



## Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Forestry Workgroup Meeting

October 4th, 2023

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 92389597159 Passcode: Trees  
Conference Line: 13017158592 Passcode: 756571

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

### 9:00 Welcome and Introductions

Paul Emmart, MDE  
Patrica Leopold, NIACS  
Eric Carlsson  
Adrienne Kotula, CBC  
Alanna Crowley, MD DNR  
Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR  
Ashely Traut, Greater Baltimore Wilderness  
Ava Glasser, USC  
Caitlin Bolton  
Caitlin Verdue, DOF  
Cassie Davis, NYC DEC  
Celine Colbert  
Chris Miller, DE DOF  
Craig Highfield, ACB  
Dexter Locke, USFS  
Frank Rodgers, Cacapon inst.  
Hannah Milos

Helen Golimowski, Devereux Consulting  
Jenna Talbot, DNREC  
Julie Mawhorter, USFS  
Judy Okay, J&J Consulting  
Kalaia Tripeax, PA BOF  
Katie Brownson, USFS  
Lorenzo Cinalli, USFS  
Maddy Baroli, NIACS  
Meghan Noe Fellows, DCIB  
Ned Brockmeyer, PA BOF  
Orsi Lazar PA DCNR  
Patti Webb, DNREC  
Rob Schnabel, CBF  
Sally Ross  
Robbie Coville, PA BOF  
Susan Minnemeyer

### 9:10 Welcome New Chairs

The workgroup welcomed Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR and Kesha Braunskill, USFS. Only Anne was able to attend the October meeting. She shared her background and expressed her excitement to be leading the group. Kesha will be giving her introduction in November.

### 9:15 [Urban Forestry and Climate Change Presentation](#)- Patricia Leopold (NIACS) and Maddy Baroli (NIACS)

Shared Climate Adaptation Tools and Strategies for Urban Forest Management, but the tools can be applied to a broader scope. NIACS is the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, which develops synthesis products, fosters communication, pursues science, and provides technical assistance in climate change adaptation and carbon management.

[Climate & Health Action Guide](#) has an Adaptation Workbook Process, which is a tool you can use to (1) define the goals and objectives of a project, (2) assess climate change impacts and vulnerability, (3) evaluate your goals after the climate assessment, (4) help identify and implement adaptation actions

and, (5) monitor and elevate the effectiveness of a project. Steps 2 and 4 have resources associated with them to help with assessment and implementation.

**The resources for Step 2- Assess climate change impacts and vulnerability:**

- [Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessments](#)
- Climate Change and Adaptation: Mid-Atlantic Forests [StoryMap](#)
- [Tree Species Risks \(Climate Change Tree Atlas\)](#)
  - Patricia ran through a Baltimore and Washington, DC example, showing how the atlas can be used to assess a project within one of those cities.

**The resources for Step 4- Help identify and implement adaptation actions:**

- Climate Adaptation Actions for Urban Forests and Human Health [report](#) & [adaptation menu](#)
  - This resource allows folks to pick and choose actions that have scientific and management expertise behind them.
  - Maddy ran through the strategies provided in the menu. They can be viewed in the presentation on page 26.

NIACS offers training and workshops on the Adaptation Workbook Process and gives users a better understanding of the process and the tools available.

To view specific examples of how people are applying these tools on the ground, check out the [Adaptation Demonstration Portal](#). You can also check out a DC [StoryMap](#) created by DC DOEE focused on climate change and urban forestry in DC.

*Discussion*

Rob Schnabel noted the importance of the Climate Adaptation Actions for Urban Forests and Human Health report and how it can be used as further justification for correctly valuing our forests.

Susan Minnemyer noted the importance of single trees in urban settings and how we should be making sure that we are placing them where they get the most benefit. People have the opportunity to connect with trees, especially in places like playgrounds.

Julie expressed that this will be a continued conversation, and we will hopefully be connecting the dots from NIACS to our local partners.

