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CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

HEALTHY WATERSHED GIT, LAND USE WORKGROUP, & FORESTRY WORKGROUP

JOINT MEETING

Meeting Agenda
December 2, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

IN PERSON OPTION:

Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO)
[1750 Forest Drive, Suite 130](#)
[Annapolis, MD 21401](#)
Blue Crab (Rm. 106)/ Oyster Room (Rm. 107)

ONLINE OPTION:

[Teams Link](#)
Meeting ID: 239 624 098 050
Passcode: JNCfKG
Phone: +1 469-208-1525 US (Washington DC)

[MEETING MATERIALS](#)

IMPORTANT: If you haven't already, please fill out this [RSVP FORM](#) by COB Nov. 27th to let us know whether you'll be attending online or in person

Purpose Statement: The theme of this meeting is “Shared Interests and Collaboration to Advance Conservation and Restoration Efforts.” The LUWG, FWG, and HWGIT are hosting this joint meeting to work together more effectively on shared goals, with a focus on using data and science to support targeted conservation and restoration actions.

10:00 **Welcome LUWG and FWG** – KC Filippino, HRPDC (LUWG Chair), Anne Hairston Strang, MDFS, and Kesha Braunskill, USFS (FWG Co-Chairs) (10 min).

Announcements:

- If you're joining online, please put your name and affiliation in the chat box for attendance purposes. Thank you!
- Call for nominations for LUWG at-large members are due by **COB Thursday, January 31st, 2025**. Contact Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) with nominations and/or questions.
- Sarah McDonald, LUWG Coordinator, will be posting the plan for the development of historical land use (backcast) from 1985-2013 for use in Phase 7.

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Action: Please respond with any feedback or questions on the backcast to Sarah McDonald (smcdonald@chesapeakebay.net), by Friday, January 10th, 2025.

- **Decision Requested:** Approval of the September 2024 LUWG minutes

Part 1: Data and Science

10:10 **Phase 7 Classification Needs** – Sarah McDonald, USGS (LUWG Coordinator) (60 min.)

Sarah McDonald, LUWG Coordinator, will continue discussions held at the LUWG and FWG related to Phase 7 Classification needs. In particular, the respective workgroups will work towards consensus on the placement of natural succession in the rollup and the name and loading rates in the mixed open class. Sarah will present a graphic to the group detailing the remaining loading rates under the mixed open class and what the mixed open class represents. A brief summary of the Timber Harvest Task Force (THTF) recommendations for Phase 7 will also be provided.

Decision Requested: The FWG will be asked to vote on moving natural succession into forest in the Phase 7 rollup.

Decision Requested: The LUWG will be asked to vote on their support for the current loading rates in the remaining mixed open class. Following this decision, the group will discuss if there is a need to change the name “mixed open” for clarity.

11:10 **Welcome HWGIT** – Jeff Lerner, USEPA (HWGIT Chair) (5 min.)

Announcements:

- If you’re joining online, please put your name and affiliation in the chat box for attendance purposes. Thank you!
- Peter Claggett, HWGIT Coordinator will announce the new 5-year land use agreement.
- Upcoming Meeting Notices:
 - **Additional Joint HWGIT & LUWG Meeting** (To Discuss the Management Board Assignments for the “Big Questions” Outcome and and Priorities List): January 13th, 2025
 - Regularly Scheduled Bi-monthly HWGIT Meeting: February 10th, 2025

11:15 **Introductions and Updates from the HWGIT, FWG, and LUWG** – Katie Brownson, USFS (FWG Coordinator) (15 min.)

Katie Brownson, USFS (FWG Coordinator) will provide meeting participants with an overview of the respective workgroups and their shared interests, goals, and priorities.

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This contextual background will lay the groundwork for this meeting's theme: Shared Interests and Collaboration to Advance Conservation and Restoration Efforts. For additional background, see Appendix A: Outcomes Relevant to the HWGIT (GIT 4), LUWG (GIT 3), FWG (GIT 3).

11:30 **Comparison of 2022 and 2024 Edition Data** – Sarah McDonald, USGS (LUWG Coordinator) (45 min.)

Following the release of the 2024 Edition Data, Sarah McDonald, LUWG Coordinator will provide a comparison of the 2022 Edition Land Use/Land Cover and the 2024 Edition Land Use/Land Cover, including tree canopy trends, impervious surface trends, and discuss how these trends may affect watershed health over time.

