesapeake region, including key gaps/issues to address 2) gathering insights from state forestry agencies, nursery producers, and other major planting organizations in a 2-part virtual Scaling Up Chesapeake Tree Supply Forum, and 3) providing an actionable set of strategies based on Forum findings and "best practice" examples gleaned from across the country.

#### *Discussion on TC Table 1*

Lydia Brinkley noted that the Nature Conservancy is doing stock assessment work in NY, talking with them maybe beneficial. The Nature Conservancy may be able to connect us with the contractors they used and get an idea on how they did the work in NY. Rob Schnabel suggested we investigate nonprofit capacity, as there are many nonprofits who grow trees to plant. Anne mentioned that we should investigate how nurseries would feel about things like advanced purchases and policies to reduce grower risks.

#### **Round Robin**

Sally kicked off the Round Robin by announcing that she will be retiring at the end of September! Members shared their appreciation and thanks to Sally for being the Forestry Workgroups Coordinator.

#### **NY**

Lydia Brinkley from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition shared that they are trying to ramp up. They are dealing with staff shortages but are working on onboarding a stewardship program coordinator.

#### **PA**

Teddi Stark of PA BOF shared that they have just finished hiring for their 5 regional watershed forestry specialists. PA now has 7 regional watershed forestry specialists. The new specialists will be joining the team in mid-August. PA received 8.8 million in funding from Keystone Tree Fund, that money will be going to RFB programs. PA is also gearing up for a potential supplemental fall grant round for both buffers and urban forestry work.

Brenda Sieglitz of CBF and Keystone Trees partnership shared that they are still working on their tree request form. They still have 70,000 of their 186,000 trees available, which is kind of unexpected. They are looking to move those trees out and into the ground. If you know of any projects in PA that need trees let Brenda know. Keystone trees is also evaluating contracts and are trying to lock in tree prices for the next three years. Keystone Trees is struggling to hire for seasonal positions. Lastly Keystone trees is doing some testing on different biodegradable tree shelters. They are comparing prices and seeing how they function in this climate.

## **MD**

Anne shared that Iris Allen has left MD DNR to take a position at Davis & Elkins college as their Forest Manager. The hiring for the 5 Million trees Program is going well. MD has state funding contract in place, and offers are with human resources for 9 of the 13 positions. MD is still looking for some good applicants. If you know anybody who may be interested, particularly for a budding nursery manager contact Anne. MD is also working on a report to the Forest Market and Trees Commission. The report is on carbon markets and how they can help support reforestation efforts. The Conservation Finance Act got passed last legislative session and people at DNR are still trying to figure out how those funds can be useful. MD is applying to a couple grants including Climate Smart Agriculture and America the Beautiful to further the 5 million trees planting effort. MD is moving forward with their economic adjustment strategy which addresses corporate sustainability standards.

## **VA**

Caitlin Verdu of VDOF shared that VA is about to advertise an RFP to hire a facilitator for their VA Buffer Action Plan. They have points of contact with all their sister agencies and are ready to get cruising.

## **WV**

Rosey Santerre of WV DOF shared that they are also dealing with staff shortages and trying to get people on boarded, trained, and keeping them. Frank Rodgers of the Cacapon Inst. Talked about the WV forest buffer task force which has people from WV DOF, trout unlimited and other interested people. WV is hoping to address the buffer issue by revamping CREP. WV has a busy fall planting season ahead. They are also expanding their private land cost share program, which allows for more trees to be planted. The Cacapon Inst. Is able to get back into schools and do projects with school districts. Cacapon Inst. Is looking forward to picking back on Berkeley counties celebration of 250 years with the Berkeley to 50 trees project.

## **DE**

Kesha Braunskill of DE FS shared that they are gearing up for plantings and scheduling those projects next month. Specifically, Chesapeake Bay watershed DE is organizing around a couple of outreach programs. In the next couple months in the Trout Pond area, DE will be doing a five-acre reforestation project. Next month is international underground railroad month, DE is hosting some volunteers to help with a reforestation project at Blackbird State Forest. The Blackbird area was mentioned in Harriet Tubman's travels as she and other to freedom seekers trekked up to up North seeking freedom. More details on that project to come early September.