Demonstrating the Value of Retaining Forestland in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Photo by Will Parson
Chesapeake Bay Program

Greg Evans, Virginia Department of Forestry
March 3, 2017

Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Project Partners

Project Goals

PHASE I: PLANTING THE SEEDLING

Build economic case for increased

forestland retention actions by localities

valued in the TMDL.

PHASE II: GROWING THE TREE

Build consensus on policies, practices and

incentives necessary to stimulate land use

decisions that retain high conservation

value forestland.

Phase I Economic Findings:

$125 Million

Possible Future Offset Savings

Phase II Objectives

- PA duplicates VA Phase I Modeling effort

- VA/PA/localities agree on toolkit of incentives and land use policy changes

- Make recommendations to EPA and Chesapeake Bay Program

Potential "Tool Box" Mechanisms

Land Use Policies, Zoning and Regulations

Local Spending and Tax Polices

Land Acquisition

Voluntary Land Protection Techniques

Success Outcomes – Ripple Effect

Empowered governments
at local level

Policies at all government levels provide incentives for forestland retention

Quality communities and healthy watersheds at reduced cost

For further information:

Greg Evans, Virginia Department of Forestry
gregory.evans@dof.virginia.gov

Eldon James, Rappahannock River Basin Commission
ejames7@earthlink.net

Su Ann Shupp, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry
sushupp@pa.gov

James Davis-Martin, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
James.Davis-Martin@deq.virginia.gov

Mark Bryer, The Nature Conservancy
mbryer@tnc.org