



## Chesapeake Bay Program

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

### Forestry Workgroup Minutes October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 | 9am-11am

#### Meeting Materials

#### Attendees

Alanna Crowley, MD DNR  
Alexis Dickerson, Potomac Conservancy  
Andrew Koeser, University of Florida  
Anne Hairston-Strang, MD FS  
Ashley Traut, Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition  
Bay Hanson, USFS  
Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG  
Caitlin Verdu, VA DOF  
Catie Soriano, DE DNREC  
Chris Peters, PA NRCS  
Dan Coy, MD DNR  
Elliott Kurtz, Chesapeake Conservancy  
Emily Beach, Chesapeake Conservancy  
Erica Carlsson, DC DOEE  
Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Inst.  
Heidi Bonnaffon, COG  
Jenna Talbot, DNREC  
Jeremy McGill, WV DOF  
Joel Cockerham, Cacapon Inst.  
Johanna Davis, USDA FSA  
Jose Castellanos, CBT

Julie Mawhorter, USFS  
Katherine Brownson, USFS  
Kesha Braunskill, USFS  
Lara Johnson, VA DOF  
Louis Keddell, Chesapeake Conservancy  
Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition  
Marilyn Yang, CRC  
Meghan Noe Fellows, DE Center for Inland Bays  
Nancy Sonti, USFS  
Ned Brockmeyer, PA DCNR  
Rob Schnabel, CBF  
Robbie Coville, PA DCNR  
Robert Corletta, District DOT  
Ruth Cassilly, UMD  
Sally Ross, USFS  
Sam Adams, WV DOF  
Samara Pyfrom, CBT  
Susan Minnemeyer, Nature Plus  
Suzanne Hartley, PA DCNR  
Taryn Davidson, DE FS  
Teddi Stark, PA DCNR  
William Byrum, NRC

#### **9:00 Announcements – Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)**

- Update on Beyond 2025: The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee approved the report last week following the public feedback period. The most significant change was to the timeline, originally written as a two-year time period, but now is modified to recommend accelerating this timeline to complete by 2025.
- The Chesapeake Conservancy is supporting USFS with geospatial analyses for the State of the Chesapeake Forests 2.0 Storymap. These analyses will help identify areas for new tree plantings and examine forest health through fragmentation patterns.

- During the September FWG meeting, the Chesapeake Conservancy presented these methods. Due to time constraints cutting the discussion short, we have scheduled a **virtual follow-up meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-5pm**. If you're interested in attending, but did not fill out the interest form, please reach out to Marilyn ([myang@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:myang@chesapeakebay.net)) for the calendar invite.
- December FWG Meeting:
  - **December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-3pm** we will be **meeting jointly with the Land Use Workgroup and the Healthy Watershed GIT**. *Please note: This will replace our regularly scheduled FWG meeting on December 4th.* The meeting will be hybrid with an in-person option available at CBPO - we hope you can join us!
- Upcoming Webinars:
  - **October 10<sup>th</sup> (12pm-1pm)**: The USFS Eastern Region Watershed Forestry team will host a webinar on Riparian Forest Buffers featuring our very own Craig Highfield, as well as Jeremy Geist from Trout Unlimited. Registration information and a link to sign up for email updates on future watershed forestry webinars is available [here](#).
  - **October 15<sup>th</sup> (12pm-1pm)**: CBP/Forestry Workgroup-hosted webinar on Tree Stewards programs across the watershed, with Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay), Fred Chalfant (TreeBaltimore), and Abel Olivo (Defensores de la Cuenca). Free registration [here](#)

**9:15 Update on the Urban Tree Supply Project – Andrew Koeser (University of Florida project team)**

Andrew Koeser from the University of Florida provided an update on the Urban Tree Supply Project, a GIT-funded initiative titled "Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges and Opportunities." led by researchers and partners at UF.

