

Quarterly Progress Meeting - June 2018



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Riparian Forest Buffers

follow-up discussion

Policy/Leadership/Funding

Elevate riparian forest buffer needs through policy/leadership.

~~Need to boil it down to several specific steps.

What are MB priorities?

Ideas for MB Actions -- SRS of Riparian Forest Buffers

Develop new or expand existing non-agricultural buffers and tree planting programs. Identify funding for this.

or ~~Develop the idea of a Pay for Success Reforestation Program in one more states that would “sell” nutrient/stormwater reductions resulting from reforestation to localities or other entity.

Discuss how LEAN could be used to elevate buffer needs and possibly identify broken/missing links in the process. May propose funding LEAN pilot project on RFB process in one Bay state. GIT funding?

TRAINING and COMMUNICATION Ideas

In Tier II watersheds, encourage local plans, ordinances, and MS4 strategies to require 100-foot buffers and full floodplain protection as part of enhanced protection for high-quality waters.

Continue joint FSA/NRCS/DNR training for CREP, including specific strategy for improving planning of upslope treatment train practices and transitions along flow paths to address problematic flows.

Provide training on identifying forest buffer opportunities, tools, and setting goals to realize multiple benefits for local governments and other planners involved in the WIP goal-setting.

Engage the Communication Office and the Local Government Engagement Initiative at the Chesapeake Bay Program to identify better ways to further raise awareness and use of riparian forest buffers.

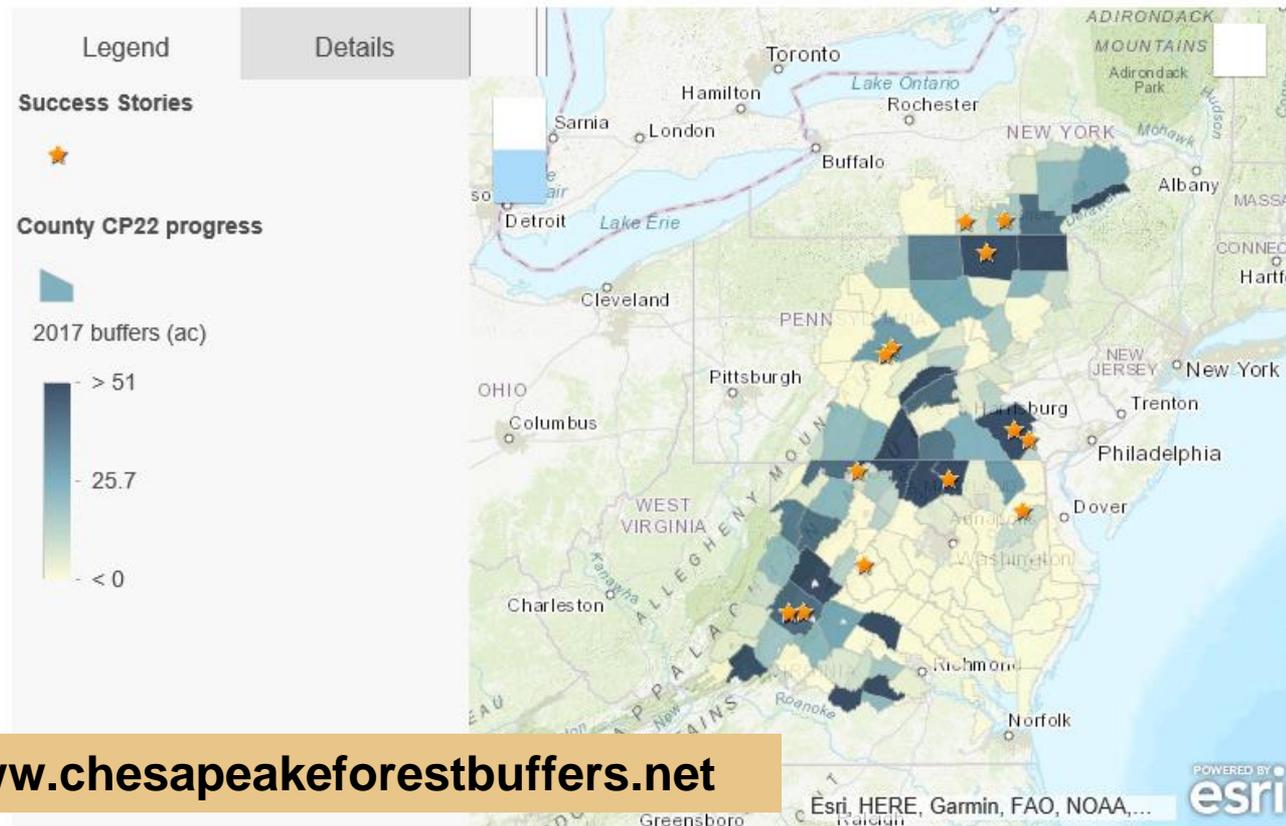
Ideas for MB Actions -- SRS of Riparian Forest Buffers

Also...

- ~~Support new Farm Bill that expands acreage cap and improves CREP
- ~~Continue to inquire about \$20M apportioned by FSA
- ~~Provide WQ support to the RFB Lead in each State
- ~~Continue to engage partners to send strong message that RFBs are a preferred practice.

Riparian Forest Buffer Progress in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Find out 2017's new acres of forest buffers in your county to date and learn about forest buffer initiative success stories from across the watershed.





**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

1

Focus on Improved Implementation

- Create fully-functioning local teams everywhere needed
- Integrate RFB upfront - part of whole farm planning
 - Address farm flow issues that create buffer by-pass
- Increase TSPs through SWCDs and trusted farm consultants (e.g., TU, Red Barn, CBF, ACB) ...akin to *Boots on the Ground*
- Make It Easy-- provide comprehensive services for landowners (sign-up, maintenance, etc.)
- Notch up conservation of RFBs



**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

2

Elevate Buffer Needs Through Policy/Leadership

- Have top WQ person join with RFB lead in each state
- Find stable funding/plan to keep RFB trained staff
- Develop State Programs to RFBs on non-Ag lands (i.e., suburbia, other non-CREP) using state funding, 319, SRF, etc.
- Revisit State Task Force Reports
- Meet regularly with State Con
- Re-examine communication/outreach plan
- State CREP programs/policy should reflect WIP Phase 3 needs

Discussion