



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

1750 Forest Drive, Suite 130, Annapolis, MD 21401

February 23, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to invite you to the 2022 Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Leadership Workshop, scheduled for April 27th, 2022. We hope you will join us in this important effort to look at policy, funding, and programmatic actions to increase and improve riparian forest buffer restoration throughout the watershed. This letter serves to describe the key role we need you to play leading up to, during, and after the workshop so we can arrive at actionable steps to increase the rate of forest buffer planting throughout the watershed.

The focus of the virtual workshop will be our respective state Strategic Action Plans for Riparian Forest Buffers. The Management Board agreed these plans were needed to help increase the pace and scale of restoration in each state at the last Strategy Review System review for forest buffers determined the work is off course to achieve goals.

Prior to the workshop, there will be two webinars: March 7th (1-3 PM) and March 30th (10 AM-noon). You and your team are expected to participate in these, which will be designed to help with specific issues that are universally needed for successful buffer implementation but also have been proven to be intractable. Simultaneously, we are using EPA contractors (ERG) to meet with your state team to look at some important factors to consider putting in your plan. One result of these discussions will be a synthesis report identifying key program/policy considerations.

The pre-work should help strengthen your Strategic Action Plan that you will be presenting at the workshop.

It is important to note that because riparian forest buffers are either agriculture or urban practices, the primary workshop participants for this effort should be those that oversee policy, financing, and cross-department programming. Forestry Workgroup members can and will play a support role. The identified state leader and other representative are asked to participate in the pre-workshop webinars as well as the interviews with the contractor.

We look forward to engaging with you in the process to advance our riparian buffer implementation goals. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Brownson (Katherine.Brownson@usda.gov)

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cindy Adams Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cindy" being the most prominent.

Cindy Adams Dunn
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

AND

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michelle A Price-Fay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" being the most prominent.

Michelle Price-Fay, Acting Director
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
EPA Region 3