



14th Annual Meeting

Empowering Conservation: Practical Tools and Impactful Strategies

November 8 - 9, 2023

National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown WV

Room: The Gallery, Commons Building, first floor

Agenda: Day 1 Wednesday

9:30 am Learn more about the history of the land we are working to protect and Indigenous approaches to conservation with Chief Stephen R. Adkins of the Chickahominy Tribe. This is the closing session of the National Park Service's Chesapeake Gateways Training, and CCP Annual Meeting participants are invited to join. Chief Adkins may be joined by a special guest.

This session is in the Gymnasium, adjacent to the Commons Building.

10:15 Registration/ Check-in

We are in the Gallery Room in the Commons Building

11:00 Opening: Conversation to Inspire Conservation

Co-conveners Wendy O'Sullivan of the National Park Service, Joel Dunn of the Chesapeake Conservancy, and Mike Slattery of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will welcome us with initial remarks. After interactive introductions among all participants, we will hear lightning talks to learn from successes around the watershed, to set the tone for our time together. Speakers are:

- Vince Leggett, Blacks of the Chesapeake. Elktonia and Carr's Beaches.
- Mike Powell, The Nature Conservancy. Hours Trust Property
- Andrea Murrell, Clearwater Conservancy. Scotia Barrens.

12:00 Lunch

1:15 How are We Doing? Progress and Opportunities in Land Conservation

After an overview of the new protected lands data by Aurelia Gracia, NPS, and GIS team, we will review progress in each state and explore conservation opportunities with maps of protected lands and remaining large parcels. There will be three groups divided up by regions:

- Maryland/ DC/ Delaware (Main Room)
- Virginia/ West Virginia (Lounge/Bar)
- Pennsylvania/ New York (Roosevelt Room)

2:45 Break (light refreshments provided)

3:05 2025 and Beyond: CESR Report and the Chesapeake Bay Program. What's working and what's not in land conservation strategies in the watershed?

This is our 14th annual meeting. We have made tremendous progress. 9.1 million acres protected, and collectively, we know we need to do more, faster and more equitably. We will start this session with table conversations focused on the long view, what has worked and what might we do better or differently in our land conversation strategies moving forward.

The Bay Program, as a whole, is also engaging in this analysis. The recently released [CESR report](#) (Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response) offers a detailed analysis of progress and has recommended significant changes in Bay program strategy. A Beyond 2025 Steering Committee is convening regularly to chart a course forward. Kristin Saunders (UMCES) and Wendy O'Sullivan (NPS) will provide an overview of these efforts.

After Q&A, we will focus on ensuring that land conservation's essential role in Bay health is fully recognized and the strategies are aligned.

4:40 Closing Reflections and Preview of Day 2

5:00 Adjourn

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Game Night and Networking

After dinner, join us in the bar and the Roosevelt Room for games and conversation. Fire pit will be available.

AGENDA: Day 2: Thursday

9:00 Reflections and Agenda Review

9:15 Building Our Momentum

We have learned from you over the past year! CCP has intentionally created state-focused conversations starting with our 2022 Annual meeting and subsequent working sessions in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Ben Alexandro, CCP Program Manager, will share what we learned and our program focus for the coming year as we work toward protecting 30% of the watershed by 2030 ("30x30"). Ben will then be joined by CCP partners including Andy Loza (WeConservePA), Josh Hastings (Forever MD) and Natasha Skelton (VaULT) who will discuss how they support the land conservation ecosystem in their work.

10:15 Break (light refreshments provided)

10:35 Tools You Can Use

The Bay Program and partners across the watershed have created amazing tools to support your work. In this session, you will have the opportunity to join small groups to learn about GIS and other tools that can help with prioritizing and coordinating land conservation for multiple benefits. The stations are listed on the last page of this agenda. You will be able to attend 3 sessions, which will be about 18 minutes long.

11:45 Tools You Can Use: What's Missing?

We will reconvene in the main meeting room to debrief our experience with the tools and then, using polling software, we will identify what's missing.

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Chesapeake WILD: Making Waves

Chesapeake WILD has just completed its second round of grants! Faren Wolter of the Fish and Wildlife Service will describe the successes and next steps.

1:30 Half Earth: Why is it Even More Important Now?

Our work is critically important. Dennis Liu, Vice President of Education for the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation, will help us explore why our work is so important as we work to save our planet.

2:15 Closing Reflections and Next Steps

2:45 Adjourn

Tools You Can Use (In Turner Instructional East)

Sessions at ~ 10:40, 11:00 and 11:20 - Choose three -

Model Easements & Tools - Location: Room 103 Explore WeConservePA's suite of 170 guides and customizable model legal documents that greatly facilitate conservation transactions from Alaska to Florida, including the Model Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants. (Andy Loza, WeConservePA)

The Chesapeake Bay Targeting Tools Portal - Location: Room 105: This portal serves as a single point of entry for a range of web-based decision support tools used or developed by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership, its Goal Implementation Teams and associated Workgroups. The Portal provides access to tools to identify and evaluate conservation opportunities throughout the Bay watershed. Tools are organized based on relevance to high-level topics, including water quality; fish, wildlife, and habitats; land conservation; and benefits to people. This station will provide an overview of the Portal and its navigation, as well as a deeper dive into one or more tools of potential interest to the audience. (John Wolf)

Parcel Prioritization Tool used by the Potomac Conservancy - Location: Room 107: High-value lands for protecting water quality in the Potomac River watershed. The mapping covers Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.(Hedrick Belin, Potomac Conservancy and Steve Storck, Chesapeake Conservancy)

Green Space Equity Tool - Location: Room 111: This tool was built by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership to highlight low-income communities and communities of color with limited access to open space in the watershed. The Trust for Public Land has mapped park access for every urban area in the U.S., including Puerto Rico. The ParkServe mapping platform helps you pinpoint park investments to address park needs, climate, equity, and health. (Louis Keddell, Chesapeake Conservancy and Anthony Thomas, The Trust for Public Lands)

Solar Siting - Location: Room 112: Solar Siting has become an increasingly significant challenge in multiple states across the watershed. In this workshop, we will focus on solar siting tools created for Baltimore/Baltimore County and St. Mary's County Maryland that analyzes optimal solar siting locations. (Alicia Sabatino, Chesapeake Conservancy)

WALT Federal Funding Tool - Location: Room 114: Join a demo of "WALT: Wildlife and Land Trusts." WALT is a free online tool for land trusts and others to identify federal funding sources for wildlife conservation. Mary will provide an overview of what WALT is and what it does, then provide a live demo to show you how easy it is to use. (Mary Pfaffko, Defenders of Wildlife)