**Summary of Presentation** (*detailed overview provided below since this was a spoken presentation, with no slides*):

- **Focus Group Updates:** Dr. Deb Hilbert organized focus groups aimed at identifying challenges and opportunities for enhancing tree diversity, especially with new IRA funding. Andrew Koeser is compiling a report from these discussions and encouraged the FWG to share other ideas/solutions to these challenges.
- **The Key Challenges Identified during the focus groups:**
  - **Grant Cycles and Funding Timing:** The timing of grant cycles often does not align with the seasonal availability of plant materials, which follows a 3, 5, and 7-year growth cycle.
  - **Supply Chain Limitations:** The supply chain heavily relies on a few major producers in the Pacific Northwest, limiting the propagation of

- seedlings and hindering efforts to introduce native trees and local species into urban settings.
  - Staffing Shortages: Once trees are planted, there is often a lack of trained professionals to ensure their survival. This leads to an overreliance on resilient species instead of exploring new species that may require more initial care.
- **Proposed Solutions during the Focus Groups**
  - Contract Growing: This approach can help mitigate risk for growers and improve consistency for future sales.
  - Building Relationships: Establishing partnerships with growers to foster trust and collaboration.
  - Enhanced Communication: Encouraging urban foresters and designers to attend grower events to bridge gaps in understanding the challenges both groups face.
  - Centralized Plant Finder: The absence of a centralized resource for plant availability can lead to overproduction of certain species. There is interest in developing this resource, Andrew also mentioned the Forest Service is working on this.
- **Urban Tree Supply Forum Updates:** Andrew also shared insights from the successful Virtual Urban Tree Supply Forum, hosted by UF in early August. The forum brought together over 100 practitioners from across the country to discuss solutions to urban tree supply chain challenges.
  - Andrew noted that a report will be created from the event, featuring one-page case studies highlighting the most significant innovations and topics discussed during the forum.
  - All of these talks are available here: Link to the Urban Tree Supply Forum recordings and slides, if you missed it: [Urban Tree Supply Forum - August 6th - Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network \(chesapeaketrees.net\)](https://chesapeaketrees.net/urban-tree-supply-forum-august-6th)
  - The final deliverable will be a close-out meeting in December currently being organized – stay tuned for more information.

#### **Discussion:**

**Ashley Traut:** Expresses curiosity about the seed collection and propagation insights and asks Andrew if he could provide more detail before the report is released.

**Andrew Koeser:** Responds that a big takeaway is the opportunity to collaborate with state-run nurseries for reforestation efforts, particularly for producing natives which are not being marketed by large commercial producers. He suggests that state nurseries could take the lead by experimenting with these smaller seedlings and distributing them to the nonprofit or nursery sectors for further growth. This approach could help address gaps in the availability of native plants and meet the growing demand for trees.

**Rob Schnabel (in chat):** What sizes are used for Urban plantings? Only 2" caliper or would 2 or 3 gallon container work? Bay Foundation has a nursery that grows 15,000 per year of the 2-3 gallon that are available if size appropriate.

**Andrew Koeser:** Responds saying cities typically use larger tree stock (e.g., 2-5 gallon containers), but the smaller trees are better for diversity. Additionally, slower-growing trees, which are ideal for urban environments, are often not prioritized by nurseries because they require more time to grow which creates a mismatch between the types of trees needed for urban planting and the fast-growing varieties that nurseries focus on.

**Robbie Coville (in chat):** In PA we have limitations on state nursery stock being used on state land, to avoid competing with private industry. Engaging with private nurseries for grow out and distribution seems key. Seed collection is also a challenge but tree crops gathering networks seem to be on the rise and I wonder if those might come into play for propagation (e.g. Keystone Tree Crops Coop and Asheville Nuttery).

**Heidi Bonnaffon (in chat):** Potomac Conservancy has a seed collection program, tomorrow's trees: [Home - Tomorrow's Trees \(tomorrows-trees.org\)](http://tomorrows-trees.org)

**Erica Carlsson:** Asks whether there are any requirements from the IRA for funding size.

**Andrew Koeser:** Apologies saying he does not know.

**Julie Mawhorter:** Chimes in saying there weren't any specific size requirements or limitations built into the IRA grants, it's more case by case for what the partners are trying to do and what's appropriate for planting sites that they're working on.

**Andrew Koeser:** Mentions that in past focus groups he's seen a bias in municipal forests for bonus points given to bigger sized trees, which is also a good takeaway from the report that if municipalities are willing to accept a little attrition from the smaller stock, they can get the diversity that's needed.

**Anne-Hairston-Strang (in chat):** One note on working with State nurseries from Andrew's talk- MD has limitations on what we can grow to avoid competition with private nurseries. We grow for conservation purposes - can't do liner stock for commercial resale.

