



## Forestry Workgroup September Meeting

September 2nd, 2026  
9:00 - 11:00 am

**Meeting Link:** [Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)  
**Meeting ID:** 282 185 877 868 145      **Passcode:** nD9gd7Dh  
**Call:** +1 202-991-0477      **Conference ID:** 191 328 242#

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

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Petra Baldwin at [Baldwin.Petra@epa.gov](mailto:Baldwin.Petra@epa.gov).

**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:**

- Review 2025 planting and Progress data to inform updates of the Forest Buffer and Tree Canopy indicators on Chesapeake Progress
- Provide information about the Bay program reporting and verification process to inform discussions on opportunities to improve reporting of watershed forestry BMPs
- Review the near-final draft of the Healthy Forests and Trees Management Strategy

# Agenda

## **I. Welcome and Introductions (9:00 – 9:05)**

Requested Action: Non-decisional  
Lead: Nancy Sonti, USFS  
Materials: N/A

## **II. Announcements (9:05 – 9:10)**

- Staffer update
- Chesapeake Bay Shared Stewardship Agreement
- USFS/EPA MOU

Requested Action: Non-decisional  
Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS  
Materials: N/A

## **III. At-Large Member Nominations (9:10-9:15)**

We received two nominations for at-large members (Craig Highfield and Lydia Brinkley). Craig and Lydia will (re-)introduce themselves to the group and consent will be requested from voting members by email following the meeting to confirm their positions as at-large members. Two additional at-large member positions are available- please consider nominating yourself!

## **IV. Round Robin (9:15 – 9:30)**

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

Requested Action: Non-decisional  
Materials: N/A

## **V. Draft 2025 planting data for indicator updates (9:30 – 9:50)**

Katie will share 2025 planting data to be used to update the Forest Buffers and Community Tree Canopy indicators and lead a discussion on the drivers of observed planting trends. She will also share the official 2025 Progress data on watershed forestry BMPs relative to the goals set in the Phase 3 WIPs.

Requested Action: Non-decisional  
Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS  
Materials: Will be posted to calendar page when available

## **VI. Reporting and verification of Forestry BMPs (9:50 – 10:20)**

Auston will provide an overview of the Bay Program's jurisdictional reporting and verification process. Katie will review relevant land uses and BMPs for watershed forestry and lead a discussion on opportunities to improve reporting and verification of forestry BMPs.

Requested Action: Non-decisional  
Lead: Auston Smith (EPA) and Katie Brownson (USFS)  
Materials: Will be posted to calendar page when available

- VII. Healthy Forests and Trees Management Strategy (10:20-10:55)**  
Katie will summarize input received on the draft Healthy Forests and Trees Management Strategy and edits made in response. Voting members will be asked to for their consent to approve the draft Management Strategy by email following the meeting (once any final edits requested during the meeting have been made). The Management Strategy will then be sent up to the Healthy Landscapes Goal Team to integrate into the Goal Chapter.

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS

Materials: Draft Healthy Forests and Trees Management Strategy, presentation will be posted to calendar page when available

- VIII. Wrap-Up (10:55-11:00)**

- IX. Adjourn (11:00)**

**Next Meeting:** October 7th, 9-11am