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## Maryland State Team

State Convenor: Cheryl Wise

Facilitator: Britty Slattery

### Key Strategic Steps

- **Create further connectivity and platforms for resource and knowledge sharing:**

*Challenge: Lack of capacity for land trusts - need for further connectivity among partners*

- CCP - how can CCP foster further connection about the resources for the benefit of all?
- Chesapeake WILD Community for Innovation and Action (CIA)
- Create a network of networks
- Accessing Park Service Funding to address capacity needs:
  - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)  
national park service

- **More consideration for underserved communities in land protection strategy:**

*Challenge: Mapping efforts sometimes neglect to include social values (ex: the value and small piece of protected green space could have in an urban area.*

*How can we incorporate other values ( environmental justice, equitable access to nature) into the mapping?*

- Broaden our definitions/criteria for most valuable lands to accommodate equity concerns
- Consider rural communities as well in these definitions

- **Need for a more inclusive CCP: How is there a connection and benefit for land acquisition for BIPOC communities?**

*Challenge: lack of BIPOC voices in the room*

- How can the needs of people be more meaningfully incorporated into this realm?
- What will the direct benefits be to communities?
- How does the language need to be changed
- BIGGEST gains vs. MOST VALUABLE gains in terms of equity

- Need to connect and invite leaders from BIPOC-lead organizations to these discussion - to the CCP - **Karen Stupski** had some ideas
- Compensation for time considered in all things
- **Need for a universal tool for small land trusts with lower capacity to report their acquisitions**
  - Challenge: Lack of capacity for land trusts in reporting their acquisitions*
    - Incredibly simple and easy to use (user friendly reporting tool)
    - Britt idea: get a CSTREAM intern to create this?
- **Advocacy to address local land-use policy**
  - Challenge: Need for awareness about the importance of land conservation to local leadership*
    - Working with the “Local Leadership Workgroup” in the bay program that works with local leadership to educated them on environmental issues
      - Could land protection be implemented into this programming?
      - Need for funding to allow monitoring/maintenance of restored/protected land

### **FUNDING Challenges**

- **Funding pt. 1: Streamline funding sources and approval processes though DNR**
  - Challenge: Money administered by state level programs (DNR, NCRS) is often inaccessible (ex: program open space funding)*
    - *Need for change in criteria (ex: requirements on size limits access from smaller urban projects)*
    - *Shovel ready projects being slowed down by state agency processes*
      - *“Land trusts can only move as fast as a funding partner”*
      - *“DNR slowing down applications coming from the land trusts”*
  - Need designated DNR administrative staff (more attorneys) to specifically review projects and get them rolled out (6-12 months for review)
  - Is there a way to stream the process and simplify the process? (“remove the lawyers from the process”)

- Could reputable land trusts operate like a “county” and be given the jurisdiction to carry out these land deals?
- **Funding pt 2: Land Banking**
  - DNR statutes allow them to acquire land for a short period time (2 years)
  - Advocated for statutes which allow land banking by local governments for a longer period of time?
  - Can we use more of a community land trust model? (modeled after affordable housing community land trust projects)
- **Funding pt. 3: Addressing match as an issue in non-DNR funding programs**

*Challenge: inability to access funding due to match requirements*

  - Forest Legacy
  - RCPP Regional Conservation Partnership Program
    - Ex: used DOD REPI as match, and were not able to use match because it was not in hand - was not seen as eligible as match
    - American farmlands is working to fix some of these bottlenecks
    - REMOVE MATCH - equity issue

## How CCP Can Help

- **Providing a platform for information and resource sharing to address expressed challenges**
- **Inviting more diverse leadership for the table - may require flexibility about how land protection might look (community focus and benefit)**
- **Having a policy analyst create a repository to make good policy go further**
- **Collaboration to streamline funding sources and approval processes though DNR and develop ideas for other creative funding opportunities**  
(examples:
  - Idea: Addressing DNR capacity challenges by allowing reputable land trusts to operate like a “county” and be given the jurisdiction to carry out these land deals?
  - Increasing capacity through the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