9:35 [Update on the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund through the Inflation Reduction Act](#) – Samara Pyfrom and Jose Castellanos (Chesapeake Bay Trust)

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, along with nine other partners, have been selected to receive and administer a [\\$17 million grant](#) from the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program through Inflation Reduction Act funding. The Trust and its core partners will leverage these funds to establish and seed the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund (the Fund), the first large-scale environmental justice participatory fund in the region. Jose Castellanos and Samara Pyfrom from the Chesapeake Bay Trust gave a presentation on the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Participatory Fund.

**Discussion:**

[Frank Rodgers](#): Referencing the IRA DEIJ Map provided in the presentation, Frank asks whether all of WV could be considered for the grant or only the sections within the Chesapeake Bay.

[Samara Pyfrom](#): Responds that any community within WV regardless of whether it falls in the Chesapeake Bay can be eligible for funding as long as it identifies as a disadvantaged community from a federally approved environmental justice mapping tool. This applies to all the states.

[Lydia Brinkley \(in chat\)](#): I didn't catch if NY was in the map either.

[Jose Castellanos \(in chat\)](#): Hi Lydia, no, the project can only fund projects in EPA's Region 3, that's DC, DE, MD, PA, WV and VA

[Frank Rodgers](#): Asks if the awards from this grant would be fronted or reimbursable like most Chesapeake Bay Trust grants.

[Samara Pyfrom](#): Responds that given the stipulations with federal dollars there are restrictions, so while they would like to follow the Trust's typical 90% to 10% breakdown typically, these payments would be spaced out over the year.

[Frank Rodgers](#): Responds saying that would be a game changer for generational poverty in WV's disadvantaged communities.

[Samara Pyfrom](#): Agrees and follows that by saying applications for the RFP launch in December, so she encourages people to keep a lookout for updates on the Chesapeake Bay Trust website and apply.

[Jose Castellanos](#): Follows up by saying they soon will announce who their Appalachian region partner will be. It's a great organization working in the whole Appalachian region and they're excited about that partnership and will release a statement as soon as everything is finalized.

**Ashley Traut:** Chimes in saying hopefully you're thinking of a pretty holistic approach, with the workforce development, not just planting trees, but also recognizing they will take long term maintenance and funds for efforts such as seed collection and propagation with our urban partners.

**Jose Castellanos:** Says that the specifics for the RFP are still being discussed with their partners, but is sure they will include all these aspects.

**Katie Brownson:** Asks if they could speak to how the Trust will determine who is going to participate in the technical review panels, so that the diversity of these large geographic areas is being represented.

**Samara Pyfrom:** Responds saying part of the outreach partners roles are providing a list of community members who have the technical knowledge or the life experience to qualify them as good reviewers, so long as they are not applying for money. In addition, the Trust also has their own pool of technical reviewers for forestry related funds that they will pull from. The specifics of the panels have not yet been finalized, but representatives from each geography will be present on each panel..

**Jose Castellanos:** As a follow up, he mentions they encourage experts to join the process for reviewing proposals. In addition, following up on the earlier question with Ashely Traut, he referred to the Urban Trees project they currently have with Maryland state funds, where they have a two year maintenance period after the planting, but with this IRA grant being federal funds with a 4-5 year availability for funding, it makes it more difficult for maintenance funding for funds that will be granted later, so they are working on trying to offer at least a two year maintenance period for all the projects.

**Kesha Braunskill:** Responds saying she assumed the Trust is trying to get additional funding, right?

**Jose Castellanos:** Responds saying exactly, we are trying to make it as sustainable as possible.

**Robbie Coville (in chat):** Pretty inspiring, thank you Jose, Samara and all involved! Sorry if I missed it but is there a mailing list or good place for us to subscribe to for status updates about this? (I'll keep coming to these meetings, maybe that's the best way to stay in the loop!)

**Jose Castellanos (in chat):** Not yet, Robbie, but please shoot us an email at [jcastellanos@cbtrust.org](mailto:jcastellanos@cbtrust.org) and [spyfrom@cbtrust.org](mailto:spyfrom@cbtrust.org) and we will make sure to include you when we create that listserv!

**Anne Hairston-Strang:** Following up to Robbie's comment, Anne asks how do we keep in touch and mutually support the communities that we're trying to help best. Do you have suggestions on how to continue coordinating?

