**Chesapeake Executive Council Resolution- 2015 #1**

**Endorsing State Task Force Recommendations for Increasing Riparian Forest Buffers to Meet Chesapeake Bay Goals**

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|  | Action | Lead | Status |
| 1. | We endorse the recommendations provided by the State Riparian Forest Buffer Task Force. We commit to work together to align our efforts and harness available resources to increase the miles of riparian forest buffers on agricultural lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. |  |  |
| 2. | Be it further resolved, that in recognition of this, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council will take the following actions: |  |  |
|  | * The **State Task Force Reports** will be conveyed to **USDA** and be part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Riparian Forest Buffer Management Strategy **workplan** where resources and responsibility to achieve those actions will be identified; | Forestry WG | 2-year Workplan for Riparian Forest Buffers is being developed with partners with resources and responsibilities identified. Draft Workplan will draw from the State Task Force reports and will be available November 2015. |
|  | * **Multi-year strategies** for aligning and securing needed **resources** to reach riparian forest buffer goals will be developed and will include analysis of staffing and financial needs; | Jurisdictions | This will likely be an action in the Workplan. This analysis may be done by states and/or FSA and NRCS. |
|  | * We will **support** implementation of **USDA** conservation programs that develop, restore or maintain **effective riparian forest buffers** in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; |  | This has been happening to some degree, but the sense is that increased support for implementation is needed and will be covered by actions in the Workplan. |
|  | * A **robust outreach initiative** will be implemented to promote riparian forest buffers within the agricultural community; and |  | A regional outreach initiative has begun. Funding was provided by FSA |
|  | * **Technical assistance** will be enhanced to ensure that buffers are planned, implemented and maintained successfully; |  | This will also be addressed in the Workplan |