



**Protected Lands Workgroup**  
*January 2024 Meeting*

**Wednesday, January 31 3:00 – 4:30 pm**  
**Meeting Location:** Virtual

**Google Meet joining info**  
Video call link: [Click Here](#)  
Or dial: (US) +1 731-435-3160  
PIN: 643 120 139#

Attendees		
Aurelia Gracia, NPS	William Urvina, CRC	Joel Dunn, Chesapeake Conservancy
Ashley Rebert	Britt Slattery	Chase Douglas
Cheryl Wise	Faren Wolter	John Wolf
Sara E. Coleman -DNR-	Steve Storck	John P Rowe

**3:00 PM Introduction**

- Everyone introduce themselves. (Name, Organization, and Position)
- Recap the purpose of today's meeting
  - During the meeting, we will be giving an update on the GIS community of practice, an overview of our future direction and we will be presenting the first draft of our action plan for 2024-2025.
  - Specifically, we will start thinking about any ideas or action items you feel are appropriate for the workgroup or a specific jurisdiction to take on. We will be reviewing the first draft of our new work plan and would appreciate any feedback or ideas from the workgroup members.

**3:15 PM GIS Community of Practice Update**

- Present the current state of the GIS Community of Practice and provide an update on the initial meeting.
- Discuss the goals, objectives, possible future project plans for the team.

### 3:25 PM Overview of the Future Direction

- Present an overview of the workgroup's purpose, current status and achievements.
- Discuss our future direction and planning.

### 3:35 PM New Action Plan for 2024-2025

Management Approach 1: The main focus of this management approach is communication with an emphasis on collaboration and outreach. The action that will implement this approach is

1. The development of materials that will help landowner outreach, specific to each jurisdiction.

For this action, the steps include:

- a. Creating a map outlining ecosystem services throughout the watershed per jurisdiction. (Example: map illustrating species migration, high value lands, protected areas, water quality, etc.). This would also include coordination with the GIS Action team and Chesapeake Conservancy on the development of the plan and scope.
- b. Another step includes spreading awareness of existing communication tools. For example, the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership's Narrative Toolkit. As an example, we can identify one jurisdiction to develop a series of talking points that can be used when communicating with landowners. This template may be used for the other jurisdictions to develop their own similar points.
- c. Action 1 Notes
  - i. Aurelia: Maybe its not creating a map, but create text that can be used to explain the maps. Or is there a role to combine the maps for a watershed wide map.
  - ii. Sara Coleman: This is something that being explained a broader scale would be helpful

Britt slattery: look into elliot and see if we are missing anything

John Wolf

3:25 PM

Elliott presented to STAR last week. Ecosystem Services is a Cross-GIT topic of interest and, partly based on the recent STAC ES Workshop, there is an interest in multi-scale mapping of ES that could be relevant across GITs/Workgroups.

Sara E. Coleman -DNR-3:31 PM

For 2.1a, I think a shared, editable google doc would be useful- we could each weigh in from our jurisdictions

Ashley Rebert

3:41 PM

Pennsylvania is in the process of hiring an Equity Program Specialist for our Department's Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program. We will be working on a strategy to make our Program more equitable.

Katherine Brownson 3:51 PM

This is a go-back, but wanted to mention that the Forestry Workgroup is pursuing some activities potentially relevant to 2.1.a and 2.1.b to advance conservation of riparian forest buffers and urban tree canopy. As an initial step we're seeking GIT funding to compile models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to protect riparian forest buffers and urban tree canopy, including model policies and easement programs that could be replicated.

#### Management Approach 2

2. Action 1
3. Action 2

#### Management Approach 3

4. Action 1
5. Action 2

#### Management Approach 4

6. Action 1
7. Action 2

- Presentation of the proposed action plan
  - Provide an overview of the proposed action draft.
  - Highlight key elements and objectives.
- Open the floor for any clarifications or questions regarding the proposed action draft.
  - Prompt discussions on potential priorities and areas of focus.
- Next steps in the action plan development process
- Communicate timeline for incorporating feedback and finalizing the plan

#### **4:25 PM          Next Steps**

- Round Robin: Share if applicable any new projects/work being done at your respective organizations.
  - Sara Coleman: Tidal Marsh adaptation workshop. The wetland adaptation areas for Maryland are available. The report will be coming out soon.
  - Cheryl Wise: The increasing staffing for MD Open space program, so there are a number of conservation easement projects that are underway with the increased capacity.
  - Katie Brownson: Forestry workgroup wants to prioritize conservation of tree canopy. Opportunity for collaboration.
  - Faren Wolter: Chesapeake WILD grants are available now. 8.5 million available for grants. They do fund permanent conservation.
- Determine the date, time, and location (if applicable) for the next PLWG meeting.
  - Wednesday, February 28 3:00 – 4:00pm
  - Katherine Brownson
  - 4:01 PM
  - It looks like that meeting conflicts with the 2-day Beyond 2025 Symposium, just FYI
  - - Increase time for workplan?