

## Forestry Workgroup

### Draft 2020 Workplan Overview

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#### Big picture work items anticipated in 2020:

- 1) The FWG will continue working with CBP leadership to engineer a new Bay Buffer program with the TMDL and climate change as drivers and conservation finance as a tool.
- 2) The Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy update will be completed and used as the basis of a Shared Stewardship Agreement among the Bay States and federal agencies (planned).
- 3) A conservation finance proposal for afforestation (buffers and tree canopy) will be produced.
- 4) The second review for Riparian Forest Buffers—part of the strategic review system (SRS) — will be conducted resulting in an updated Management Strategy and 2-year Workplan.
- 5) The USFS funding for Bay partners is down (budget to be released in March). However, a new round of funding from Farm Service Agency and USFS for Chesapeake riparian foresters is being negotiated.
- 6) Progress reporting toward our primary indicators (buffers, forest conservation, tree canopy) will be re-worked with new Bay Program data (land use change analysis and CAST).
- 7) Forest Fragmentation Analysis conducted.
- 8) FWG partners pursue funding to pilot Bay Buffer Program.
- 9) Updates on Verification of forestry practices.

#### Timeline/Events

- Forest Financing February webinar mini-series
- Innovative NFWF pre-proposals due Feb 28
- Buffer Action Team goes before the Principal Staff Committee (January and April)
- PA Riparian Forest Buffer Summit (March 11-12)
- Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy Update completed (April)
- Chesapeake Bay Program Conservation Finance Forum (March 12)
- Environment Virginia (March 31-April 2)
- Earth Day-Arbor Day (April 22-24)
- State Forestry Association Centennial Celebration at the National Arboretum (May 6)
- High-Level Shared Stewardship Agreement (based on Strategy) (May or July)
- Joint Meeting with LUWG (June)
- Chesapeake Community Research Symposium (June 8-10)
- Northeast Midwest State Forester Alliance Annual Meeting (July 13-16)
- Strategic Review (SRS) of Riparian Forest Buffer Management Strategy (~June-October)
  - STAR dry-run presentation on July 23; MB Quarterly Progress Meeting August 13
- Call for Chesapeake Forest Champions (September)
- Chesapeake Bay Program Office move (~October)
- Chesapeake Watershed Forum (November)

Tentative FWG Meeting Schedule:

February 5- conference call

March 4- conference call

April 1- In-person meeting, location TBD

May 6- conference call

June 3- In-person meeting (possible joint meeting with LUWG, location TBD)

August 5- conference call

September 2- conference call

October 7- In-person meeting, location TBD

November 4- conference call

December 2- In-person meeting, location TBD