



Protected Lands Workgroup Meeting

April 7, 2026
2:00-4:00pm

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Meeting ID: 285 299 268 428 0

Passcode: yT2XP99t

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To see updated meeting policies regarding meeting security, please navigate to the last page.

Agenda

Meeting Materials:

- Materials will be posted to the [meeting webpage](#) as they become available.

Purpose:

- Hear from Chair Nominations, and vote as a workgroup (**decisional**)
- Discuss workgroup membership and position within the Healthy Landscapes Goal Team.
- Review the final draft language of the greenspace definition, refined following the February Public Access Workgroup Meeting (**decisional**).

Welcome and Introductions (2:00 - 2:15pm)

Place your name and affiliation in the chat

Ice Breaker: What are you most looking forward to this spring?

I. Chair Nominations (2:15 - 2:30)

- Lead: Sophie Waterman, USGS, PLWG Coordinator
- We have received a nomination for the Chair position: Jeff Lerner, EPA
- Jeff brings over 30 years of experience in conservation to his role with the Bay partnership. He has served as the Branch Chief for Partnership Programs in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and

Watersheds at EPA Headquarters and at the Chesapeake Bay Program. Jeff also served as chair of the Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team for several years. Prior to working with EPA, Jeff managed national conservation planning, habitat, forest and watershed conservation programs for several conservation organizations and foundations in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies focused on proactive strategic conservation. He currently supports watershed based efforts for EPA nationally including watershed financing partnerships. He began his career as a raptor biologist studying bald eagles, golden eagles and prairie falcons, still enjoys birdwatching and gets a kick out of the peregrine falcons nesting at EPA HQ.

Requested Action: **Decisional** - Approval of Chair.
Materials: Presentation Slides

II. Current Membership and the Future of the Protected Lands Workgroup (2:30-3:10)

- Lead: Sophie Waterman, USGS, PLWG Coordinator
- The workgroup will review what agencies are currently represented on the workgroup, discuss the Protected Lands Network, and how we fit into the Healthy Landscapes Goal Team.

Requested Action: Non-decisional (discussion and presentation only).
Materials: Presentation Slides

III. Greenspace Definition and tee up for Goal Setting (3:10-3:40)

- Lead: Sophie Waterman, USGS, PLWG Coordinator & Daniel Koval, CRC, PLWG Staffer
- The final definition will be shared with the workgroup, along with a kickoff conversation for the greenspace target.

Requested Action: Decisional
Decision Needed: Approval of the proposed definition.
Materials: Presentation Slides

IV. Wrap-Up and Member Share-Outs (3:40-3:55)

- This time is open for members to share items of interest to the group.

V. Adjourn (4:00pm)

- **Next Meeting: June 2nd, 2:00-4:00pm**

Updated Meeting Policies

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.