- Advocating to get match requirements removed on DOD land protection programs
- Utilizing a community land trust strategy for green space

## Our Next Steps

See above

## Other Notes

### Initial Questions:

- What is our role as MD? Have we already met our 30 x 30 goal?
  - Even though we have already achieved our state (watershed portion) 30 x 30 goal, we can help the watershed as a whole meet the goal by continuing protection
  - Idea: county plans - Or breakdown further by county and see how smaller jurisdictions are meeting this goal
- Opportunity to add water goals: who has this information, how can we incorporate this or combine?
- What can be added or changed on the map:
  - Other land trusts maps: for use on a smaller scale, by practitioners (these workshop maps are for higher level policy discussions) - but they should be accurate in order for the most effective advocacy

## Pennsylvania State Team

State Convenor: Lauren Imgrund

Facilitator: Aurelia Gracia

### Key Strategic Steps

- There's only the CCP most valued lands. It would be great to include water areas that are already healthy, **look at a guiding post** and use that to expand your conservation and protection or look at areas where no one is working and start there. Weighing forest track versus small community areas and **balance these resources** when moving forward with conservation/protection. How do we balance dark green spaces versus white spaces (most pressure/parcel prices)?
- **Farmland and agriculture lands** - more money for AG easements. Concerns with mapping of farmlands. Surge of LWCF funding which may be used for funding and alignment with federal priorities to gain that funding.
- Target the communities that are **ripe for a movement** - use a compelling message and move forward.
- Perry County and Clearwater identify as an important **Amish community** to be protected but lack capacity currently.
- DCNR, Federal, local Land Trusts etc. have a will to expand but its a resource issue. Folks might **resonate with other goals** such as clean water, drinking water, forestry, farm bills instead of 30x30.
- Ag interests hit multiple interest groups (land,ag, conservation), but need to focus on ag lands but attach the advocacy and strings that focus on conservation. \*Growing Greener example\*
- Rethinking our pitch and messaging
- We should have a 4 billion bond with each bay state

### How CCP Can Help

- **LWCF** and the Appalachian Trail focus which CCP could help with preparing
- NPS to help with funding of **cultural/historical** sites
- Priorities will change for the state but the partnerships can help with sources of new federal funding. **Helping guide these funding sources**; mining used an example.

- **\*\*\***Matching funds and leveraging - messaging using the rate we need and converting to a dollar amount? Does this work as a message/backlog for conservation funding?
- Choose Clean Water Coalition - funding and federal sources to provide funding to these partners/friend groups.
- **New additions** to CCP who affect the voting/bill makers and state funds available to target conservation funds.
- **\*\*\***List of federal funding sources and creating a map version that fits the criteria \*details on use and analysis
- **Marketing Campaign** that all states can use, make a case for land protection, can be used in communities and all states but bring it back to the Bay (doesn't need to be the main focus). \*Spit Fire Communication/ Narrative Tool Kit and it's on ChesapeakeConservation.Org- creating an update of these\*

### Our Next Steps

1. CCP meeting to explore private partner funding, might be a four year process but start that process. Marketing focus targeted towards legislators.
2. Tom and Ashely/ DCNR to serve as a convenor to bring in people such as the Land Trust
3. Bringing in state organizers, some are missing from this meeting. Conserve PA and the County WHIP Organizers.

### Other Notes

## Virginia State Team

State Convenor: Brett Glymph

Facilitator: Genevieve LaRouche

**\*\*SEE FLIP CHART NOTES...fast & furious conversation so I missed details\*\***

### Key Strategic Steps

- **Where is important to conserve and why?**
  - 22 land trusts and state agencies, each with its own strategic priorities
    - NOVA region, conservation dollars aren't often allocated there
    - Shenandoah Valley, prime ag lands and land heritage
    - Headwaters/drinking waters
    - Lands adjacent to Quantico/DoD
    - Urban access to parks/greenspaces
    - Expand park and natural areas → removing legislative limits is important
  
