

***\*This meeting will be recorded\****

Chesapeake Bay Program  
Forestry Workgroup (FWG) and Land Use Workgroup (LUWG)  
Joint Meeting

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

10:00 AM – 3:15 PM

**Meeting Materials**

**Zoom Link:** <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/84171862525?pwd=MEpiVXQ3MTFtNlg5L0NJR1ljSS9wUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 841 7186 2525

**Passcode:** 21401

**Phone:** +1-301-715-8592

10:00 **Introductions and Announcements** – FWG/LUWG Leadership (15 min).

- GIT funding project results relevant to the LUWG and FWG
  - “Monitoring vegetation condition throughout the DelMarVa peninsula”
  - “Mapping non-tidal wetlands in areas with outdated wetland maps”
  - “Community Response to Land Use Changes”
  - “Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities”
  - “Optimizing Riparian Forest Buffer implementation for climate adaptation and resilience”
- Next Meeting(s):
  - Forestry Workgroup – Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 11 am.
  - Land Use Workgroup – [Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>](#) from 1 – 3 pm.

10:15 **Feedback on 2017/2018 Land Use Land Cover Data Products** – Katie Walker, Chesapeake Conservancy (CC), and Sarah McDonald, USGS (45 min).

Katie will present feedback received during the review of the new high-resolution land use data, focusing on the forest and tree canopy classes. Additional feedback from the group will be solicited. Sarah will discuss potential improvements to the forest and tree canopy related classes including:

- Tree canopy over turf grass (buffer distances and illogical transitions)
- Forest class (redefine to exclude most narrow linear features)
- Other Tree Canopy (redefine to include most narrow linear features)
- Harvested forest on wetlands (adding this class)

**Action Requested:** USGS and CC will respond to concerns and suggestions in producing the 2021/22 LULC data. Any changes to the data will be retroactively applied to previous data products.

11:00 **State-level Timber Harvest Data** – Sarah McDonald, USGS (30 min).

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Sarah will present state-level timber harvest data received to date and request feedback from the states on what additional data will be supplied for CAST-23 (April 2023).

**Action Requested:** The FWG will be asked to provide “better” timber harvest data by Spring of 2023.

**Action Requested:** Revive the Timber Harvest Task Force to improve the reported harvest data for CAST, Phase 7, and to serve other outcomes reliant on the high-res land use and land cover data.

11:30 **BREAK (5 min).**

11:35 **Mapping Riparian Buffers with Better Data** – Peter Claggett, USGS (60 min).

Peter will review the effects of high-res land use and hyper-res hydrography data on the CBP’s inventory of existing riparian forest buffers and buffer opportunities. He will pose the following questions to the group for discussion:

- What are “bufferable riparian areas”?
- How might changing riparian forest buffer statistics based on better data impact the Buffer Outcome?

**Action Requested:** The FWG and LUWG will be asked to suggest next steps for determining how best to interpret and use the hyper-res hydrography and land use data for inventorying riparian forest buffers and buffer opportunities.

12:35 **LUNCH (1 hour).**

1:35 **State of the Forests 2.0 Report** – Katie Brownson, USFS and Barbara McGuinness, USFS (60 min).

Katie will give an overview on the background and purpose of the [State of the Chesapeake Forests](#) reports. She will review what the key LULC and LULC change messages are needed for the report and lessons learned from the MD Forest Technical Study (scheduled for release on November 16<sup>th</sup>).

**Action Requested:** The FWG will be asked to prioritize land use analyses needed to support the State of the Chesapeake Forests report.

2:35 **“Community Tree Cover” (CTC) Indicator** - Julie Mawhorter, USFS (30 min).

Julie will review the proposed CTC indicator to support the Tree Canopy Outcome. There will be two options presented for the indicator and the FWG will be asked to choose between the two:

- Option 1) tree cover change within Census Places and Urban Areas/Clusters.
- Option 2) tree cover change within Census Places.

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**Decision Requested:** The FWG will be asked to review and approve the CTC indicator after which the Status and Trends Workgroup and Water Quality GIT will be asked to approve it. ***IMPORTANT:*** *this is a FWG decision item only. The LUWG can participate in the discussion, however, they will not be involved in the official voting process.*

3:05 **Review of Action Items, Next Steps, Questions** – FWG/LUWG Leadership (10 min).

3:15 **Adjourn**

#### **ACRONYM LIST**

LUWG: [Land Use Workgroup](#)

FWG: [Forestry Workgroup](#)

LU: Land Use

LC: Land Cover

USGS: United States Geological Survey

USFS: United States Forestry Service

GIT: Goal Implementation Team

CC: Chesapeake Conservancy

CTC: Community Tree Cover

DelMarVa: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

CAST: [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#)