12:15 **Break for Lunch** (45 min)

Part 2: Communication & Targeted Conservation

1:00 **Community Response to Land Use Changes: GIT Funded Green Fin Studio Project Overview & Discussion** – Allison Burbach, Green Fin Studio (Environmental Communication Specialist), Dave Jasinski, Green Fin Studio (Vice President), and Macon Thompson, Green Fin Studio (Environmental Communication Manager) (30 min.)

Allison Burbach, Dave Jasinski, and Macon Thompson from Green Fin Studio will present a synopsis of the “Community Response to Land Change” GIT-Funded Project which employed surveys, interviews, and focus groups in four communities in the Bay watershed to identify trusted sources of environmental information and guidance on messaging. (15 min.)

Following the presentation, we will have an open discussion on how findings from this project can help us more effectively communicate data, tools, and information to states, organizations, and communities, to better inform and support their conservation and restoration efforts. (15 min.)

1:30 **Looking Ahead: Targeted Conservation and Restoration** – Jeff Lerner, USEPA (HWGIT Chair) and Sophie Waterman, USGS (85 min.)

The Management Board has issued new assignments following their NCTC retreat in November related to two major tasks: The “**Big Question**” **Outcome Assignment** and the **Priority Project List Assignment**. Jeff will provide a quick update and overview of

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these assignments, discussing them in the context of future collaboration and priorities across the FWG, LUWG, and HWGIT. (15 min.)

Using the [following slide](#) as a starting point, Jeff and Sophie will facilitate a discussion on how our groups can collaboratively advance land data, geographic targeting, local capacity building, and communication related to land conservation, land use planning, and forestry activities. Potential areas for discussion include identifying opportunities to promote more holistic approaches to conservation, stewardship, and terrestrial habitat, and identifying priority projects to advance to the Management Board. (70 min.)

Potential Discussion Questions:

- What are your thoughts and feedback on the current draft collaboration slide?
- Who and what are we missing to effectively advance these projects and priorities?
- What are our individual group and collective priorities?

2:55 Recap of Actions and Decisions – *Caroline Kleis, CRC (LUWG Staffer) and Marilyn Yang, CRC (HWGIT and FWG Staffer)* (5 min.)

To conclude the meeting, staffers Caroline and Marilyn will summarize the key actions and decisions from the meeting to ensure everyone is aligned on the next steps that emerge from the discussions.

3:00 Adjourn

NEXT FWG MEETING: Wednesday, January 8th (9:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

ADDITIONAL HWGIT & LUWG MEETING: Monday, January 13th (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

NEXT HWGIT MEETING: Monday, February 10th (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

NEXT LUWG MEETING: Wednesday, March 19th (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Acronym List

CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program

CBPO: Chesapeake Bay Program Office

CHWA: Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment

COB: Close of Business

CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium

FWG: Forestry Workgroup

HRPDC: Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission

LULC: Land Use / Land Cover

LUMM: Land Use Methods and Metrics Outcome

LUOE: Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome

LUWG: Land Use Workgroup

MDFS: Maryland Forest Service

NPS: National Park Service

SOF: State of Forests

PA DEP: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection

UMD: University of Maryland

USGS: United States Geological Survey

USFS: United States Forest Service

Appendix A: Outcomes Relevant to the HWGIT (GIT 4), LUWG (GIT 3), FWG (GIT 3)

Healthy Watersheds Goal:

- **Healthy Watersheds Outcome:** 100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy. (GIT 4)

Land Conservation Goal:

- **Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome:** Continually improve the knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed. By 2016, develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide methodology and local level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with citizens, local governments, elected officials and stakeholders. (GIT 4)
- **Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome:** By the end of 2017, with the direct involvement of local governments or their representatives, evaluate policy options, incentives and planning tools that could assist them in continually improving their capacity to reduce the rate of conversion of agricultural lands, forests and wetlands as well as the rate of changing landscapes from more natural lands that soak up pollutants to those that are paved over, hardscaped or otherwise impervious. Strategies should be developed for supporting local governments' and others' efforts in reducing these rates by 2025 and beyond. (GIT 4)

Vital Habitats:

- **Forest Buffer Outcome:** Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested. (GIT 3)
- **Tree Canopy Outcome:** Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025. (GIT 3)