

Actions & Decisions:

Decision: The LUWG approved the September 2024 Minutes.

Action: Please submit nominations for LUWG at-large members by **COB Thursday, January 31st, 2025**. Contact Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) and Sarah McDonald (smcdonald@chesapeakebay.net) with nominations and/or questions.

Action: Sarah McDonald, LUWG Coordinator, will be posting the plan for the development of historical land use (backcast) from 1985-2013 for use in Phase 7. Please respond with any feedback or questions on the backcast to Sarah McDonald (smcdonald@chesapeakebay.net), by Friday, January 10th, 2025.

Decision: The FWG agreed that the natural succession classes should roll up to Forest for Phase 7 of the watershed model in the rural context but wants to further evaluate whether natural succession barren and natural succession herbaceous should be classified as Compacted Pervious (also written Pervious, Compacted) in the urban context. The Land Data Team will return to the Forestry Workgroup to continue discussions.

Decision: The LUWG approved the following: 1) Renaming the Phase 6 mixed open class to “compacted pervious”; 2) The roll-up of the natural succession classes to Forest contingent on the urban vs rural analysis for the FWG’s decision.

Action: Please continue to fill out the Menti [survey](#) and submit any additional feedback on the priority projects list assignment to Marilyn (myang@chesapeakebay.net) and Caroline (kleis.caroline@epa.gov) by **COB, December 13th**. Please refer to the email sent by Marilyn (myang@chesapeakebay.net) on 12/2 for additional details.

Action: The HWGIT and LUWG will hold an additional meeting on January 13th, 2025, alongside the regularly scheduled HWGIT meeting on February 10th, 2025, to discuss the Management Board’s “Big Questions” outcome assessment. Please see the calendar invitation sent by Marilyn (myang@chesapeakebay.net) on 12/3 for additional information. Additionally, the Forestry Workgroup will discuss the “Big Questions” outcome assessment during their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on January 8th, which has been extended to three hours (9am-12pm).

Meeting Summary:

Part 1: Data and Science

Phase 7 Classification Needs

Sarah McDonald, LUWG Coordinator/USGS, gave the group a presentation outlining proposed classification changes in the development of the Phase 7 Model. This presentation began with a summary of major changes to the Phase 7 Land Use Classification Roll-up including the addition of four new classes: solar infrastructure, solar pervious, harvested forest, and construction. Additionally, Sarah reviewed updates and changes to the Phase 7 model that are currently being addressed by other workgroups. The remainder of the presentation and discussion on Phase 7 classification focused

on the changes relevant to both the Forestry Workgroup and Land Use Workgroup. The Forestry Workgroup was asked to vote on the roll up of the Natural Succession classes and the LUWG followed with a decisional item on the remaining classes in Mixed Open and the renaming of the Mixed Open class.

Materials: [Presentation](#)

Introductions and Updates from HWGIT, FWG, and LUWG

Katie Brownson, FWG Coordinator/USFS, gave an informational overview of the three groups and their relevant goals and outcomes, setting the scene for the collaborative discussions later on in the meeting. For the full list of the relevant goals and outcomes to the three groups, please see the Appendix attached in the joint meeting agenda. To set the stage for later discussions during the meeting, Katie introduced three key themes for our groups to consider when exploring collaboration opportunities to advance conservation and restoration: Data, Targeting and Evaluation, and Enhancing Capacity and Communication.

Materials: [Presentation](#), [Appendix A \(Agenda\)](#)

Comparison of 2022 and 2024 Edition Data

Sarah McDonald, LUWG Coordinator/USGS, provided the three groups with a comparison of the 2022 and 2024 editions of the Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) data. The comparisons between the 2022 and 2024 editions of the data showed the implications of the methodological changes for both the Static 2017/18 LULC and the 2013/14 - 2017/18 Land Use/Land Cover Change trends. Information on specific changes to the developed, natural, and production categories for each set of data can be found in the presentation linked below.

Materials: [Presentation](#)

Part 2: Communication & Targeted Conservation

Community Response to Land Use Changes: GIT Funded Green Fin Studio Project Overview & Discussion

Allison Burbach, Dave Jasinski, and Macon Thompson, Green Fin Studio, gave the group a synopsis of the “Community Response to Land Change” GIT-Funded Project which employed surveys, interviews, and focus groups in four communities in the Bay watershed to identify trusted sources of environmental information and guidance on messaging. Final products from this project will include a final report and step-by-step guide that summarizes the recommendations on how to effectively engage with communities. The presentation concluded with a discussion on the relevance of this project to the work of the HWGIT/LUWG/FWG.

Materials: [Presentation](#)

Looking Ahead: Targeted Conservation and Restoration

Jeff Lerner, HWGIT Chair/US EPA outlined two major tasks the Management Board asked Goal Teams and outcome-responsible workgroups to complete following their November NCTC retreat. These tasks include developing recommendations on what to do with each Outcome in a revised Watershed Agreement and identifying priority projects. Jeff presented the guidelines and expectations for each of these, as well as a list of potential priority projects for our groups to collaborate on. Following this overview, Sophie Waterman, USGS facilitated a discussion on the collaboration slide and priority projects assignment through a Mentimeter poll, to get a better sense of opportunities for input and collaboration across these three groups. To help address these new assignments and continue our collaborative brainstorming efforts, the HWGIT/LUWG/FWG are asked to continue filling out the Menti survey and are encouraged to attend the joint HWGIT/LUWG meeting on January 13th, 2025.

Materials: [Presentation](#), [Collaboration Slide](#), [Mentimeter Survey](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines:

- Next FWG Meeting: **Wednesday, January 8th (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)**
- **Additional HWGIT & LUWG Meeting on the Beyond 2025 “Big Questions” Assignment: Monday, January 13th (11:00 AM- 1:00 PM)**
- Next HWGIT Meeting: **Monday, February 10th (11:00 AM- 1:00 PM)**
- Next LUWG Meeting: **Wednesday, March 19th (1:00 PM-3:00 PM)**