**Jose Castellanos:** Responds saying yes, let's keep in touch because there's a lot of coordination that will be needed at an internal level, but also an external level. Also, we will be looking at similar programs on the state level and working to align them.

**Julie Mawhorter:** Chimes in for the Forest Service, since they work closely with the state, saying they'd be happy to help facilitate a call across the states to see what has already been funded.

**Rob Schnabel (in chat):** Perhaps CBT could provide the necessary maintenance funding through the Foundation funds raised outside of federal funds.

**Kesha Braunskill:** On behalf of the FWG, Kesha thanks Samara and Jose for their presentation and extends the invitation to attend the monthly meetings if they are interested.

**10:00 Preparing for the next Urban Tree Canopy Summit – Julie Mawhorter (USFS)**

Julie Mawhorter led a discussion on planning for the next Chesapeake Urban Tree Canopy Summit, one of our Tree Canopy Workplan actions, which will be hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in early 2025. Specifically, she asked the FWG for feedback on elements such as the format and timing.

**Discussion:**

**Erica Carlsson (in chat):** My vote is for presentations with little opportunity for questions to be virtual and more collaborative sessions in person

**Emily Heller (in chat):** Is it possible to do hybrid and hit the best of both worlds?

**Katie Brownson (in chat):** Maybe there could be a pre-Summit part-day virtual session to set the stage for an in-person convening

**Chrisopher Peters (in chat):** As a Newbie to the group i vote in person

**Lara Johnson:** Responds saying she votes for in-person, since there's a massive number of new faces in our world and it would be nice to meet and talk with everyone, especially since it's been many years since we've been able to get together.

**Frank Rodgers:** Suggests a Harpers Ferry since it's the geographic center of the watersheds and also NCTC since it's a great facility and central.

**Katie Brownson (in chat):** I've heard NCTC is increasingly difficult to reserve

**Erica Carlsson (in chat):** Another vote for NCTC

**Susan Minnemeyer (in chat):** In terms of location if there are facilities that have good built-in AV to make a virtual option easier logistically that would be great.

**Robert Corletta:** Agrees with Frank saying NCTC is an incredible place for these types of things and agrees with Laura that we need to meet personally and that there could be value in a hybrid approach.

**Julie Mawhorter:** Thanks everyone for the suggestions by prefacing that they have a limited budget so they have restrictions on what they can do but they will investigate the suggested options.

**Lara Johnson (in chat):** I'd vote for summer over winter

**Rob Schnabel (in chat):** vote for hybrid, love club fed, but given urban canopy goal and need for diverse / equitable participation, critical to allow for folks to participate from where they are.

**Lara Johnson:** Suggests building in travel time on one or both days so that people don't have to stay all three days, but rather the event could end early or start late to reduce travel time.

**Julie Mawhorter:** Thanks people for their feedback and asks about priority topic ideas.

**Anne Hairston-Strang:** Emphasizes that conservation should be a priority topic.

**Susan Minnemeyer:** Chimes in saying she would love to see a component focused on setting goals for tree canopy. Such as what are the most important places to plant for climate resilience, etc.

**Katie Brownson:** Echoing Susan's comment about goal setting, Katie circles back to her comments about the Bay Program needing to review their goals and outcomes and the summit could be a good opportunity to do some real thinking about the next generation tree canopy goal. Along those lines, she suggests the earlier months since later in the year will be too late since the Beyond 2025 process has been accelerated.

**Rob Schnabel (in chat):** If January / February please attempt to avoid the big regenerative agriculture conferences, tree issues at those conferences. Future Harvest in Jan and PASA in Feb.

**Robbie Coville (in chat):** Winter is really busy with conferences as Rob said, so summer could be easier, but I understand earlier might be better. Hybrid is helpful but otherwise in-person. The idea of 2-day with room for travel built in sounds good.



**10:10** [Overview of the 2023 County Level Tree Canopy Fact Sheets and Looking Forward at the 2024 Municipal Level Tree Canopy Fact Sheets](#) – Julie Mawhorter (USFS)

In 2023, with support from the USFS, USGS, Forestry Workgroup and partners, the Chesapeake Conservancy [released factsheets for all the Chesapeake watershed counties](#). The factsheets include information regarding tree cover status, benefits (from -Tree), and change information over the 2013/14 to 2017/18 time periods. For 2024, the plan is to create another batch of factsheets using the latest 21/22 land cover/land use data at a 1-meter resolution to focus on the municipal scale.

