

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM LAND USE WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

Oct 7th, 2021

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The LUWG approved the [September meeting minutes](#).

Action: Signatory members will vote on new LUWG at-large members. Results will be reported back to the group at the November meeting.

Action: Lisa Beatty and Peter Claggett will reach out to Cumberland County to gauge their interest in helping with a land use data accuracy assessment.

Action: Peter Claggett and the Chesapeake Conservancy will develop a narrative explaining the preliminary schedule for CAST-23, including details such as explaining what we need to prepare for in regards to CAST-23, what classifications will change, what decisions need to be made, potential changes to milestones, etc.

Action: Peter Claggett and Chesapeake Conservancy will produce a White Paper on the development of the high-res data for 2017 and the 2013-2017 change product by the end of December 2021 or early January 2022.

Action: LUWG members are encouraged to provide feedback on priorities for Phase 7 to Peter Claggett (pclagget@chesapeakebay.net) by COB Thursday, Oct 14th. Jurisdictions are also encouraged to speak with their WQGIT representatives about bringing these topics up during the WQGIT Oct 25-26 Phase 7 meeting.

Welcome, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Minutes, Action Item Update – KC Filippino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (10 min).

Announcements:

- **Decision:** The LUWG approved the [September meeting minutes](#).
- **Decision Requested:** The LUWG is asked to approve moving the monthly meetings/calls to the 2nd Thursday each month from 1-3pm starting January 2022.
 - Lisa Beatty, PA, and Lee Epstein, CBF, have potential scheduling conflicts with this day/time. They will coordinate with the LUWG leadership about alternative meeting times throughout the month. Further discussion will occur at the November meeting.

Review of Membership/Call for At-large Member Nominations – KC Filippino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (10 min).

Action: Signatory members will vote on new LUWG at-large members. Results will be reported back to the group at the November meeting.

Review Feedback from CAST-21 / Preliminary Schedule for CAST-23 – P. Claggett, USGS, & R. Soobitsky, Chesapeake Conservancy.

Peter briefly reviewed the feedback from the LUWG discussed at our September meeting. Rachel led a discussion on the preliminary schedule and review process for CAST-23.

Review Feedback from CAST-21

- **Peter Claggett:** My team and the Chesapeake Conservancy will be writing a journal article on the development of the high-res data for 2017 and the 2013-2017 change product. All the information and documentation we use for that report will be posted, probably in the form of a draft White Paper, and will most likely be complete by the end of December or early January.
 - **Lee Epstein:** Will the accounting for growth related information be available soon for this upcoming analysis?
 - **Peter Claggett:** Yes, soon. Sarah McDonald is running the state custom scenarios used in the WIPs with the CAST-21 updated information. She'll be done in two weeks, pass it to the CAST modeling team, and then it will be complete and available on November 1st.
- **KC Filippino:** For the release of all of the data, is that still on track for Feb 2022?
 - **Peter Claggett:** Yes. The one thing that has come to light in terms of feasibility is that we originally thought UVM would be able to duplicate the potential non-tidal wetland layer that they created for Pennsylvania for other states, and they said that given the edits they have to make for Version 2 land cover and land cover change, and also our prioritization of mapping and improving the mapping of emergent wetlands in VA, they will be unable to produce those wetland maps for other States.
- **James Martin:** Can you specify what products will be released in Feb 2022?
 - **Rachel Soobitsky:** Yes, it will be the 2018 land cover, 2018 land use, 2013-2018 land cover and land cover change, and updating the 2013 land cover and land use. The data will be county-wide, state-wide, and Bay-wide.
 - **Peter Claggett:** These datasets will be full wall-to-wall 2013 and full wall-to-wall 2017, and the change between the two, and we will be proposing a full replacement for Phase 7 of what is used now. The 2021 data and their change products will also be in Phase 7.
- **James Martin:** Will the accuracy assessment be done for each of those products?
 - **Peter Claggett:** The accuracy assessment will only be for the land cover change product and the wall-to-wall land cover. For the land use, it would be too difficult to consistently interpret those land uses for an accuracy assessment.
 - **James Martin:** I would prefer the land use to have an accuracy assessment because that's what we use at the Bay Program, but I do understand the complications involved with that.
 - **Peter Claggett:** There are other datasets that we could compare our land use data with. For example, Maryland and Delaware both have a generalized land use data set for the whole state. But there will still be an issue of variability and having consistent comparisons.
 - **Karl Berger:** Are there individual county datasets that we could use for an accuracy assessment? Or is there too much variability?
 - **Peter Claggett:** It would be helpful for different states and counties to take our data and do the comparisons themselves.