- **What are the keys to successfully conserving the lands? [approx. 1 million ac in 7 years)**
  - VA PRIORITY → Access federal funding, streamline federal grant process  
...also helps reduce administrative capacity burden
    - Billions available but difficult to access and create timely agreements
    - State and other funding for match dollars = critical (or remove match requirements altogether)
    - Create a pass-through mechanism...federal gov't provide funds to a single entity to distribute funds to land trusts as needed
  
  - Dedicated funding - how best to leverage multiple funding sources?
    - BLM has broader authority to use LWCF dollars - partnership opportunity
    - Better access to state and other funding for match requirements
  
  - Communications strategy for land conservation
    - Create geographic, place based descriptions that tell conservation success stories or conservation need



## How CCP Can Help

- Change VA legislation that limits expansion of parks/natural areas
- Form a consortium to work with “green” developers/business models
- IMPT: 30X30 metrics (ac conserved) may not fully account for social/equity challenges articulated as important “success” criteria
  - ARPA (COVID relief money for parks) → equity issues, not acres conserved
  - Regional greenhouse gas → equity issues, not acres conserved
- Are the “right” partners engaged (e.g., developers/investors, USDA/NRCS)?
- **Institutionalizing advance mitigation projects (e.g., solar fields)**

## Our Next Steps

- **How do we bring a 30X30 idea to VA? Gov does not have a specific acreage goal - resiliency (flood mitigation), Ches Bay 2025, public access.**
  - Work with partners and VOF to clear a backlog of projects (is this captured correctly??)
  - Accelerate the throughput of dollars by removing barriers (e.g., getting money to shovel/closing ready projects, administrative capacity burdens)
  - Does VA want a 30X30 plan...50X50? What comes next?
  - **\*\*check flip charts, did not capture the whole conversation\*\***
- **How can we build upon existing efforts in VA?**
  - Lots of funding for coastal areas and migratory bird habitats (focus on waterfowl for grants)
    - Ches WILD funding can be used for permanent easements
  - VOF has a capacity-building program that is successful
  -
- **Where is our state best positioned to achieve VAs goals?**  
**\*\*didn't get to this one\*\***

## Other Notes

### Barriers

- organizational priorities and capacity
- Reluctant to invest money in lands that may be negatively impacted by sea level
- The bay watershed landscape may not be a priority for some partners

## **West Virginia State Team**

State Convenor: John Rowe

Facilitator: Mike Slattery

### **Key Strategic Steps**

- What's most important to a 30x30 plan?
  - CAPACITY
  - Forward Thinking for priority interests
  - WV Ascend program
    - Expansion to Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan counties
      - Region 9: quasi-governmental planning agency
        - Very productive
        - Water source protection
      - Regional planning council
    - Pieces exist to work, we just need to assemble them

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### **How CCP Can Help**

- Database to ID Base information?
  - Conservation oriented
- Coordinate with Public Lands program?
- Helping understand necessary preparation for Grants
  - Better prepare orgs so they're ready to apply
  - Don't need planning grants or multiple rounds of guidance
- Engage with county commissioners to hear their priorities and fold them in to 30x30

**Key Partners:** Eastern Panhandle Land Trusts

## Our Next Steps

- Capacity and Planning Assistance
- Engage with local decision makers
- **Land Legacy for WV, not 30x30**
- Parcel Database for prioritization

## Other Notes

- WV NFWF grant for James Watershed spiny mussel restoration
- Forest Legacy funding for “big chunk” projects
- Flood protection for headwater communities
- Historic value + wildlife value + water quality value
  - What projects speak to the broadest audience?
  - Intersection of most values
- Composite maps, while helpful, can't pinpoint priorities
- WV State Wildlife action plan prioritizing Conservation Focus Areas
  - Key established maps that show what's important for Biodiversity
  - Also list of key partners you want to contact for each respective geography.
- Prioritization models already exist for groups to target Jefferson and Berkeley county land. Safe Water Collaborative through WV Rivers coalition, Farmland Protection Board of Jefferson and Berkeley Counties, Jefferson County battlefield trust, Land Trust of Eastern Panhandle, Shepherdstown, Charlestown, Branson, Harpers Ferry, The Conservation Fund at one point.
- Momentum is there, primarily for **drinking water protection**
  - Clean Water RF
  - Backlog of infrastructure needs in WV, tough to prioritize land protection
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
  - Framed to look at both access and healthy lands
  - Big money, but states may not be ready to accept projects

