



## **Protected Lands Workgroup Meeting**

**Wednesday June 28th, 2023**

**3:00 – 4:00pm Video call [link](#)**

**3:00 – 4:00pm**

**Or dial: (US) +1 731-435-3160 PIN: 643 120 139#**

### **Attendees**

Aurelia Gracia	Britt Slattery	Ashley Rebert
Kerri Batrowny	Michael Bonnell	Sara E. Coleman
Peter Claggett	Wuillam Urvina	Becky Gwynn
Ben Alexandro	Cheryl Wise	Damien Ossi
Faren Wolter	Joel Dunn	Katherine Brownson
Michelle Campbell	Alexander Gunnerson	

### **Introductions (Wuillam) (10 mins)**

- Rapid Coordination – Please introduce yourself and share any information about what you're currently working on or what you may require workgroup support.
- This is where I can copy the text.

### **Strategy Review System (SRS) Timeline and Overview (Britt) (5 mins)**

- Potential Adjustment of SRS Presentation
  - The SRS process is coming up and we are taking steps to get ready for that.
  - Originally we were presenting our review on August 10th. There is a proposal to shift that date sometime in November.
  - We would like to continue to work on these materials keeping with the original date in case there is another shift to the due dates.
- Logic & Action Plan – Achieved Actions
  - We pulled out some of the actions from the L&A that we could make some progress with or that have been worked on already. There is a lot that is happening with the jurisdictions .
- Narrative Analysis – A reflection of adaptations or changes
- Presentation – Summary of Logic & Action Plan and Narrative Analysis

- There are 48 actions in the plan which are arranged in 5 management approaches. Considering the input provided, we coded the actions by their degree of progress (Not Started, Underway, or Complete. We are about 35% complete, 44% are underway, and 21% are not started. In the future, we will think about scaling back the actions.
- In a future meeting, we can analyze the actions that are not started and see which ones we want to rollover to the new plan. Hopefully in the future, the new workgroup members will be included in the development of the new plan.

## Narrative Analysis (Anthony) (35 mins)

- Open Discussion – we are seeking feedback from you on any adaptations or changes from the past two years. Begin to think about your progress, challenges, and opportunities for the future related to land conservation.
- Looking back over the last two years, describe any scientific (including the impacts of climate change), fiscal, and policy-related developments that affected your progress.
  - Fiscal
    - Becky: A challenge was directing funding towards federally recognized tribes.
    - Cheryl: There was a lot of funding available for land conservation, however, there was a lack of capacity and management.
    - Becky: A challenge was directing funding towards federally recognized tribes.
    - Sara: There was a tight turnaround for submitting for the unprecedented amount of funding available.
    - Ashley: There is also a lack of staff capacity to manage the funds, not only to implement them. The funding packages weren't aligning with the goals.
  - Policy
    - Ben: There were a number of good policy changes in Maryland (ex. the Green Equity act).
    - Becky: In Virginia, we have enjoyed some type of conservation goal. The current administration has not declared a land conservation goal and there is a lot of uncertainty. There has also been the tremendous pace of solar development in opposition to land conservation.
  - Scientific
    - Becky: There is the idea that our restoration work can happen faster than it actually happens. Funders want to see results.
- Looking ahead for the next two years, what do you see as promising opportunities or developments in the conservation field that will accelerate progress?
  - Becky: State conservation funding might be available.
  - Joel: Conservancy was awarded a grant to develop their AI in regards to wetland mapping. The AI system maps wetlands with 94% accuracy. New data sets will be developed that could help set new priorities.
  - Katherine Brownson: Beyond 2025 steering committee, there are real opportunities to raise conservation in the partnership.
  - Ben Alexandro: MET round table was going over interesting things for Maryland.
- Summarize what you have learned over the past two years. What has shown great success for land conservation and what hasn't. Are there gaps to fill or factors to consider?
  - Becky: Are tribes being included? (Yes). America the Beautiful was a win for tribes because it made it easier to apply for funding focusing mainly on

### **Next Steps (Wuillam) (5 mins)**

- Review of SRS Timeline
- Reminder for GIS Contacts
- Next Meeting Date: July 26th, 2023 | 3:00pm – 4:00p