



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Forestry Workgroup Meeting

October 2nd, 2024 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

Meeting ID: 211 440 005 393 Passcode: ZUX2ZM

Conference Line: +1 469-208-1525 Passcode: 167 772 374#

This meeting will be recorded for internal use to ensure the meeting note accuracy.

9:00

Welcome and Introductions – Kesha Braunskill (USFS, FWG Co-Chair)

For roll call purposes, we will refer to the Teams participant list. Please ensure your name & affiliation are accurately captured in your display name. If not, please enter your correct name & affiliation in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.

9:05

Announcements – Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)

- Update on Beyond 2025
- The Chesapeake Conservancy is supporting USFS with geospatial analyses for the State of the Chesapeake Forests 2.0 Storymap. These analyses will help identify areas for new tree plantings and examine forest health through fragmentation patterns.
 - During the September FWG meeting, the Chesapeake Conservancy presented these methods. Due to time constraints cutting the discussion short, we have scheduled a **virtual follow-up meeting on October 28th from 4pm-5pm**. If you're interested in attending, but did not fill out the interest form, please reach out to Marilyn (myang@chesapeakebay.net) for the calendar invite.
- December FWG Meeting:
 - **December 2nd from 10am-3pm** we will be **meeting jointly with the Land Use Workgroup and the Healthy Watershed GIT**. *Please note: This will replace our regularly scheduled FWG meeting on December 4th.* The meeting will be hybrid with an in-person option available at CBPO - we hope you can join us!
- Upcoming Webinars:
 - **October 10th (12pm-1pm)**: The USFS Eastern Region Watershed Forestry team will host a webinar on Riparian Forest Buffers featuring our very own Craig Highfield, as well as Jeremy Geist from Trout Unlimited. Registration information and a link to sign up for email updates on future watershed forestry webinars is available [here](#).

- **October 15th (12pm-1pm):** CBP/Forestry Workgroup-hosted webinar on Tree Stewards programs across the watershed, with Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay), Fred Chalfant (TreeBaltimore), and Abel Olivo (Defensores de la Cuenca). Free registration [here](#)

9:15 Update on the Urban Tree Supply Project – Dr. Deb Hilbert (University of Florida project team)

In early August, the University of Florida (UF) project team hosted a virtual forum with practitioners from across the country to discuss solutions to urban tree supply chain challenges. This forum is part of a larger GIT-funded project called "Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges and Opportunities," led by researchers and partners at UF and funded by the EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Dr. Deb Hilbert will share the highlights from the 2024 Virtual Forum on Urban Tree Supply and next steps to wrap up the GIT-funded project.

9:35 Update on the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund through the Inflation Reduction Act – Samara Pyfrom and Jose Castellanos (Chesapeake Bay Trust)

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, along with nine other partners, have been selected to receive and administer a [\\$17 million grant](#) from the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program through Inflation Reduction Act funding. The Trust and its core partners will leverage these funds to establish and seed the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund (the Fund), the first large-scale environmental justice participatory fund in the region.

Samara and Jose will provide an early update on the plans for the Fund program. They will cover the unique equity-focused design of this grant program, explain the partners who will be doing outreach/technical assistance, and share a general timeline, so that we can collectively support communities in connecting with this opportunity once it becomes available.

10:00 Preparing for the next Urban Tree Canopy Summit – Julie Mawhorter (USFS)

Julie Mawhorter will lead a discussion on planning for the next Chesapeake Urban Tree Canopy Summit, one of our Tree Canopy workplan actions, which will be hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in early 2025. In particular, she is seeking input on the preferred timing, whether it should be virtual or in-person, and recommendations for topics/speakers/format.

10:10 Overview of the 2023 County Level Tree Canopy Fact Sheets and Looking Forward at the 2024 Municipal Level Tree Canopy Fact Sheets— *Julie Mawhorter (USFS)*

In 2023, with support from the USFS, USGS, Forestry Workgroup and partners, the Chesapeake Conservancy [released factsheets for all the Chesapeake watershed counties](#). The factsheets include information regarding tree cover status, benefits (from -Tree), and change information over the 2013/14 to 2017/18 time periods.

For 2024, the plan is to create another batch of factsheets using the latest resolution land cover/land use data at a 1-meter resolution to focus on the municipal scale. Julie will give an overview of the factsheet project and seek input on possible minor edits to the template and list of municipalities (incorporated census places). Please send input to julie.mawhorter@usda.gov by October 18, 2024.

10:25 Round Robin

In addition to our regular round robin announcements, we will call on the state urban forestry representatives to please share any updates they have related to Inflation Reduction Act funding.

11:00 Adjourn