

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM LAND USE WORKGROUP

Conference Call Meeting Minutes

November 4th, 2020

1:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Welcome, Roll Call, Review of meeting minutes, Action Item Update – KC Filippino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Status on updates to High-res Land Cover Data – R. Soobitsky, Conservation Innovation Center - Chesapeake Conservancy

- **Summary:** Rachel discussed the new Version 1 and Version 2 of the Land Cover/Land Use products. There are two versions being created to incorporate all local feedback. Version 1 will be available June 2021 (CBP Internal Deadline) and the official data set that goes into CAST-21 and Version 2 will be completed December 2021 (published version). Version 1 will fix the following errors: tile line/seam line, impervious vs barren, large building errors, systemic errors, large water, and false impervious that you find in new neighborhoods. Version 2 will fix wetlands incorporation Bay wide, other edits captured by local review, and parking lots wrongly classified by roads. The implication on CAST-21 between Version 1 and Version 2 will be minimal to none as mostly small area fixes will happen in Version 2. Communication between the Bay Program, Conservancy, and local governances will be critical in this process to ensure localities know their input is considered although it may not be in the CAST-21 model.

Rachel Soobitsky and the Conservancy team are also working on a comprehensive document that provides an overview of the 2017 land use decision rules. The document will include fine details to those interested in addition to a high-level digestible overview.

Review Agriculture Mapping & Forecasting Procedures – P. Claggett, USGS

- **Summary:** Peter reviewed the [agriculture mapping and forecasting procedures](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40307/forecasting_agriculture_(1).pdf) that were outlined to the AgWG during their October 15th conference call: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40307/forecasting_agriculture_\(1\).pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40307/forecasting_agriculture_(1).pdf) Overall, there were no expressed concerns from the AgWG and they appreciated the effort to reduce the amount of agricultural lands with more explicit and accurate mapping.

The updated approaches for mapping are much more refined using image segments (groupings of pixels based on similar spectral properties and spatial patterns) and parcels. Agriculture will be specifically targeted and mapped for the 2017 land use and revised 2013 land use datasets.

In addition, a new method has been developed to forecast agriculture to avoid using the true-up method again by combining the ag census and the mapped footprint.

Peter will follow-up with the AgWG in the spring after the 14 prototype counties have been mapped. Making decisions will be a challenge for the workgroups until there is some more complete mapping of all 60+ land uses.

- **Feedback Requested:** The LUWG is asked to voice any concerns or issues with the proposed mapping and forecasting procedures.

Review of Wetland Mapping Procedures – P. Claggett, USGS

- **Summary:** Peter reviewed the wetland mapping procedures that were presented to the Wetlands Workgroup in October. Mapping procedures for wetlands include new definitions of tidal/non tidal and riverine/non riverine. Valleys were mapped using geomorphons and buffered streams to distinguish riverine from terrene wetlands. In addition, all identified ponds will be classified as ponds, not wetlands. There are some issues with mapping wetlands including scale of the streams, width of the stream buffer, and distinguishing between headwater vs. floodplain riverine wetlands. Peter will present at the Wetlands Workgroup in December with additional information and an update will be provided to the LUWG.
- **Feedback Requested:** The LUWG is asked to voice any concerns or issues with the proposed mapping procedures.

Review of the Land Use Workgroup Production Schedule, - P. Claggett, USGS

- **Summary:** Peter reviewed the updated Land Use Workgroup Production and Decision schedule. Although the Land Use Workgroup meeting in January is typically cancelled, this year it will be an opportunity to discuss federal facility land uses and talk about the roll-up decisions to go from a 60+ land uses to the original 13 Phase 6 land uses. It was suggested that “bare shore” roll up to water and take it out of mixed open. This will avoid fluctuations in water levels translating to fluctuations in mixed open.
- **Action Requested:** Jurisdictions are asked to provide any information justifying a change in how the 60+ high-resolution land uses are rolled-up into the 13 Phase 6 land uses by the beginning of January when this issue will be addressed. Of particular interest is how we should handle mapped solar fields, bare construction, and timber harvests. Reach out to KC, Karl, and Peter with any concerns or information by the end of December.

Wrap-up/Upcoming Meeting Schedule – KC Filippino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

- **Next conference call:** December 2nd, 9:00 – 12:00 pm, Joint Land Use Workgroup and Forestry Workgroup Meeting.

Meeting Participants

- Peter Claggett, USGS
- Dave Montali, WV
- Karl Berger, MWCOG
- KC Filippino, HRPDC
- Ted Tessler, PA DEP
- Lisa Beatty, PA DEP
- Travis Stoe, PA DEP
- Alana Hartman, WV DEP
- Dave Montali, WV DEP
- Arianna Johns, VA DEQ
- Bill Dickinson, Environmental Policy Network VA
- Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC
- Lee Epstein, CBF
- Deb Sward, MD Dept. of Planning
- Jacob Czawlykto, Chesapeake Conservancy
- Lori Brown, DNREC
- Labeeb Ahmed, EPA
- Lisa Beatty, PA DEP
- Shannon McKenrick, MDE
- Mark Symborski, Montgomery County Planning Dept.
- Mark Dubin, UMD
- Nicole Christ, MDE
- Rachel Soobitsky, Chesapeake Conservancy
- Renee Thompson, Forestry Workgroup
- Sally Claggett, USFS
- Sarah McDonald, USGS
- Tori Nelson, UMBC
- Norm Goulet, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Whitney Ashead, CRC