



Forestry Workgroup June Meeting

June 3rd, 2026
10:00 - 12:00pm

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

Purpose:

- Share findings and recommendations from the recent STAC workshop- Healthy Forests: Proactive Strategies for Managing Threats and Promoting Conservation
- Discuss a draft proposal for forestry BMP inputs to the E3 scenario that will be used to inform the development of water quality planning targets
- Learn about local programs and initiatives in Virginia through presentations and a field tour

Minutes

I. Announcements

Requested Action: Non-decisional
Actions: n/a
Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS

Discussion Notes:

- The Chesapeake Bay Shared Stewardship Agreement developed in 2020 is currently being updated in collaboration with state forestry agencies and we are close to having it wrapped up. If you are interested in reviewing it let Katie know.
- Modification to Tree Canopy over Impervious (TCI) loading rate for Phase 7 of the watershed model: The Clean Water Goal Team approved a reduced loading rate for TCI in Phase 7. This is a correction that was made, as inaccurate assumptions were used when the tree canopy expert panel report recommendations was translated into Phase 6 of the watershed model. Reach out to Katie if you want a more detailed explanation.
- The next meeting on July 1st will be focused on the Management Strategy.

II. Management Strategy Planning

Requested Action: Non-decisional
Actions: n/a
Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS

Action items

- If you want to be listed as a participating partner on the MS let Katie know, state forestry agents and current at-large partners are assumed to be participating partners. If you are engaged otherwise and will be working on the outcome we can put you on the list.

Discussion Notes:

- **Patricia Nylander:** For the snapshot of signatory programs, would it only be state funded programs or should we include non-profits that are running their own programs?
- **Katie Brownson:** I think the intent was for State, but if you think there is a more relevant non-profit that is okay.
- **Ken Hyer:** The whole idea is we are trying to capture that groups exist that help us reach our target, so it makes sense to list them. But we aren't trying to turn over every stone; our goal is to capture large programs without finding every single one.
- **Katie Brownson:** If you think there is a good reason to include more than one, put them in, but it is not supposed to be exhaustive.
- **Ken Hyer:** The goal is that the management strategy is for the outcome. So it's for this workgroup to say, what gaps do we have? What issues do we have? Do we feel good that we're on track? And if we don't, these are the sort of issues we want to raise to the PSC, so that's the reason for finding out what programs we have. If we don't have enough and we know we will fall short, then we can tell the PSC.
- **Dave Montali:** When I think of forestry, being a water quality guy, I think of timber harvesting, but the work you are doing here is not timber harvesting. Have you thought of having a liaison to go between this team and the clean water goal team?
 - o **Katie Brownson:** Yes, we are working out how that interface is going to happen. We're still looped in with the clean water goal team as a source sector work group because there is a connection, with multiple forestry BMP's and land uses in the model. So our intention is to maintain that venue for providing input into the water quality related issues as a source sector workgroup as well.

III. Report out from the STAC Healthy Forests workshop

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Actions: n/a

Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS

Discussion Notes:

- **Frank Rodgers:** Can you give an example of the phrase perverse incentive? I am not familiar with that phrase
 - o **Katie Brownson:** Yes, it refers to cases where there are really high costs associated with getting permits for doing management that is perversely incentivizing more large-scale management to make it worth it to pay for all the transaction costs. By trying to regulate to make the harvest more sustainable, policies may be accidentally driving people to maybe do higher intensity management than they would otherwise.

IV. E3 Scenario Development for Forestry BMPs

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Actions: n/a

Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS

Action items:

- **If you want to review the scenarios and provide feedback to Katie, please do so until June 17th.**

Discussion Notes:

- **Dave Montali:** My takeaway from this is that you're going to be coordinating with the Ag workgroup to figure out what is E3 for the agricultural forest activities?
 - **Katie Brownson:** We aspire to coordinate, but for now they are taking a different approach to this task. So it might be that, if we aren't able to find alignment, we go up to the goal team for them to kind of weigh in on what is more appropriate, but yes I am in communication with the ag work group coordinator. We are putting forward our proposal and they are going to put forward theirs and we will see if there is negotiating that can happen.
 - **Dave Montali :** Do you know if this topic will be on their agenda this week?
 - **Katie Brownson:** I am sure that it is, I know they have a side group that is meeting and they will have a proposal in the next week or two. My understanding is that they didn't want to go any above the watershed agreement target for forestry BMPs.

V. Overview of State Farm Conservation Initiative

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Actions: n/a

Lead: Deya Ramsden and Luke Moore

Discussion Notes:

- **Rob Schnabel:** For the livestock, will you switch to rotational grazing as opposed to continuous grazing? There are big soil health and water quality benefits, and CBF and Mountains to Bay Grazing Alliance would be happy to help!
 - **Luke Moore:** I think we are already signed up, I think BSU is out today doing the virtual fencing. We already do rotational grazing where we can. We might have a 50 acre pasture with one water trough in the corner which makes it difficult, but we are still able to do it. We got a new beef cattle manager about a week or so ago, so we are constantly on the trend of doing more strip tape, electric fences, and rotational grazing. We are going to do organic matter measurements in some fields as an additional kind of soil sampling practice there, so we are definitely interested if you have more info on what you mentioned in the chat.
- **Rob Schnabel:** Do you have MS4 credits for any components, stream work MS4 credits? If so, how many?
 - **Keith Burgess:** We are not in an MS4 area.

VI. Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals Program

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Actions: n/a

Lead: Perry Verge

VII. James Riparian Consortium and James River Buffer Program Update

Requested Action: Non-decisional

Actions: n/a

Lead: Rachel Bensink and Taryn Ware

Next Meeting: July 1st 2026, 9:00 - 11:00 am.

Attendees:

Fucci, Julia, CRC	O'brien, Teagan, DOF	Cotten, Samantha, DNREC	Frank, Cacapon Inst. WV
Hyer, Ken, USGS	Corletta, Robert, DDOT	Alanna Crowley, DNR	Klingaman, Cass, DEC
Highfield, Craig	Nylander, Patricia, (DOF	Brinkley, Lydia	Schell, Joseph, DNREC
Davis, Cassandra, DEC	Peters, Christopher, FPAC-NRCS, PA	Bonnaffon, Heidi	Montali, Dave, Tetra Tech
Heller, Emily, EPA	Cinalli, Lorenzo, DPR	Durkin, Brendan, DOEE	Rodgers, Frank
Bell, Douglas, EPA	Konchar, Bella, VA	Byrum, William, FPAC-NRCS, NC	Dickerson, Alexis
Brownson, Katherine, FS, MD	Schnabel, Rob, Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Ramsden, Deya, VA DOF	Mankowski, Matt, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Sapp, Colin, DOF	Talbert, Robbie, VADOF	Verge, Perry, CBLP	Sonti, Nancy, US FS
Hairston, Dan, DOF	Moore, Luke, State Farm		