

Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Workshop Proposal

To be put on by CBP Management Board (MB) in Spring 2022

OUTLINE

Statement of Need:

As a result of the Outcome Attainability meetings, the MB is choosing to hold a workshop in the Spring focused on what will be done to accelerate riparian forest buffer implementation. The workshop will attempt to address the scale and immediacy of the needed effort on a state-by-state basis. A year ago, as part of SRS, the MB agreed that each state would develop an Action Strategy for Buffers. These Strategies will be at the core of the workshop.

Attending: Bay leaders in each state (Water Quality/WIP lead and Natural Resources), CBC, USDA, EPA, key NGO partners, local leadership reps, etc.

Proposed date: April 27, 2022

Pre-work: The workshop organizers will be working directly with each state on their Strategic Action plans. Several pre-workshop webinars focused on specific topics are also planned. These pre-workshop topics include: technical assistance, conservation, and policy.

Agenda (assume 1 day, in-person, facilitated by Sherry Witt):

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| 1) A Retrospective on we got here (Carin, Ann, or Sally) | 930-1000 |
| -include a brief history of practice, Bay Directives, WIP goals, current progress. | |
| 2) RFB SRS process and current request with MB response
(Katie or Sally) | 1000-1015 |
| 3) Report out on Buffer Plans from each state (~20 mins each) | 1015-1230 |
| - What is in the State Plan? | |
| - What are the funding mechanisms? | |
| - What is needed to develop a long-term program. | |
| PA: (who) | VA: |
| MD: | DE: |
| WV: | NY: |
|
<i>LUNCH</i> |
1230-130 |
| 4) Synopsis and Highlights of State Plans | 130-145 |
| 5) New and Existing Funding Options (EPA person?) | 145-200 |
| 6) Small Group Breakouts | 200-245 |
| - Breakout groups will build on state highlights by identifying additional steps and funding sources for sustainable buffer programs | |
| 7) Meeting Summary, Next Steps | 245-300 |

Draft matrix of Riparian Forest Buffer program “best practices” to be completed by the contractor for each jurisdiction (with input from state reps)

Best Practices for successful RFB programs (both urban and rural)	Existing Programs	Gaps
<i>Program Logistics</i>		
No out-of-pocket expense for landowners		
Sustainable source(s) of funding available “on demand”		
Technical assistance provided		
Maintenance provided		
Flexible to meet landowner needs		
Available to agricultural and non-agricultural landowners		
<i>Enabling Conditions</i>		
Restoration contractors available to complete work		
Trained technical assistance providers available to work with landowners		
Adequate supply of trees and planting tubes		
High-level coordination and direction at state-level (including a state Buffer Strategy)		
State or local policies supporting buffer restoration or conservation		
Information on where to prioritize buffer plantings based on areas with the highest potential impact, the greatest opportunity, or other criteria		

Pre-RFB Workshop Webinars

- Each state will be expected to come to the workshop with a draft RFB Action Strategy
- In advance of the workshop, the FWG will host three 1.5-2 hour webinars focused on supporting development of Action Strategies. Potential topics include:
 - Policy
 - The role of state policies in facilitating forest buffer restoration
 - Identifying gaps in policy
 - Land conservation
 - Examples of efforts that have effectively incorporated forest buffer conservation
 - The role the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership could play in increasing conservation of existing forest buffers
 - Technical assistance and outreach/social science
 - STAC workshop findings: Overcoming the hurdle: addressing implementation agricultural BMPs through a social science lens
 - Integrating behavior change research into technical assistance and outreach efforts – potential collaboration with Stewardship Workgroup
 - What makes a good strategic action plan?