Land Use Workgroup Co-Chair Nomination
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Arianna Johns
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Arianna serves on DEQ's Chesapeake Bay Program Team, providing critical support with GIS mapping, CAST analysis, and R-scripting, among many other things. As the Chesapeake Bay Data Specialist, she is the go-to expert within the agency – and the broader Virginia CB partnership contingency – on all things related to data and land use within the Bay watershed. Arianna also has deep ties to Virginia lands and the Bay watershed, having lived here since 1996 when her family moved to Amherst County to be closer to the Monacan Nation they are a part of. The Monacan have been in Virginia close to 10,000 years and Arianna knew from a young age that she wanted to help care for the environment that her people have always cared for.

After pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, Arianna started her environmental career as a Marine Technician aboard several different research vessels. After graduate school, she worked with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, where she used her data skills to convert lengthy conservation easements into a functional database. This original database was then moved into a larger dataset and used/curated by DCR.

She was introduced to the VA DEQ after getting a chance to intern under Dr. Tish Robertson. During this time, she learned extensively about how Chlorophyll moves through the James River and helped site a new sampling location in the James. Shortly afterwards, she was hired onto the CBP team and began work on Virginia's Phase III WIP. She has since become deeply involved in the broader CBP, and an active participant on the LUWG, Modeling WG, Watershed Technical WG, and others. She will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to the role of Co-Chair of the LUWG.