Julie gave an overview of the plan for the fact sheets and requested feedback on the [previous year's template](#), since the new fact sheets will be auto populated with the new data using the same or a similar template. Please send any input to [julie.mawhorter@usda.gov](mailto:julie.mawhorter@usda.gov) by **October 18, 2024**.

**Discussion:**

**Julie Mawhorter:** Following her overview of the factsheets, Julie introduced Elliot Kurtz from the Chesapeake Conservancy, stating they will be doing the heavy lifting on this project and referenced his [spreadsheet](#) that has all of the incorporated census places they are proposing to use for this production, in addition to a geodatabase.

She then asked people to let them know by October 18th whether they're missing any municipalities for any reason and/or to provide feedback on the [template](#), and cites Bay Hanson ([elizabeth.hanson@usda.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hanson@usda.gov)) as the project lead on the Forest Service side.

**Rob Schnabel (in chat):** Will Forested Riparian Buffers be added to the Fact sheets? This was mentioned last Spring / Fall? Would be super helpful for Counties as set beyond 2025 goals

**Elliot Kurtz (in chat):** Unfortunately not Rob. We have a fairly small budget for these municipal fact sheets so couldn't make more substantive additions. But that is still on our radar!

**Susan Minnemeyer:** Suggests an approach for running statistics on canopy changes using the full census dataset, but only producing fact sheets for incorporated places. Maybe providing raw data with the ability to separate incorporated from unincorporated areas could still be useful for stakeholders, particularly county governments who manage unincorporated regions.

**Julie Mawhorter:** Responds saying that's a great suggestion and aligns with how the track canopy indicator tracks the tree canopy outcome progress using all the census places. Julie also encourages participants to reach out for any follow-up feedback or concerns, either to her ([julie.mawhorter@usda.gov](mailto:julie.mawhorter@usda.gov)) or Bay Hanson ([elizabeth.hanson@usda.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hanson@usda.gov)).

## 10:25 Round Robin

In addition to the regular round robin announcements, state urban forestry representatives were asked to share any updates they had related to Inflation Reduction Act funding.

### Discussion:

**Robert Corletta (For DC):** DC launched their RFA for their allotted \$750,000 in funding and they received applications totaling about \$1.4 million. Currently, they are in the decision-making phase as the grant review panel already forwarded their selections to the grant review board in the district. The grants focus on equitable tree canopy expansion, including heat-sensitive areas and areas with food insecurity, with potential for food forest projects. They also include nature-based interventions and urban forest access projects. The awards should be announced in the coming weeks.

**Lara Johnson (For VA):** VA received \$6.6 million in funding which they broke into three chunks for three specialized programs. They went live with the RFA for the grant side in September of last year and closed it in November and everything was awarded prior to January 1st of 2024. They received about \$9.6 million and awarded 26 of those, about \$3.3 million. They held back \$1 million since not everyone was ready for the timeline and there's another RFA out now to allocate the rest of the sub awarding pot of money. Those projects will be ranked in October/early November and be awarded in December.

Additionally, with the IRA money through the Department of Forestry, VA lifted a community forest revitalization program, which captures some of VA's poorest communities when looking at the CJEST map for VA Appalachia's south side. Communities were asked to submit a short 10-minute survey to the office and then they contacted everyone on their behalf. That project went live in February and closed in April 2024. They received 28 applications and awarded 13 projects. They are almost done with contracting that work, but view this as a unique project.

Moreover, they lifted up a riparian buffer program with the last part of their IRA funding and the contracting details for this program were completed last year and currently they are out doing site prep planting and one year maintenance, and all are committed to a 15 year tree requirement.

**Ned Brockmeyer (For PA):** First Ned introduces Suzanne Hartley as the new community tree specialist for South Central Pennsylvania.

He then provides PA's IRA updates saying they opened their grant round in January and closed in April. They had about \$6.1 million available for sub-grants and had \$10.5 million in requests. 17 applications were received, and 16 will be funded, so only went unfunded.

In addition, they put out an application for a direct contracting sub award, so they're working on that application now and hope to start doing direct contracting with

communities because the \$50,000 minimum is tough for small communities, so they're trying to make it a little easier with direct contracting.