- **Karl Berger:** Maybe we could have a future workshop where counties interested in doing that could come together and share the results from their comparisons to inform future datasets.
- **Lisa Beatty:** Cumberland county has a very robust GIS program and they just came out with a map for inspected BMPs for parcel layers. I could reach out and ask them to participate if I had a better idea of what exactly you wanted from them. Maybe we could have something in writing.

Action: Lisa Beatty and Peter Claggett will reach out to Cumberland County to gauge their interest in helping with a land use data accuracy assessment.

Action: Peter Claggett and Chesapeake Conservancy will produce a White Paper on the development of the high-res data for 2017 and the 2013-2017 change product by the end of December 2021 or early January 2022.

Preliminary Schedule for CAST-23

Concerns were raised from the group about the feasibility of meeting the proposed timeline. There was a request for a narrative to explain what we need to prepare for in regards to CAST-23, what classifications will change, what decisions need to be made, potential changes to milestones, etc.

- **KC Filippino:** Are we assuming the decision rules and classifications for the land use will be the same this time around?
 - **Rachel Soobitsky:** We do have potential classes that we're looking to add. For the land use review, we could have people look at the MD and DE land use data because we'll have their land cover data first.
 - **Peter Claggett:** In short, the only class addition we want to make is animal operations. There may be some refinement of some classes from a rule perspective, but not a change.
- **KC Filippino:** Four states in six months and two states in ten months seems unrealistic. I think we need a Plan B.
 - **Peter Claggett:** We can investigate if there's any pressure that the jurisdictions or the Bay Program can put on USDA to get the data out sooner. The way the review is structured right now is that if the NAIP data comes in time, we're prepared to meet the schedule. Plan B will be to do an accuracy assessment on land cover and land cover change in MD and DE and select counties in the rest of the states, and have us all agree that if the accuracy of those products is the same or better than what we produced for 2017, then we use the data in CAST.
- **Dave Montali:** Last time we did this, even though the land cover was correct, there were still some land use issues that occurred. I was hoping that the next time around, we could reconsider some rules, get the land cover change done and have corrections to that data before doing the land use. It seems to me like we don't have the time to do this.
 - **Sarah McDonald:** Anything rule based will be available in Feb 2022 in the White Paper. So there will be time for rule reconsideration.
- **Peter Claggett:** There will be time to review the land cover for MD and DE and incorporate those comments. With the accuracy assessments, that will include MD and DE and select counties in other states, those should capture any big issues and will be more systematic than a local

review. If that's done by March 2023 and systematic issues are still there, then we will not be able to meet the CAST-23 deadline, but none of this will affect Phase 7 deadline.

- **James Martin:** I thought 2024 was the testing year and 2025 was the application year which means the model will have to be calibrated by December of 2023.
- **Dave Montali:** There are a lot of timeline issues we need to discuss. Why is there a big push to shoot for CAST-23?
- **Peter Claggett:** If we can't meet this deadline, we will still have Version 2 of 2013-2017 land use data that could inform CAST-23. My impression of why it's important is because we would want the most up to date land use data to be used for the 2025 progress decisions. Maybe we could have a 2024 deadline for this land use and have it inform all 2025 evaluations and it would be put into CAST a year later for the final 2025 decisions as a fully reviewed version 2 or 3 dataset. That would be something the WQGIT would decide.
- **KC Filippino:** I think we need a narrative explaining what we need to prepare for, what classifications will change, what decisions need to be made, potential changes to milestones, etc. Also, I think land use needs to be added to this timeline.
- **Lisa Beatty:** I know sometimes I've heard people have had issues getting feedback from their local counties. Rachel and I devised a system that got a really good response rate that we'd be willing to share if folks are interested.
- **Rachel Soobitsky:** My last day working at the Conservancy will be October 15th. Katie Walker will be replacing me, focusing on the management, outreach, and communication side of Objective 1 leading up to the February 2022 publication of products and potentially beyond.

