



## PWP Information Exchange December 6, 2016

### To Plant or Not to Plant— What is the Right Way for the ROW?

#### What is the right balance for planting,

and clearing, the right-of-way (ROW)? Join us for an important discussion on managing highway and utility ROW, and stormwater management areas. Regional power companies are responsible for reliable power and clearing transmission lines across the Bay watershed. State highway departments have varying rules for cutting trees back, and mowing. Most subdivisions, business parks, and shopping centers have stormwater management “ponds” that are regulated, often to prevent tree planting. What is the balance between the need for increased tree canopy versus tree clearing to ensure reliable power, safe traffic, and dependable stormwater management areas?

**9:30**            **Doors Open** at Fox Haven Organic Farm and Learning Center  
3630 Poffenberger Rd, Jefferson, MD 21755

**9:50-10:00**    **Welcome**

- Frank Rodgers, Executive Director, Cacapon Institute
- JoAnn Coates-Hunter, Education and Operations Director, Fox Haven Farm

**10:00- 10:45**   **Chesapeake Bay Program’s New Landcover Map**

- Cassandra Pallai, Geospatial Project Manager, Chesapeake Conservancy. Cassandra holds a Master’s of Environmental Management and a Certificate of Geospatial Analysis from Duke University, as well as a B.A. in Economics and Environmental Science from Cleveland, OH’s Case Western Reserve University. With help from her team, Cassandra specializes in designing and implementing high-resolution, large-landscape analyses, innovative remote sensing techniques, and in the translating and scaling up of research into digestible information for diverse partners. Prior to her current position, Cassandra directed efforts to expand education and restoration programming on the Rappahannock River, and on Great Lakes water quality issues.
- Cassandra will discuss the development of the first Bay-Wide land cover data set and how and why it was developed and its potential. She will share examples of how acres of riparian buffer cover on stream banks can be measured; how school systems might use land cover data to plan tree plantings and restoration projects; and how county governments might use the data to identify ideal locations for tree canopy expansion and other best management practices. Participants will learn about innovative ways that tree canopy and other data has been used, and how it is being distributed by The Chesapeake Conservancy and Chesapeake Bay Program; and, leave with the information necessary to locate and download this important data set that is available, free of charge, to the public.

**10:45-11:30**   **Power Transmission Clearing Rules & Responsibilities**

- Jake Fisher, Manager, Transmission Vegetation Management, FirstEnergy. Jake holds a BS from WVU in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. He is an ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist, a licensed MD Tree Expert license, and holds commercial pesticide applicators

licenses in PA, MD, and WV. He is the team lead for the FirstEnergy Herbicide initiative team, dealing mostly in coordinating Closed Chain of Custody process for herbicide applications. His duties include budget planning, contract crew coordination, oversight of both aerial saw & herbicide applications, LiDAR inspections, new construction projects, aerial inspections, and storm restoration. He began his career in Arboriculture at Cumberland Valley Tree Service in Chambersburg, PA. At CVTS he ran a bucket crew performing residential tree care. He is well versed in climbing & rigging techniques, tree pruning & removal, cabling & bracing, lightning protection installation, utility line clearance, and plant health care.

- Jake will an introduction to FirstEnergy’s responsibilities, areas of work, electrical systems, transmission versus distribution, and a history of “The Blackout.” He will discuss FERC, NERC, and state regulations, First Energy rules, where these rules apply, how these rules have transformed vegetation maintenance. He will share his experiences working with the public, and the importance of building community relationships, with examples from: Cunningham Falls State Park Pollinator Habitat Restoration; Wormans Mill Development; South Mt. State Park / Appalachian Trail; Washington Monument State Park Cherry Tree Planting; and CREP Program farmers.