In addition to the IRA funding, they received \$2 million in asks for the standard Commonwealth applications that comes with a 20% match and they're giving about \$1.2 million for those community forestry projects, therefore combining this with the IRA funding, it's about \$8.2 million or \$7.2 million going out this grant round.

**Taryn Davidson (For DE):** DE is a little behind in getting their IRA funding rolled out. They received \$750,000 and the applications opened on September 30th. They are looking forward to seeing what applications come in and already have received calls from communities within disadvantaged areas that are interested, so they hope to have a more comprehensive update next time.

**Dan Coy (For MD):** MD just received applications for their second cohort. Between both the spring and fall cohorts, they received 47 applications for a total of \$13.5 million, which is about three times the amount of funding available. The applications are fairly evenly split between the spring and fall cohorts. Those who did not get awarded in the first round were provided feedback and encouraged to apply for the second round. Due to high demand, they are partially funding some projects while fully funding others. Of the six projects awarded in the spring, 4.5 have received their funding, with one still pending final approval. Fall cohort funding decisions will be made later as the review process continues.

**Sam Adams (For WV):** WV received \$750,000 in IRA funding last year and allocated \$575,000 to be utilized in the Community Equity grant program as pass through grants until the funds are exhausted. The first round ended May 31st, and they received 5 applications, all of which were funded by the Grant Council with the total disbursement for those awards amounting to \$113,000. Some were for inventory, tree planting, community nursery fundings, etc.

So far they've seen significant increased participation in this program, as the IRA funding has allowed them to make a lot of inroads in their communities. They've also had two new tree city USA designations, including the capital of WV, Charleston, which before was uninterested in urban forestry, but through the IRA funding has been able to get involved. Other than that, they are in talks with other entities and are hoping to double the number of applications from the first round to the second round.

**Julie Mawhorter (For NY):** Reads NY's updates on behalf of Gloria who was unable to make the meeting. NY received a total of \$13.5 million for Statewide IRA funding. They made two award announcements, on July 25th and September 20th, distributing \$12.4 million to 23 projects. The majority of the grants were for implementing existing Community Forest Management Plans, focusing on tree planting and maintenance. A smaller portion of the funding was allocated to ash tree management, which included removal and replanting efforts.

**Kesha Braunskill:** Thanks everyone for their updates and invites others to share round robin updates if they have them for the remaining few minutes in the meeting.

**Taryn Davidson:** Shared updates about Delaware's annual grant program, which is being reviewed and updated. One proposed change is requiring soil samples before species recommendations are made, as many previously planted trees aren't thriving. They are creating an RFP for contractors and nurseries to bid on, ensuring they follow specific planting guidelines, such as proper planting depth, and addressing root issues like burlap and girdling roots. The goal is for trees to thrive and reach maturity, rather than having a short lifespan by promoting better tree management practices. The application for this grant will open in 2025, along with grants for invasive species removal of Bradford Pears and Tree of Heaven.

**Rob Schnabel:** Shared an upcoming event on November 9th at a 500-acre regenerative beef cattle operation in Frederick County, where they'll be planting hedge growers and streamside forest buffers. He invited anyone curious about regenerative agriculture and seeing these grazing operations to join, saying it's always 9am - 1pm on Saturday. ([Link to event page](#))

**Anne Hairston-Strang:** Chimed in saying MD DNR's 5 million tree positions are almost full. In addition, they were a part of a successful climate pollution reduction grant for nature-based solutions coming out of EPA through a large multi-state effort which is expected to assist with planting efforts and restoration on the Eastern shore. Moreover, they are hopeful for their forest stewardship programs for underserved landowners which have received lots of grant proposals.

**Susan Minnemeyer (in chat):** wow!!  
Maryland to receive nearly \$130 million for community-driven solutions to cut climate pollution across the Mid-Atlantic Region. ([Link to article](#))

**Alexis Dickerson:** Chimed in sharing the Potomac Conservancy's fall initiative for seed collection in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and VDOF. She invited others to contact her email ([dickerson@potomac.org](mailto:dickerson@potomac.org)) if they wanted to give reports on what they're seeing in terms of seed set. Anywhere in the watershed is of interest to them. Last year was a mast year, so there are tons of seeds everywhere, but it's always good to have data points in as many places as possible of native species.

**11:00 Adjourn**