Action: Peter Claggett and the Conservancy will develop a narrative explaining the preliminary schedule for CAST-23, including details such as explaining what we need to prepare for in regards to CAST-23, what classifications will change, what decisions need to be made, potential changes to milestones, etc.

Priorities for WQGIT Phase 7 Meeting – Peter Claggett, USGS, and Sarah McDonald, USGS.

Peter provided an overview of the land use data proposed for inclusion in Phase 7 of the watershed model, specifically focusing on forecasting future changes in land use. Sarah provided an overview of the development of backcasting for Phase 7 of the watershed model. The LUWG was asked to provide feedback on the priorities for the WQGIT Phase 7 Meeting.

Backcasting Discussion (Sarah's Presentation)

- **Karl Berger:** One of the issues with the use of the data in CAST is that things such as the land use are fixed through 2013. Once we recalibrate, that goes away. But does it go away until 1985 or 1995? We don't need to answer that now. But once this data is developed can it be used all the way back to 1985 or 1995.
 - **Dave Montali:** I think it can go back to 1985 but might want to double check with Gary.
- **Deb Sward:** Which was the classification system that we will use for this system?
 - **Sarah McDonald:** It is still being developed but we will remain consistent with what's needed for Phase 7.

Forecasting Discussion (Peter's presentation)

- **Karl Berger:** On the Generalized Phase 7 Land Use/Source Classes PPT Slide - in your next version of this presentation, can you highlight on the slide which ones we have now and which ones are the additional classes? Maybe just put them in red or something.
 - **Peter Claggett:** Sure, I'll do that.
- **Karl Berger:** For your list, is this all the things that you actually can do or are you looking for priority from the WQGIT members? Are we open to other ideas?
 - **Peter Claggett:** Yes. Internally, we have a list of easy and hard tasks. We want priorities from both the LUWG and the WQGIT. If you have things that you think should be added to the list to present to the WQGIT on Oct 25-26, please let me know.

Action: LUWG members are encouraged to provide feedback on priorities for Phase 7 to Peter Claggett (pclagget@chesapeakebay.net) by Thursday, Oct 14th. Jurisdictions are also encouraged to speak with their WQGIT representatives about bringing these topics up during the WQGIT Oct 25-26 Phase 7 meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting Participants

Jackie Pickford, CRC
 KC Filippino, HRPDC
 Karl Berger, MWCOG
 Peter Claggett, USFS
 Rachel Soobitsky, Chesapeake Conservancy
 Shannon McKenrick - MDE
 Nicole Christ, MDE
 Katie Walker, Chesapeake Conservancy
 Dave Montali, Tetra Tech
 Laura Cattell Noll, Local Leadership Workgroup Coordinator
 Sarah McDonald, USGS CBP
 Katie Brownson, USFS
 Rex Robichaux - Virginia DEQ
 Patrick McCabe Chesapeake Conservancy
 Lee Epstein, CBF
 Mark Symborski, M-NCPPC
 Allie Wagner, NVRC
 Mindy Neil, WV DEP
 Lori Brown, DNREC
 Deb Sward, MDP
 Arianna Johns, VA DEQ
 Lisa Beatty, PA DEP
 George Onyullo, DOEE
 Young Tsuei, DOEE
 Jeff Sweeney, EPA

Meeting Chat

From Rachel Soobitsky to Everyone: 02:04 PM

I think DC is usually on MD's schedule, but maybe not always

From Me to Everyone: 02:35 PM

Congrats Rachel!

From George Onyullo to Everyone: 02:36 PM

Congratulations Rachel! All the best!

From Rachel Soobitsky to Everyone: 02:39 PM

Thank you everyone!

here is Katie's email again: kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org

From James Martin to Everyone: 02:45 PM

All of those dates may change with P7

From Rachel Soobitsky to Everyone: 03:00 PM

I have to run to another meeting, thank you all for everything :) looking forward to seeing the final products come out in February!

From Lisa Beatty, PA DEP to Everyone: 03:02 PM

Hi. I have to jump on another call. Thank you for all the hard work. If you could send out an email for your requests to review items/give comments.

From Me to Everyone: 03:02 PM

Will do, Lisa!