- Open to green infrastructure being secondary goal of primarily recreation projects
- LWCF: need to coordinate with states as well as 50% match, big barrier
  - WV Set-aside exists
- Land Conservation Caucus in WV?
  - TPL has Land and Water fund coalition
- NPS Marking Milestones report
  - Section that breaks down type of land funding per state
  - WV:
    - Farmland Protection Program: 700k+ for land conservation
    - Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund: ~400k (DNR)
    - Grant Program and DNR Acquisition funding: ~390k
    - Wildlife Resources Land Acquisition: ~4+ Million
- Paul Johansson: Strategically connect WV to regional context beyond the state
  
- Vulnerability of development increases pressure and raises costs.
  - Sort of NIMBY attitude in purple areas heavily surrounded by red
  - Clean water angle or recreation angle rather than 30x30
- We Drink the Delaware → We Drink the Potomac
- Properties are being sold quickly
- Dr. Niko Zegre
  - Looking at value of WV water for downstream users
- Water is the next big WV resource
  - **Needs to be clean to be worth anything**
- Safe Water collaborative
  - Tons of potential money to be generated for WV land conservation
- Dedicated funding Sources?
- RIAWA, billions of dollars for wildlife protection for State Agencies and Nonprofits
  - States need to figure out how to prepare to make use of it
  - How ready are we?
- WV Rivers Coalition
  - State Legislature advocating

- Money is coming, we need the capacity
- Admin. Grant Staff, etc.
- Can the grant be managed once you receive it?
- Abandoned Mine Lands Fund, Grant County, Pendleton county
  - "Expiration Date" for some money
  - Relocate solar pressure?
- If WV can't plan so far ahead, look for other orgs that want to fill that role
  - Local Communities, Nonprofits, etc.
  - Are there affiliate areas?
  - Overall State Group
    - "SWAT Teams" for each set of counties that work together
    - Split by Type of land? Geography?
- Also have to jump on opportunities as they arise - can lead to distraction
- Need to start planning so that today's investments will continue doing what they need to in 50-100 years
  - Do it in a way that prioritizes places with multi-value overlap
- Farmland Protection Boards have plans for Jefferson and Berkeley priorities
- Forest and Drinking Water group convening for WV
  - State Revolving Fund Dollars for water quality
  - Convening workshop in March 2023
  - Potential for sub-revolving funds for more local entities
    - Keep funds at the ready for opportunistic conservation
    - Some ability to build capacity
  - Hard to plan out when your funding is only guaranteed for 2 years
- There is value in easements, but more can be done with overlapping values
  - Conserved land, with trails, in water quality priority areas, that also help biodiversity

- Places that cover the most ground
- Individual parcel database?
  - ID the biggest landowners
  - People moving or not managing their land
  - Exists for WV, but isn't conservation oriented

#### -Chicken or Egg issue

- Have money but land isn't available
- Have land but money not available
- Need to determine what qualifies as "Conservation-Ready" project
  - Implementation readiness is different from complete readiness
- All about acquisition and easements
  - Reach 30x30
  - Use restoration and other money as seed money for larger land acquisition dollars.

#### Readiness

- Mapping
- Political and funding alignment
- Multi-state/ region collaboration
- Buy-in from other involved orgs
  - Region 9, etc
  - Maintenance budget
  - Aid for matching grants
    - Morgan County
- **Having 30x30 targets of opportunity with access, water quality, and stewardship appeal is important to get economic buy-in from relevant entities in the region**

- County Commissioners key to WV infrastructure money
- Cost of living increasing
  - No workforce housing
- Conservation projects can be recreation projects
  - Fear of shift from extractive industries to tourism economy
  - Reluctance to embrace it.