



13th Annual Meeting

Conserving the Chesapeake – Accelerating Beyond 2025: Toward 30x30

November 9 - 10, 2022

National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown WV

Room: The Gallery, Commons Building, first floor

Overview

Partners throughout the Chesapeake have been achieving and setting examples for large landscape conservation for many years. Yet amidst rising ecological, political, and social stressors, it is urgent to take stock of our resources and determine ever more effective means to achieve collective impact to stay ahead of the threats and protect our future.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement sets out goals and metrics for Bay conservation and restoration through 2025, aiming to protect 2 million acres above a 2010 baseline. Science tells us that to perpetuate biodiversity and mitigate climate change impacts, we need to do even more, protecting a more significant portion of the watershed by 2030 and beyond. The U.S. aims to conserve at least 30% of lands and waters by 2030 (“30x30”) as part of an international push toward sustainability. The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) as a partnership has committed to striving to reach the 30x30 goal for the Bay watershed, with some aiming for as much as 50% in the ensuing years. Though the targets may vary among partners, we know that we need to urgently accelerate the rate and scale of lands that are protected, to meet several complementary benefits.

How can we use the power of our collaborative – positioning our resources, relationships, and programs – to achieve more, faster, together? How are we centering people and equity in our work? How can CCP serve to catalyze and contribute to progress as a backbone?

At the meeting, we aim to:

- Energize our thinking with some inspiring examples from different landscapes.
- Devise a common framework to provide a unified basis of collective action and support.
- Spark state-level 30x30 strategies which will guide and inform our collective work.
- Develop clear next steps.

AGENDA

Day 1 Wednesday 11/9:

10:00 Registration/ Check-in

11:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview:

Co-conveners Wendy O’Sullivan of the National Park Service and Joel Dunn of the Chesapeake Conservancy will welcome us with initial remarks. Our facilitator, Bill Potapchuk, will lead introductions and exercises designed to reacquaint ourselves with each other at our first face-to-face annual meeting in three years. We will then review the agenda and the ground rules.

Noon Lunch (Dining Hall in the Commons)

1:15 Building a 30x30 Plan: Lessons from California

California has developed an ambitious, multi-faceted plan to achieve their 30x30 goal. Dr. Jennifer Norris, Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, will join us via Zoom and provide an overview of their efforts with an emphasis on lessons learned.

Jennifer serves as Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat at the California Natural Resources Agency. She leads the state's 30x30 initiative and oversees "Cutting Green Tape" in support of landscape-scale habitat restoration. Jennifer has held numerous federal and state government positions, including most recently as supervisor of the Sacramento Office for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She has extensive experience in conservation policy, endangered species protection, and ecosystem management. She holds a B.S. in Resource Policy and Planning from Cornell University, an M.S. in Conservation Biology from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of New Mexico. When she is not at work, she can be found exploring wild beaches, forests, and deserts with her family.

2:00 Protecting and Conserving Land: Acquisitions and Strategies

Brad Rogers, Executive Director of the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, will present the Reimagine the Middle Branch project, which is engaging and connecting people, parks, projects & programs in South Baltimore communities.

Phil Wenger, CEO of the Lancaster Conservancy will share how partners protected a combined 2,200 acres of contiguous forest through multiple acquisitions which has now led to a new state park with the working name of the Susquehanna Riverlands State Park.

2:30 Break

2:50 Building the Elements of a Collective 30x30 Approach for the Chesapeake

Working at tables and in plenary, we will discuss what we learned from California's effort and how to adapt it to the Chesapeake. Our goal is to build a **strategic frame** as a platform to support state-specific approaches to achieving 30x30 or other ambitious targets.

4:10 Movement Break

4:15 Defending Conserved Land: The Threat of Data Centers and Energy Infrastructure

Data centers are sprouting across the watershed. Their energy needs are HUGE. Chris Miller from the Piedmont Environmental Council will walk us through the realities of increased demands for electricity using renewable energy.

4:45 Closing Reflections | Preview of Day 2

5:00 Adjourn Day 1

Participants not already settled in their rooms will want to move cars and luggage to the lodges prior to dinner.

EVENING – Commons Building

5:30 Dinner (available 5:30-7:00) – Dining Hall

7:30 Evening Activity: Reconnecting (at the bar and/or patio firepits?)

Day 2 Thursday 11/10:

Breakfast is available beginning at 6:30 AM, coffee/tea always available near meeting rooms

8:30 Reflections, Agenda Review, and a Welcome

We are pleased to welcome the new Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Dr. Kandis Boyd who will share opening thoughts.

8:50 An Update on Chesapeake WILD

Mike Slattery of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will share an update on Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD), which recently released its first round of grants.

9:00 Update on Protected Lands Database

We have updated numbers on our progress. Renee Thompson (USGS) will brief us on the updated data including what it will take to reach 30x30. Her presentation will include state-by-state data.

9:20 Meeting in State Teams

After providing guidance on the process, we will meet in state teams to further our 30x30 work. Each team will identify major initiatives already underway and then strategically analyze opportunities, barriers, and steps toward formulating a more ambitious land conservation game plan.

<u>Meeting Room</u>	<u>State Breakout</u>
Gallery	Maryland
105 I-East	Virginia
111 I-East	Pennsylvania
110 I-East	West Virginia

11:00 Reports from State Teams | Creating the Game Plan

We will hear reports from the state teams and zero in on strategies and steps that are responsive to the gaps and opportunities identified by the state teams. How can the CCP add value?

11:45 Pulse Check and Instructions for the Afternoon

12:00 LUNCH BREAK

Participants are encouraged to sit with others at lunch and “chew” on ideas that came up this morning – Are we going in the right direction? What else needs to be considered? Dream up more ideas...

1:00 Refining our Work | Action

Developing momentum toward our stretch goals is incredibly important to success. This conversation is focused on momentum and action.

- *What ideas emerged over lunch?*
- *Looking across the watershed, have we identified elements that will contribute to the whole, or is something missing?*
- *How can the CCP and all of us work on establishing and maintaining momentum? What additional resources are needed?*

2:15 Next Steps

What do participants feel compelled, motivated, empowered to do, explore, pursue, and make happen?

2:45 Closing Thoughts

3:00 Adjourn

Thank you to all presenters and participants!