**10:15 [Tree Canopy Updates](#)- Julie Mawhorter (USFS) will provide updates on Tree Canopy projects and funding**

Julie talked about Tree Canopy funding through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding. The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program has \$1.5 billion to expand tree canopy and access to nature in communities of greatest need. Julie talked about Chesapeake-specific funding with the UCF grant, where Bay States and Partners have been awarded funds to do urban forestry work. \$38.1 million going to state forestry agencies non-competitively- 80% of these funds will be delivered through competitive

sub-award programs with 100% focus in Justice 40/disadvantaged communities. \$70.5 million will be going out in the watershed through competitive NOFO fundings. Some of these grants are getting awarded to local govts, etc. through national pass-through partners.

Some specific next steps for the tree canopy outcome include:

- Work with partners to get grants executed over next few months
- Convene CB state tree canopy leads around next 2-year CB and state workplans and sharing IRA RFP plans
- GIT Project on Scaling up Regional Tree Supply – out for bid until 10/16
- Save the Date: virtual Chesapeake Tree Canopy Summit Dec. 6 and 13 – open to all; invite coming soon, please circulate!

#### *Discussion*

Ashley Traut asked if the USFS is working to connect area partners who have received funding from the IRA. Julie noted that it is something the USFS could start to do but is interested in the geography of the connection. What scale should these partners be meeting at?

#### **10:30**   [2022 Progress Data](#)- *Lorenzo Cinalli (USFS) and Katie Brownson (USFS)*

Lorenzo and Kaite reviewed the newly released 2022 progress data for watershed forestry BMPs. The forestry BMPs in CAST include:

- Agricultural Riparian Forest Buffers
- Agricultural Tree Planting
- Urban Riparian Forest Buffers
- Urban Tree Planting
- Urban Forest Planting
- Forest Harvesting

Lorenzo talked through the data pointing out changes between different years in the data. Katie noted that when we see negative numbers within the data, they could be related to reporting issues or credit expiration. After 15 years, practices get pulled out of the model if they aren't verified. The hope is that those trees are getting picked up in land use, but if they are not, it could impact whether a state shows a reduction in the cumulative BMP progress numbers.

Katie also noted that we use a different process when we calculate the annual mileage of buffers for the Riparian Forest Buffer indicator on Chesapeake Progress. For the indicator, we use custom, no-expiration scenarios. We will be providing an update on the 2022 Riparian Forest Buffer indicator at future meetings.

If you need help with your reporting, please reach out to Katie Brownson so she can help connect you with the correct people.

#### *Discussion*

Rob Schnabel asked if we track which programs are the most successful in helping us with these plantings. What programs are helping us get the most trees in the ground?

Anne noted that MD tracks that and is happy to share.

Katie: a state-sharing session about where they are getting their tree acres from (program types and where within the states we are planting) could be a beneficial use of our meeting time.

#### **10:45 Round robin**

##### **NY**

Cassie Davis- just wrapped up the 2023 progress reporting.

Ava Glasser (Upper Susquehanna Coalition)- The Upper Susquehanna Coalition will be hosting a watershed forum on October 18th with the goal of bringing watershed residents, natural resource professionals, and representatives together. The Buffer team is working on an IRA grant to help with staffing capacity. Planting season has started, and we are getting trees in the ground.

##### **PA**

Ned Brockmeyer- Planting season is underway. PA is doing its CARS reporting. IRA funding and coordination of getting those funds out has been a priority.

##### **DE**

Chris Miller- Working on getting out IRA funding. New Urban Coordinator interviews have started.

##### **MD**

Anne Hairston-Strang-13 contractual positions have been added to the 5 million trees program. Still hiring foresters.

##### **VA**

Caitlin Verdu-IRA funding reporting on acres that were not reported previously. Lots of buffer implementation within areas outside of the watershed. Sentinel landscape data was collected, which will help with justifying funding. Job openings within forestry will be shared.

##### **WV**

Frank Rodgers-Planting trees! Cacapon inst. has hired a Forestry Coordinator.

##### **USFS**

The state of Chesapeake Forests Storymap is complete and will be shared widely. December Meeting will be held on Friday, December 1st, from 1-3 at the Bay Program Office.

The World Forum on Urban Forests will be held in DC from October 16-20th.

##### **CBF**

October 20th: Volunteer tree planting in the upper Potomac Basin. DNR employees do the demonstration. Claggett Farms has 15,000 trees available if you are looking for container stock.