



Forestry Workgroup Meeting

January 7th, 2026
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Example Meeting Link: [Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 292 371 725 191 13n**Passcode:** P6z3TR6J

Call: +1 469-208-1525,,912754932# **Conference ID:** #912 754 932#

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

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Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

Compromised Meeting Plan: If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

Purpose: The meeting will primarily be focused on sharing information from recently completed projects, including a forest fragmentation analysis and an urban forest patch analysis. We will also have an opportunity to learn about and provide input on a large-scale experimental reforestation effort. We will conclude by having a discussion about how we want to focus our workgroup's efforts and meeting time in 2026.

Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

Requested Action: Non-decisional

(9:00-9:05)

Lead: Anne Hairston Strang (MD FS, FWG Co-Chair)

II. Announcements

(9:05-9:15)

- Upcoming Chesapeake Bay Program Webinar: *Communicating Forest and Tree Canopy Trends Using High-Resolution Data*, Jan 14th 12-1 PM.

This webinar will provide an overview of the updated data and share the latest communications tools: an updated State of Chesapeake Forests Story Map that provides a detailed watershed-wide perspective on Chesapeake forests, and new county-scale and municipal-scale Tree Canopy Status and Change Fact Sheets. The webinar will conclude with a presentation that shares a real life example on how the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has used the Bay Program's data and tools to guide its regional tree canopy efforts. *Register at:*

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iqoAU8iaSaG1FgfJRRvtgg

- Revised 2025 Watershed Agreement: The revised 2025 Watershed Agreement was officially approved by the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council meeting at their Dec 2 meeting. Check out the final revised agreement [here](#)!
- Call for nominations for new Healthy Landscapes goal co-chairs (see Jan 5 email from Julia Fucci). Nominations are due to Peter Claggett (pclaggett@chesapeakebay.net) by Jan 16th.
- Upcoming STAC workshop: Healthy Forests: Proactive Strategies for Managing Threats and Promoting Conservation

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Lead: Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)

III. Round Robin

(9:15-9:30)

Please come with 2-3 updates to share from your jurisdiction or organization!

Requested Action: Non-decisional

IV. Fragmentation Analysis Presentation

(9:30-9:50)

The Chesapeake Conservancy will present a recently-completed analysis of forest fragmentation in the watershed, including an overview of the methods used and analysis outputs. We will then discuss potential applications of this analysis and solicit input on the most effective ways to share this data to inform decision making.

Lead: Louis Keddell (Chesapeake Conservancy) and Charlotte Weinstein (Chesapeake Conservancy)

Requested Action: Non-decisional

V. Baltimore Forest Patch Analysis

(9:50-10:15)

Scientists from the USFS Northern Research Station and UMBC collaborators recently analyzed forest patch distribution, ownership, and land use history in a series of related studies throughout the mid-Atlantic region. This presentation will provide an overview of forest patch delineation methodology and study results, as well as an introduction to an accompanying online tool.

Links to published manuscripts about: [urban-rural patterns](#), [historical legacies](#), and [urban ownership patterns](#). [Urban Forest Patch Viewer](#) tool.

Lead: Miranda Mockrin (USFS), and Nancy Sonti (USFS)

Requested Action: Non-decisional

VI. BiodiversiTree Presentation and Discussion on Future Tree Planting (10:15-10:45)

Experiments at SERC

Reforestation is a central strategy for restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed, yet how we plant trees may be just as important as how many we plant. Globally, more than a trillion trees have been pledged under the UN’s Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), with the goal of sequestering carbon and delivering co-benefits including water quality protection and biodiversity maintenance. However, despite strong evidence that mixed-species plantings generally outperform single-species stands, monocultures still account for at least half of all current reforestation efforts. This presentation will first draw on results from *BiodiversiTREE*, North America’s longest-running large-scale experimental reforestation, to show how tree species diversity enhances tree growth, canopy cover, carbon storage, microclimate regulation, and wildlife habitat, outcomes directly relevant to Bay restoration goals. The talk will then introduce *Functional Forests*, a new reforestation initiative launching in spring 2026 that will test how strategically designed tree mixtures could maximize ecosystem services, improve climate resilience, and reduce impacts from deer herbivory. Together, these projects highlight how biodiversity-informed reforestation can strengthen the effectiveness and durability of forest restoration across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Lead: John Parker (SERC), and Justin Nowakowski (SERC)

Requested Action:Non-decisional

VII. Forestry Workgroup Planning and Priorities for 2026 (10:45-10:55)

Katie will lead a discussion on priorities for 2026 and request input from the Workgroup on key topics to address, potential speakers or presentations for future meetings, and meeting timing/duration/frequency.

Lead: Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)

Requested Action:Non-decisional

VIII. Meeting Wrap-up and Next Steps (10:55-11:00)

Lead: Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)

Requested Action:Non-decisional

IX. Adjourn (11:00)

Next Meeting: [February 4th, 2026, 9:00 am- 11:00 am]