



Forestry Workgroup Meeting

April 5, 2023

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Zoom Link Meeting](#)

ID: 923 8959 7159 Passcode: Trees

Conference Line: 1 301 715 8592 Passcode: 756571

This meeting will be recorded for internal use to assure the accuracy of meeting notes.

9:00 Welcome and Introductions- *Rebecca Hanmer*

9:10 Co-Chair Request and At large Membership Nomination Request- *Sophie Waterman, CRC*

Sophie shared the Co-Chair positions and ask members to consider nominating themselves or another member for one of the positions. Sophie also reviewed the rolls of the at large members and asked current at large members if they would like to be renominated and other members to either nominate themselves or someone else.

Lydia Brinkley (Upper Susquehanna Coalition) asked if the location of the people who will take on the co-chair positions matters. Rebecca Hanmer noted that it is helpful to be close to Annapolis, but anyone who is interested regardless of location can be nominated. Julie noted that we do not require chairs to be at a lot of physical meetings. We occasionally have in person meetings around the watershed and the hope is that chair would partake in those meetings.

Lydia also asked if the position is funded. Julie answered that no, currently, CBP does not fund chair positions. CBP does have some funds available for travel costs, so for those in-person meetings an arrangement can be made.

9:20 Tree Canopy Outreach and Resources- *Julie Mawhorter, USFS*

Julie started by showing the workgroup the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Website and the new [County Tree Cover Fact Sheets](#). To access the sheets for a county of interest all you have to do is click on the county in the map under the “Find Your County Tree Cover Fact Sheet” section of the “Understand your Canopy” page. Julie also showed the group the [Tree Cover Fact Sheet Data Guide](#) and the link to the [Chesapeake Land Cover/Land Use Data & Viewers](#).

Julie also highlighted the inclusion of the Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay Module 4: Capitalizing on the Benefits of Trees to the “Why Tree Canopy” section of the website.

The next steps for these fact sheets include an outreach email to folks who the local leadership workgroup has identified.

- Gloria VanDuyne, NYSDEC asked if the counties that only a small portion in watershed would be included in these fact sheets. The answer is yes, they are included.
- Rob Schnabel noted that it would be helpful for us to include a riparian buffer as an option to the “where does tree cover occur in your county” section of the fact sheets. Julie stated that there is a lot of buffer geospatial work that is being done and in a future addition of these sheets

there could be a real opportunity to include them. We could also investigate the option of having buffer-specific sheets to give more context and guidance.

- Rob noted that there has been some work around calculating buffers in MD. Susan Minnemeyer, Chesapeake Conservancy, commented that the data Rob is talking about is included in the Maryland Forest Study from Hughes Center/Chesapeake Conservancy/UVM <https://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/mdforeststudy2022>

9:35 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Round Table Recap- Julie Mawhorter, USFS

Brandy Espinola, UMD-EFC, and Julie gave a recap of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Round Table held on March 13 and 14. The main goal for the round table was to pinpoint funding, policy, and programmatic solution pathways to expand urban tree canopy in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The first day of the roundtable focused on the theme's climate and tree loss, while the second was dedicated to discussing equity.

Julie highlighted the presentations that were given and encouraged folks to go check them out on the [Bay Program YouTube channel](#).

The breakout discussions were a big part of this round table, and UMD-EFC is distilling all the conversations and will be sharing findings soon.

For more information about the speakers and content of the roundtable click [here](#).

The next step for this project is to do post-roundtable strategy sessions in each Bay jurisdiction to identify actionable strategies and to help create a 2-year work plan that can be adopted by each jurisdiction to accelerate equitable, climate-resilient tree canopy implementation.

The 2-year work plan is a table in which states will highlight priority strategies, the actions need to accomplish those strategies, and who is involved in making it all happen. UMD-EFC will be facilitating the creation of these plans with states.

Julie noted that our Bay Program Tree Canopy 2-year work plan will be born out of the findings from this Round Table and jurisdictional meetings to ensure that we are helping move the work forward.

Lydia Brinkley commented that as someone who deals with mostly rural tree issues, it was nice to hear about urban work being done, specifically the equity work that states are engaged in. Lydia also noted an observation: It is hard for organizations to access funds for DEIJ purposes when they do not have full-time people whose job is to help build a relationship with DEIJ communities and apply for these funds. It's a real challenge for organizations to build relationships with communities to only help with 1 or 2 projects.

Kalaia Tripeaux is the PA Tree Equity Specialist with the TreeVitalize program and noted that PA is moving towards an action-oriented approach instead of a talking-based approach. PA is doing this through creating a forestry task force where the force will be able to be boots on the ground in

underserved communities and have folks who can help with projects all be on the same page. The goal is to get this task force up and running soon, to help with spring projects and be more action oriented.

Orsolya Lazar, who is a Community Tree Specialist with TreeVitalize noted that she visited with 6 to 7 communities over the last couple of weeks and noted that each community has very different needs. Having a task force available can help streamline advice and help decide on different solutions.

Rebecca Hanmer said it would be good to make sure we are linking with local clean stream groups; they should be emphasized in this work.

9:55 GIT Funding Nursery Supply Project- *Julie Mawhorter*

Julie reviewed the 2022 GIT funding project, which aims to address regional tree supply challenges and opportunities. As members may recall, this GIT funding project received input from the workgroup in the summer and fall of 2022. We have yet to get a bid on this project, so the project is back to the drawing board. The Bay Trust will be putting this RFP back out for contractors to re-bid. The workgroup has the opportunity to edit the RFP to make it more appealing for potential bidders. We also will be able to do some leg work and see if there are any contractors who would apply.

Julie then walked through the current RFP (which can be read [here](#), scroll down to page 29 to read Scope 4: Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities)

Discussion

Nancy Sonti asked how local do you think the contractor would have to be for this project? Dexter and Nancy are working on a very similar project based around the Baltimore region. They have seen other scholarships from the southeast and other parts of the country. Nancy noted that she would happily reach out to those folks but doesn't know if that's viable due to them being outside the watershed. Julie said that has the potential to work; we care more about the best fit and who could get the work done. Julie encouraged Nancy to reach out to her network.

Anne asked if any contractors gave feedback on the RFP. Julie said no, that there was nothing given. Anne then asked what the USFS Baltimore field station has going and there is a way to make it more regional. Nancy said she could talk to her office about leading this project or even potentially getting a postdoc.

The presentation from last month's meeting would be very helpful when it comes to changing anything. We heard from lots of experts in this area. (If you would like to view the March meeting click [here](#).)

Julie asked Anne if the state (MD) is doing a report on tree supply challenges. Anne said no, not a report, more so an investigation spreadsheet that looks at tree supply. It has the potential to inform this regional project.

Nancy Sonti then gave an overview of the Baltimore specific tree supply project. A lot of the work is around accessing genetic diversity in red maple, Norway maple populations and street, park, and residential tree populations in Baltimore city. They are also doing a nursery supply chain analysis. The project team has interviewed three planting organizations in Baltimore and have asked questions about

genetic diversity, cultivars, native vs non-native, how they are making their species selection, and where they are sourcing their trees.

The project team also interviewed contractors and landscape architects who are working in Baltimore City and asked them what nurseries they use. They are now currently interviewing those nurseries that were named. They are asking nurseries about genetic diversity, species selection, and how they are making those selections. This is not a complete exhaustive list of all nurseries in Baltimore, but it is a look into tree planting supplies.

The team is very interested in tradeoffs between aesthetic and functional traits, climate resilience, tolerance to urban conditions, and how those factors influence what trees get selected. There is some research out there, but nothing in-depth and nothing at a local level.

Anne asked if there are any projects like this being done at the federal level. There have been lots of questions about opportunities and needs. Everyone is asking the questions, but not sure about the coordination.

There is IRA funding that's going to existing state nurseries. Unsure if it is going to other types of nurseries.

10:05 CAST, BMP, Reporting and Verification Questions- *Sophie Waterman, CRC*

This topic was tabled for a future meeting.

10:20 Round Robin

VA

VA DOF Forest Buffer Action Plan is finalized, and an [RFP](#) to develop a statewide Buffer action plan that will build on the DOF plan.

PA

Celine Colbert, PAs new tree canopy coordinator, introduced herself. She will be working on the statewide mapping program and doing arbor programs within Pennsylvania.

MD

The northern long-eared bat is now listed as endangered. This will impact forest harvesting as well as some stream restoration projects. MD has been meeting with Fish and Wildlife folks regarding what to do.

MD has a new DNR secretary- Josh Kurtz. He comes with a Bay background and has been holding town halls around the state to listen to employees. Dave Goshorn is the new deputy secretary. Many may know Dave as he is the MD representative on the Management Board. MD is having both a very busy planting season and fire season. 4 out of 5 of the 5 million tree positions have been filled.

A mitigation banking and stream restoration contractor contacted MD DNR and asked about alternative plantings and wanted to investigate other ways to get shade over streams faster.

WV

The Private Land Cost Share Program now distributes as many trees as the Karla Hardy West Virginia Project. CommuniTree is distributing on public lands. Cacapon and WV are just shy of 600 trees being planted on schools, public sites, and residential and business properties.

NY

Lots of money is coming down the pipe for the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), and they are working on 3 or 4 different proposals. Tree planting, creation of wetlands, and increasing the technical capacity of local groups are a part of those proposals.

USC is trying to get state funding to pilot a state reforestation program that will help increase canopy.

USC hired a stewardship coordinator. Her job entails building local contractor capacity to maintain larger buffer sites.

USC is running an agroforestry pilot project to try to engage with more producers to get trees within their agricultural landscapes.

USC is working on a NY watershed forum that will be taking place on October 18th. The theme is community engagement in our watershed. Lydia invited folks to reach out to her about either attending or speaking. They are looking for people from around the watershed.