**11:30-12:15**    ***Maryland’s Roadside Tree Law, Maximizing Tree Planting Potential***

- Robert Shreeve, Maryland State Highway Administration. Rob is the Deputy Director of the Office of Environmental Design at the Maryland Department of Transportation’s State Highway Administration (SHA). He has a Master’s Degree in Environmental Management and a Bachelor’s degree in Biology. In the 32 years that Rob has worked at SHA he has been involved in reforestation, wetlands and waterway permitting, NEPA documentation, wildlife studies and mitigation design. Rob leads SHA’s effort to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. SHA, as an NPDES MS4 permittee, has significant responsibilities to operate and maintain its Right of Way to sustain the quality of the State’s waterways. Forest restoration is one technique implemented by SHA.
- Mr. Shreeve will discuss the Reforestation requirements for Highway projects under MD’s Roadside Tree Law, and Forest Conservation Act, have blossomed into SHA’s Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program. IRVM incorporates removal of non-native invasive species, planting with native species and operations to maintain the Right of Way in good condition. SHA’s Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts to reduce pollutants to the Total Maximum Daily Load involves significant tree planting efforts in the Right of Way. All of these efforts require coordination with adjacent property owners and elected officials. The SHA and DNR Forest Service protect trees along our public road rights-of way through enforcement of the Roadside Tree Law.

**12:15**            **Lunch—Brown Bag. “Open Mic,”** Announcements and off-topic presentations from the audience (as time allows, 5-minute max., submit your topic at registration).

**1:00-1:45**        ***Montgomery County’s New Guidance for Planting Trees in Stormwater Management Ponds***

- Mary Travaglini, MLA, GRP, Planning Specialist, Stormwater Facility Maintenance Program, Montgomery County DEP (MD). Mary has a Masters in Landscape Architecture from U. of Michigan and a B.S. in Natural Resources and Education from Cornell. As manager, she

provides direction and oversight for the inspection, maintenance, and repair of green stormwater infrastructure for Montgomery County including green roofs, pervious pavement, bioretention, and rain gardens. She sees firsthand the impacts of stormwater and human use of our built environment on stormwater facilities, and uses field observations to inform better design, construction, and maintenance of these practices.

- Dry stormwater ponds are often just big grassy basins between rain events, and fill up temporarily with water after a storm, but some have potential to host trees and other vegetation in the right location. Mary will discuss the limitations to planting trees and other vegetation in stormwater ponds, and how it relates to stormwater flows, safety, inspections, and maintenance. Tree plantings and expanded vegetation within a pond will be discussed—locations where they may be added, what factors to consider in your choice of plant material, and the maintenance activities that may disrupt long-term survival.

**1:45-2:30 Stormwater Management Pond Plantings, Karst & Limitations to Tree Plantings**

- Matthew Pennington, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, Region 9 (WV) has a degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He has worked for public planning commissions reviewing development plans, as well as private engineering firms designing development projects for review and approval from zoning and planning boards. He is the 2014 recipient of the Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Network’s “Stoneroller Award” for his innovative approach to non-point source stormwater runoff pollution reduction. His work with the WV Economic Development Council includes assisting local government and non-government organizations with improving water and air quality in Region 9 (Berkeley, Jefferson & Morgan counties, WV).
- Matt will discuss a broad range of initiatives in WV with special attention to tree plantings as best management practices for air and water pollution reduction, and what is, and is not practical in karst terrain. He will share his experiences in reviewing regulations, drafting rules, working with local municipalities and county officials, watershed association, and business to reduce stormwater runoff pollution to meet Chesapeake Bay Program Total Maximum Daily Load reductions.

**2:30 Closing, On-topic final remarks and announcements from the audience. Attendees’ survey.**

**3:00 Thank you for attending!**

For more information, visit:  
[www.potomacpartnership.org](http://www.potomacpartnership.org)

Or contact:

**Cacapon Institute**

[pwp@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:pwp@cacaponinstitute.org)

304-258-8013

10 Rock Ford Road

Great Cacapon, WV 25422



Hosted by:

