

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM LAND USE WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

1:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/643963839>

Conference Line: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 643-963-839

Participant ID: Available through Zoom link

Meeting Materials: [link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

- **DECISION:** LUWG approved the meeting minutes from the October and December meetings.
- **ACTION:** Peter Claggett will set up meetings with PA DCNR and MD DCNR to get technical teams established.
- **ACTION:** Peter Claggett will write up a document explaining the process for handling error rates and true up procedures for the Phase 6 model.
- **ACTION:** Jurisdictions have 1 week to review the milestone land use information provided and decide if they will accept as is or would like further investigation.
- **ACTION:** Peter Claggett will provide county by county information for the milestone land use via email.
- **DECISION:** The LUWG conditionally approved the land use classification scheme as their recommendation to the WQGIT for final approval. Unless there are significant issues raised to Peter, Karl, or KC within 1 week it will be considered approved.
- **ACTION:** Claggett will resend the classification list with more detail on the level of difficulty to map.
- **DECISION:** The LUWG will lead review of rule-based land use. Counties will review land cover, but not rule-based land use.
- **ACTION:** Rachel Soobitsky will send out the web viewer of production schedule to the LUWG.

Welcome, Roll Call, Review of meeting minutes, Action Item Update – K. Berger, MWCOG

- **DECISION:** LUWG approved the meeting minutes from the October and December meetings.
- Keefer noted that a check-in meeting for the two technical teams evaluating high-res hydrography and tree canopy data would be helpful to establish the groups and set expectations.
- **ACTION:** Peter Claggett will set up meetings with PA DCNR and MD DCNR to get technical teams established.

Finalized Results of 2019 Milestone Land Use and Comparisons – P. Claggett, USGS

- Presentation of finalized results for 2019 Milestone Land Use
- Comparison of WIP and Milestone land use change: 2013 – 2025
 - Decision requested: LUWG approval of the final 2019 Milestone Land Use

Discussion

- Claggett: 2017 CAST is used to inform the WIPs. The partnership agreed to update models and data every 2 years along with the 2-year milestones. The milestone numbers are run from CAST with ag census included. This is the same method used previously.
- Miller Herzog: To clarify, the protection of forested high development land conservation BMP drives development further out into septic zones?
 - Claggett: Forest protection inside sewer service is causing the issue. There is high certainty in the surface area, but it comes at the cost of pushing growth onto septic.
- Claggett noted that the Clearfield County example has a very high error rate in the 2017 Ag Census data set in comparison to other counties in the watershed.
- **ACTION:** Peter Claggett will write up a document explaining the process for handling error rates and true up procedures for the Phase 6 model.
- Donner: It would be beneficial to have time to review the WV numbers and discuss internally. We can get back to you in a week, we have no recommendation at this time.
 - Goulet: I agree, let's give an additional week to review and reply with their preferences. Then proceed from there based on feedback.
- **ACTION:** Jurisdictions have 1 week to review the milestone land use information provided and decide if they will accept as is or would like further investigation.
- **ACTION:** Peter Claggett will provide county by county information for the milestone land use via email.
- Whitcomb recommended that this information is presented to the AgWG for them to review and discuss due to the involvement of the Ag census. A better understanding of consequences this may cause would be helpful as well.
- Berger noted that this is neither an AgWG nor LUWG decision, but a recommendation to the WQGIT that will make that decision.
- Path forward:
 - The LUWG gets 1 week to review and respond to Peter with preferences.
 - It will be presented at the AgWG with the LUWG recommendations in February.
 - The recommendation from the AgWG and LUWG will go to the WQGIT.

Final High-res Land Use Classification – P. Claggett, USGS

- LUWG discussion and feedback requested on final high-res land use classification.
- Discussion on revising the floodplain wetland definition
- Discussion on separating some classes as “overlays”
 - Decision requested: LUWG approval of the final high-res land use classification schema

Discussion

- Goulet: In order for these classes to be useful, we must be able to assign a load to it or use the information to answer a management question. In my opinion, it's not worth the time and money.
 - Claggett: I agree that this needs to be purposeful, and I would argue it's necessary to meet the land use methods and metrics outcome. To estimate change at a local level, we need this level of detail.
- Whitcomb: Will the jurisdictions have to report more data to report BMP implementation data for annual progress?
 - Claggett: Absolutely not. This has no effect on the Phase 6 land classification. This classification comes into play for other outcomes.
- Onyullo: If the purpose is to be able to answer management questions about loads, we want the best data for us to make estimations looking ahead. If it's going to help us and other outcomes, I think it is worthwhile.
- Keefer: Mapping herbaceous, scrub shrub, and timber harvest can be very useful. This 1m data over time will help us with verification as well.
- **DECISION:** The LUWG conditionally approved the land use classification scheme as their recommendation to the WQGIT for final approval. Unless there are significant issues raised to Peter, Karl, or KC within 1 week it will be considered approved.
- **ACTION:** Claggett will resend the classification list with more detail on the level of difficulty to map.
- Soobitsky noted that any changes of rules/decisions will be made with LUWG approval.
- Claggett proposes working with Wetlands WG over next several months to come up with a better way to map floodplains that will go into the floodplain wetlands class.

Update on Schedule for Producing New Land Use Data— R. Soobitsky, CIC and P. Claggett, USGS

- Presentation of priority area map and production sequence from the Chesapeake Conservancy
- Presentation of tree canopy change progress
- Discussion of new LiDAR data availability from the Chesapeake Conservancy
- Discussion of review process

Discussion

- **DECISION:** The LUWG will lead review of rule-based land use. Counties will review land cover, but not rule-based land use.
- **ACTION:** Rachel Soobitsky will send out the web viewer of production schedule to the LUWG.
- Soobitsky will send emails to reviewers prior to the start of data review. This will include a video with instructions for commenting on and reviewing the data. State contacts will be notified first, followed by county contacts.
- The LUWG will lead the land use review. The Conservancy will come to the LUWG for approval on changes/rules and update the LUWG on progress monthly moving forward.

- Berger noted that the rules need to be written up and any changes need to be well documented as we move forward.
- Claggett: In March, we can start reviewing the rules again. The rules are documented in the code but need to be narrated into a document.

Planning Next Meeting, News, Updates – KC Filippino, HRPDC

- The decision rules will be discussed at upcoming meetings.
- Follow up on action items from the 2019 milestone land use and classification discussions.

Next conference call: March 4, 2020 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Meeting Participants

Karl Berger, MWCOG

KC Filippino, HRPDC

Peter Claggett, USGS

Allie Wagner, CRC

Cassandra Davis, NYS DEC

Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP

Dave Goerman, PA DEP

Travis Stoe, PA DEP

Matt Keefer, PA DCNR

Lori Brown, DNREC

Nicole Christ, MDE

Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Planning

Mark Symborski, Montgomery County Planning

Lee Epstein, CBF

Rachel Soobitsky, CIC

Jennifer Miller Herzog, Land Trust Alliance

Alana Hartman, WV DEP

Sebastian Donner, WV DEP

George Onyullo, DOEE

Arianna Johns, VA DEQ

Norm Goulet, NRVC

Sarah McDonald, USGS

Jeremy Hanson, VT

Nora Jackson, CRC

Labeeb Ahmed, Attain

Bill Jenkins, EPA

Deb Sward, MDP

Jacob Czawlytko, CIC

John Griffin, MD DNR

Loretta Collins, UMD

Megan Ossman, CRC

Lisa Beatty, PA DEP

Ted Tesler, PA DEP
Susan Minnemeyer, CIC