

## Forestry Workgroup Outlook for 2025

### Overarching Projects

- Beyond 2025
  - Inform recommendations on any revisions needed to forestry outcomes in the 2014 Watershed Agreement
  - Inform recommendations to guide the Chesapeake Bay Program on other forestry-related issues beyond 2025
  - Identify any needed forestry-related improvements to the watershed model in Phase 7
- Riparian Forest Buffer outcome
  - Update the RFB indicator with 2024 planting data and 2021/22 land use data
  - Start developing new Management Strategy (2025-2035), pending outcome of Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations
  - Continue to update and refine Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Network website and consider developing a newsletter
  - Carryovers from previous years
    - Work with the Management Board to develop and implement a tracking and accountability framework for the state Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategies
    - Follow-up with the Principals Staff Committee on topics that can help support implementation of the state Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategies
- Tree Canopy outcome
  - New quarterly webinar series
  - Work with the Conservancy to develop and disseminate municipal-level tree canopy fact sheets
  - Continue to update Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website, including newsletters
  - Update the TC indicator with 2024 planting data and 2021/22 land use data
  - Start developing new Management Strategy (2025-2035), pending outcome of Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations
  - Plan future Chesapeake Tree Canopy Summit (TBD, earliest Fall 25)
- Timber Harvest Task Force
  - Inform development of back-casting for forest harvesting in Phase 7
  - Complete approval process for Phase 7 recommendations (including revised efficiency for forest harvesting BMPs)
- New Land Use/Land Cover and Change data
  - State of the Forests 2.0: Work with the CBP GIS team and the Chesapeake Conservancy to advance Phase 2 of the Storymap
- Chesapeake Agroforestry Network
  - Finalize recommendations from the Expert Panel Evaluation Group looking at water quality crediting for silvopasture and alley cropping
  - Continue convening quarterly meetings
  - Develop new Network website (to accompany the Forest Buffer and Tree Canopy websites)
- GIT-funded projects
  - FY23 Projects to complete this year:

- Optimizing Riparian Forest Buffer implementation for adaptation and resilience
  - Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities
- New FY24 Project with WQGIT/USGS: Assessing the Thermal Influence of Management Practices on Instream Temperatures: Heaters or Coolers?
- Potential STAC workshop (pending STAC approval): Healthy Forests: Proactive Strategies for Managing Threats and Promoting Conservation
- Communications
  - Develop plain language summaries of recommendations to revise the forestry outcomes in the Watershed Agreement
  - Write a retrospective on what the Forestry Workgroup has accomplished over its 35+ year history

### **Monthly Meeting Topics** *(tentative, subject to change)*

#### **January**

- Beyond 2025: Outcome review, initiate development of outcome recommendations

#### **February**

- Beyond 2025: Finalize outcome recommendations for the Management Board (initial direction-update, consolidate, remove, replace)
- Continue discussion on adding new forest conservation outcome
- Revisit discussion on reclassifying natural succession as forest for Phase 7 of the watershed model
- Review plan for 2025

#### **March**

- Beyond 2025: Report out from Management Board review, start developing revised outcome language for TC and RFBs
- Forest conservation
  - Round-robin from states on how they are defining forest conservation and their existing forest conservation efforts
  - Integrating forest conservation into existing Watershed Agreement outcomes
- Planning for 2025

#### **April**

- Beyond 2025- Finalize revised outcome language for TC and RFB
- Report out from Agroforestry EPEG (Tentative)
- Forest health topics (tentative ideas)
  - Craig Larcenaire: Analysis of FIA data to identify forest health issues and trends
  - Chris Hayes: Leveraging USFS Forest Health aerial survey data
  - Craig Larcenaire: Opportunities to use the USFS drone program to support Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts

- Call for new at-large members (3)
- Round robin with pertinent legislative updates

#### **May**

- **Tree canopy meeting? (*otherwise may need to cancel due to Management Board retreat May 7-8*)**
- At-large member candidate introductions

#### **June**

- Update on SOTF 2.1
- Welcome new at-large members
- Dave Newburn presentation on economic incentives for forest buffers
- Richard Klein presentation on direct outreach to land owners experiment for gunpowder valley conservancy
- Other presenters on designing effective buffer programs?

#### **July**

- Tentatively Cancel

#### **August**

#### **September**

- **Tree canopy meeting**

#### **October**

#### **November**

#### **December- Tentative joint meeting with LUWG**

- Hyper-res hydrography- applications
- New coop lu agreement activities
- B25- implications for current goals/outcomes?

#### **Meeting topics/presentations**

- Updates on SOCF 2.1
- Conservation
  - Ag preservation, reducing tree/forest loss on farms
  - Examining municipal tree ordinances across the Bay watershed to look at tree and forest protections. Pushing conservation efforts in conjunction with planting efforts
- Invasive species mapping/monitoring and opportunities to leverage AI
- Crediting issues
  - Water quantity- opportunities to improve modeling/crediting of practices that facilitate infiltration and groundwater recharge

- Improving verification using remote sensing
- Forest markets
  - [Biochar workshop](#)- Chuck Hegburg and Jenny Egan
- Indigenous/biocultural restoration
- Tree supply- following up on GIT funding project
  - Public engagement in tree propagation and planting
- State Forest Action Plans – review 2025 updates, make connections with Bay goals
- Forest carbon
  - Elliott Campbell- tree planting carbon feasibility study
  - DOD carbon sequestration calculator- Kevin DuBois
  - Update on family forest carbon program
  - Modeling climate-smart forest management and wood use for climate mitigation
- Designing effective buffer programs
  - TNC researcher
  - [UMCES research](#) on factors influencing voluntary conservation practice adoption
- Updates on hyper-resolution hydrography and implications for mapping riparian areas
- New regional Forests & Drinking Water Partnerships
- New Farm Bill and CREP
- NFWF/LSR/BIL/IRA grantees report out on projects