



Forestry Workgroup Meeting

Nov 2, 2022

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 923 8959 7159 **Passcode:** Trees

Conference Line: 1 301 715 8592 **Passcode:** 756571

9:00 am **Welcome and Introduction-** *Rebecca Hanmer, Chair*

9:10 am **Announcements-** *Katie Brownson, USFS*

- 2022 GIT funding update

The project Optimizing Riparian Forest Buffer implementation for climate adaptation and resilience and Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities are moving forward to the second phase of GIT funding.

- Maintaining Forests in Stream Restoration project completed (2020 GIT funding project by Center for Watershed Protection)
 - Maintaining Forests in Stream Corridor Restoration: A Best Practices Guide for Projects in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia <https://owl.cwp.org/mdocs-posts/maintaining-forests-in-stream-corridor-restoration-a-best-practices-guide-for-projects-in-pennsylvania-maryland-and-virginia/>
 - Maintaining Forests in Stream Corridor Restoration and Sharing Lessons Learned Final Report <https://owl.cwp.org/mdocs-posts/maintaining-forests-in-stream-corridor-restoration-and-sharing-lessons-learned-final-report/>
- Katie will be presenting on the STAC Water Temperature workshop at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum on November 4th (Live-streaming available, [Registration Link](#))
- There is a Catalytic Coaching opportunity from Conservation Finance Network. If you would like more information, please contact Katie Brownson so she can put you in contact with the right people.
- [The Land Use Land Cover 2017/2018 Data Review Application](#) is live and ready to be used by reviewers. Please follow the [Land Use Land Cover 2017/2018 Data Review Application Instruction Documentation](#) to complete your review. Please complete this review by **November 7th, 2022.**
- **Next Meeting:** Joint FWG/LUWG meeting December 7th, 10AM-3PM. HYBRID MEETING with in-person option at CBPO in Annapolis.

9:20 am **Update on RFB Outcome for 2021**

Katie provided an update on the RFB outcome with new data from 2021. Katie opened by talking about how the forest buffer has a complicated method for calculating our outcome due to the fact that buffers have an expiration in CAST. For our SRS process and to show change, we use custom no expiration scenarios to see how many buffers were added in a given year. Because of this no expiration scenario, the numbers we look at and analyze are not the same as the numbers that get officially reported numbers from CAST.

In 2021 states planted 230.5 miles of buffers, this is the highest amount planted since 2016. Our annual goal is 900 miles per year and in the WIP 3 goals it is 2514 miles. We are still far away from meeting our goals, but it is positive sign to see more buffers getting planted. Katie ran through the different states, some added significant miles while others did not.

Katie talked a little more about the expiration scenarios and how they bring down the numbers in terms of showing cumulative progress. Buffers now expire after 15 years in CAST. This is a new change that is helping tell the story more accurately, but it is still impacting the way our story gets told. Verification of buffers has also changed over the years which impacts the number of buffers counted.

Discussion

Anne asked a few questions about the data and are understanding where we stand in terms of understanding all buffers in the watershed and where are with the 70% goal.

A conversation on clarification of buffer data from the bay program and field verifying are potential future meeting topics.

Terry Lasher of VDOF asked if it would be possible for us to get a comparison of what buffers are on the ground vs what is getting removed by CAST. Katie said that is a question we can ask at our joint FWG/LUWG meeting in December.

Conversation on what is a buffer and what we calculate occurred. Each state looks at buffers differently and that can also be an issue when it comes to calculating. We have also missed buffers done by nonprofits due to a lack of reporting. This calculation question is ripe for an agenda item, potentially one for the December joint meeting.

9:30 am Riparian Forest Buffer SRS- Logic and Action Plan Review- Katie Brownson, USFS and Sophie Waterman, CRC

Katie and Sophie reviewed the feedback received on the previous Logic and Action Plan and any updates made to the initial assessment of progress on action items.

Sophie ran through some of the feedback received and noted that no one requested a change in the rating of the logic and action plan. She also noted that with the feedback received there was a lot of looking forward to the next two years. The buffer outcome gets to write its next logic and action plan in the new year and that information will be incorporated.

Katie ran through the plan and pointed out the colors again and noted that we have a lot of yellow actions. This will take us up for the next two years as we continue to address the actions. We did have some good success such as action 1.2 "Develop state high-level Action Strategies in each jurisdiction to help focus and coordinate RFB efforts" being completed through our state action plans.

Katie then moved into the buffer SRS presentation.

9:45 am Riparian Forest Buffer SRS- Presentation run-through and discussion- Katie Brownson, USFS

Katie gave a draft version of the Quarterly Progress Review presentation and requested input from the FWG about opportunities to strengthen the presentation.

Anne noted that on the first slide that gives our outcome goal we should really make it explicate that the restore 900 miles per year and 70% watershed wide is the minimum. We need to make that explicate in our next work plan. We should also do some research to help bolster the 70% and explain why that is the appropriate number.

Folks made a few comments on the Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 1996-2021 graph and how we should give the management board more context on why we see certain trends. Teddi Stark suggested that we do not go completely negative and emphasize that we

planted the most since 2016.

If you have any specific suggestions on the context that should be given to the management board, please email Sophie.

Rebecca asked the group if we should have someone like Secretary Cindy Dunn speak to the challenges of maintaining leadership engagement as she has championed the outcome. Would just highlighting her involvement be more appropriate? The workgroup agreed that she should be at least mentioned.

Capacity is identified as one of the challenges. It was noted that we should be more specific about what mean by capacity. It was suggested that put “build capacity, staff, and outreach”.

Katie noted that we are going to further refine our asks for the management board. Rebecca asked what we need from CBP leadership to keep the momentum moving forward.

Mini Round Robin

Ned Brockmeyer: Community Tree Specialist for the Bay offer has gone out and the hope is that they will start in December

Anne Hairston Strange: MD is getting a new State Forester. Kenneth Jolly has been selected as the MD State Forester. MD has completed their carbon market report for MD 5 million trees program

Jeremy McGill: Rosey Santerre has moved on from the Chesapeake Bay Forester Position. WV State Forester is retiring soon and the plans to replace them have yet to be announced.

10:30 am **Riparian Forest Buffer SRS- Reminder on key dates and next steps - *Sophie Waterman,***
CRC

10:40 am **Round Robin**