Meeting Minutes
April 20th, 2022
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Meeting Materials: Link

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The LUWG approved the February meeting minutes**.**
Action: Reach out to Katie Walker (kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org) with any additional contacts for people interested in the release of the 2017/18 final land use/cover data.
Action: Reach out to Peter Claggett (pclagget@chesapeakebay.net) with any additional uses of the land use/cover/change dataset outside of CAST users.

1:00   Welcome, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Minutes, Action Item Update – KC Filippino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (10 min).

   Announcements:
   ● **Decision:** The LUWG approved the February meeting minutes**.**
   ● **Announcement:** Update on recommendation to extend high-resolution LU/LC data through 2030 - *Peter Claggett, USGS*
   ● **Announcement:** PA land use cutoff/excess discussion
      ○ Potential future agenda item - acreage changes between C19 and C21, land use excess/cutoff
   ● <mark>**Next Meeting:**</mark> Wednesday, May 18th from 1:00 - 3:00 PM.

1:10   Planned release status and products of final land use/cover data - Katie Walker, Chesapeake Conservancy (15 min).
   Katie presented on the release status of the final 2017/2018 Version 2 land cover and land use data and the 2013/14-2017/18 land cover and land use change products. She noted that they are still making progress on the data products and addressing unanticipated errors. The data will be ready for public release in the first two weeks of May.

   Discussion
   KC Filippino: How does this affect 2021/22 data?
   Katie Walker: It shouldn't affect that timeline. UVM is on schedule for the land cover analysis and we've started talking to them about changes to LC that need to happen. We're only getting MD and DE NAIP data this year anyway. Some of the ancillary data collection timeline has shifted, but that's about it.
   Karl Berger: If you're aware of people using this data for things other than CAST, it would be great to communicate that back to Jackie/Katie/Peter. Maybe we can do a future agenda item on one of the uses.

Katie Walker: Please share contacts with me of folks who would be interested in hearing when data will be released.

James Martin (in chat): What is the release plan? To whom? What data forms will be available? Where? Press/Media?

Katie Walker: I reviewed the list of data products in February (presentation is [here](#)). We have a contact list of local partners, federal and state partners, etc. for contacts.

Action: Reach out to Katie Walker (kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org) with any additional contacts for people interested in the release of the 2017/18 final land use/cover data.

Action: Reach out to Peter Claggett (pclagget@chesapeakebay.net) with any additional uses of the dataset outside of CAST users.

1:25   Overview of improvements to Version 2 data - Jacob Czawlytko, Chesapeake Conservancy, Sarah McDonald, USGS, and Labeeb Ahmed, USGS (60 min).
Jacob, Sarah, and Labeeb gave an overview of the improvements made to the 2017/2018 Version 2 land cover and land use data. See presentations [here](#). The LUWG raised questions about the iterative process and continuous improvement of the datasets and how that affects the consistency of the data. Katie mentioned there will not be a V1 and V2 in future datasets, only the final version. Peter mentioned the data will be retrospectively updated when there are methodology changes and an addition of classes to ensure consistency over time. There was still confusion about maintaining consistency between V1 and 2 of the 2017/18 dataset.

1M land use & land use change - Jacob presentation
KC Filippino: This seems like an iterative process, will it always be that way?

Jacob Czawlytko: We're always going to strive to make it better.

Katie Walker: We have budgetary and timeline constraints that make it an iterative, adaptive process. In the next phase of production we won't have Version 1 and 2.

James Martin (in chat): Are we properly weighing the value of having consistency between these datasets against the continuous improvement that seems to be the default?

Sarah McDonald (in chat): As we improve classes and add new classes, we will go back and update the previous years to be consistent over time.

Peter Claggett: If new classes are added or changes made to the methodology, we retrospectively update all the earlier datasets to ensure that it is consistent over time.

James Martin: how is that consistency manifested from the changes that Jacob just went over?

Peter Claggett: There won't be v1 and v2 in future years, only the final version.

Sarah McDonald: By continuously improving our classifications we're ensuring adaptability to improve with science and with data.

Tree canopy land use updates - Sarah presentation
Karl Berger: FWG might want to see the classification of interior development forest. This issue came up a few years ago.

Mark Symborski: Why can't the "tree canopy, other" class be "forest" or function like a forest? Is the algorithm identifying all the forest that is there?

Sarah McDonald: Forest definition states it has to be contiguous tree canopy patches, with 1 acre area and width of 72 meters. The "tree canopy, other" and "forest" are treated the same in CAST because they roll up to the same class.

James Martin: Expressing concern that whatever we call tree canopy over turf, it is simulated as turf grass, meaning it is fertilized. Not sure this area of trees is fertilized.

Sarah McDonald: We need to have these conversations for the 2021/22 data. Land surrounding development is pretty compact and won't function the same as forest soil.

Peter Claggett: Not just fertilization should be considered, we also need to take into account LU history of the development as well.

Lee Epstein (in chat): Whether it was Mark or Sarah who noted this, the other reason for maintaining a difference between "other tree canopy" and "forest" (and handled in part by the definition of forest) is that only the wider tree area ("forest", at least 72 meters at its widest) has some characteristics of real forest for habitat purposes.

High-res land use change - Sarah presentation
KC Filippino: Will we be able to see the differences between V1 and V2 land use change?
Sarah McDonald: Yes, most likely.

2:25   Comparison of Version 1 and Version 2 data - Peter Claggett, USGS (20 min).
Peter presented a comparison of the 2017/2018 Version 1 and Version 2 land cover and land use data and the 2013/14-2017/18 land cover and land use change products.

2:45   Priorities for 2021/22 mapping - Peter Claggett, USGS (15 min).
Peter gave an overview on the priorities for the 2021/2022 land cover and land use data.

Discussion
KC Filippino: None of this will impact CAST until after Phase 7, right?
Peter Claggett: Yes.
Karl Berger: The change between 2013/14 to 2021/22 will be put into CAST25, right?
Peter Claggett: Yes.
James Martin: Spotsylvania solar project might not be built in time to be captured in the 2020 imagery.

3:00   Adjourn

Participants

Jackie Pickford, CRC	Arianna Johns, VADEQ
KC Filippino, HRPDC	Cassie Davis, NYSDEC
Peter Claggett, USGS	Lisa Beatty, PADEP
Karl Berger, MWCOG	Katie Brownson, USFS
Katie Walker, Chesapeake Conservancy	James Martin, VA DCR
Sarah McDonald, USGS	Mindy Neil, WVDEP
Jacob Czawlytko, Chesapeake Conservancy	Deb Sward, MDP
Labeeb Ahmed, USGS	Megan Gallagher (GIS), Caroline County

Lori Brown, DE DNREC
Nicole Christ, MDE
Lee Epstein, CBF
Ken Choi, MDP
Jason Vogl, DE
Mark Symborski, MCPD
Allie Wagner, NVRC
Dave Montali, WV Tetra Tech
Erik Fisher, CBF

George Onyullo, DC DOEE
Gopal Bhatt
Isabella O'Brien, TJPDC
Lori Mae Brown
Ruth T. Cassilly, UMD
Sally Claggett, USFS
Shannon McKenrick, MD
Young Tsuei, DC DOEE