

Tree Canopy SRS Request to Management Board – 2/25/21

Background

One of our top priorities coming out of the last SRS Review was to **Build state and local capacity through new funding and policy strategies**. State urban and community forestry programs provide vital assistance to community efforts, but additional local capacity building, funding streams, partnerships and policy tools are needed to counteract all the tree canopy losses occurring from development, pests and diseases, storms, and other factors.

To this end, one of our main Workplan actions for the next 2 years is to convene a Funding & Policy Roundtable, engaging key agency leadership and staff, nongovernmental partners, and subject-matter experts in charting a set of forward-thinking strategies and recommendations to advance Bay-wide and state-level Tree Canopy efforts. Addressing disparities in tree canopy cover in low income areas and communities of color will be a focal point in these strategies, in alignment with CBP's DEIJ commitments.

Request

Since the urban and community forestry programs, policies, and needs vary significantly across the jurisdictions, we are requesting state-level discussions between the Management Board member(s) and State Tree Canopy lead(s) to advance coordination, collaboration and leveraging of resources.

The Chesapeake Tree Canopy Coordinator (Julie Mawhorter, US Forest Service) will organize and facilitate these state-level conversations in April, getting input from all parties on the agenda and participants to include. Common topics will include:

- Overview of the state urban and community forestry program-key activities, priorities and needs
 - o Note any topics where the Management Board member(s) could assist with needs or connections
- Brainstorm a list of state agency financial and technical assistance opportunities that could be leveraged to better maintain and expand local tree canopy (e.g. stormwater, public health, climate, community development, environmental justice, environmental education, etc.)
 - o List does not need to be exhaustive or fully researched, just a preliminary scoping to inform further information gathering
- Get input on possible topics and people to include in the Funding & Policy Roundtable, as well as any GIT Funding proposal ideas
- Other state-specific topics requested

List of State Tree Canopy Leads

State	Tree Canopy Lead
DC	Robert Corletta (DDOT), Jim Woodworth (DOEE)
Delaware	Kesha Braunskill (DE Forest Service)
Maryland	Marian Honecny (Maryland DNR Forest Service)
New York	Gloria VanDuyne (NY DEC Lands and Forests)
Pennsylvania	Jason Swartz, Matt Keefer (PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry)
Virginia	Lara Johnson (Virginia Dept. of Forestry)
West Virginia	Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute)