



Listening Session for the Patapsco and Back River Watersheds: Supplemental Environmental Projects hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Trust

**Tuesday, January 30th, 7 to 8 pm
Held virtually on Zoom**

Agenda and Abbreviated Notes

1. **Welcome, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda Overview (5 minutes)** - The Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) provided an overview of the agenda and purpose of this meeting.
2. **Introductions (5 minutes)** - Introduced the Trust, and the team facilitating the meeting and leading this body of work.
3. **Overview of the Settlement and Supplemental Environment Project (5 minutes)** - The Trust gave a brief overview of the settlement and the Supplemental Environmental Project for the Patapsco and Back River watersheds.
4. **Input from attendees with the following questions as prompts: (35 minutes)**
 - a. **What would you like to see happen with these funds?**
 - b. **What ideas do you have?**
 - c. **What questions do you have for us?**

We used this time to hear from individuals in the session on what they'd like to see happen with this funding; hear their ideas, what challenges exist, and see how this program could help meet those needs; and answered several questions from the attendees. We had about 60 attendees for our listening session and together, we heard ideas, input, questions, and feedback from about 30 attendees.

5. **Discussion Recap (5 minutes)**

Projects of interest:

 - a. Restoration efforts and on the ground projects such as rain gardens, wetlands, living shorelines, oyster beds, sewage management, rain barrels, and more to assist with reducing flooding impacts as well as water quality improvement (ideas were for both private and public/shared properties).
 - b. Trash collection, clean-up projects, and more trash wheels to reduce the amount of pollution (e.g., litter) in the two rivers.
 - c. Expanded and continued water quality monitoring programs, with a particular focus on bacteria monitoring.

- d. Public outreach projects such as storm drain stenciling and printed materials distribution to increase knowledge among community members, especially in the areas of water quality (e.g., bacteria monitoring).

Identified Needs:

- a. Support non-profit organizations, several of whom attended the listening session, in continuing their efforts for watershed restoration and community engagement/education.
- b. Connect individual community members and homeowners who have project ideas with groups ready to lead applications/projects such as nonprofit organizations who can apply for funding and conduct projects on private properties.
- c. Connect existing nonprofit organizations working in the area to capacity building programs so that these organizations are well-equipped to lead impactful public engagement and restoration projects.
- d. Expand the type of audiences engaged in watershed protection and restoration to include larger industries that can have substantial water quality impacts.
- e. Additional signage surrounding the two wastewater treatment plants as well as in waterfront recreation areas, such as the community spaces in the surrounding communities since these are places people use. Signs at pipe outfalls were thought to be a great start but are not always visible/accessible to a high number of the public/target audience.

6. Action Items and Next Steps (5 minutes)

- a. Send meeting materials, notes, and action items from the listening session to the attendees.
- b. In the next month or two, the Trust will continue to collect ideas, information, and feedback from community members living, working, and recreating in these target watersheds. Then the Trust will compile the Request for Proposals (RFP) that will announce the call for projects; detail items such as the eligible project types, locations, applicants, etc.; outline the evaluation criteria; and additional application details needed for submission.
- c. The Trust will release the RFP and continue to do outreach and advertisement for about three months for this body of work. During this time we will be available to discuss project ideas and assist with applications.
- d. Continue to engage/update all of you who attended this listening session. In addition, we will continue to connect with additional groups/people who live, recreate, and work in the Patapsco and Back River watersheds.

If you have additional thoughts, ideas, and/or feedback for us, please contact Delaney Samons at dsamons@cbtrust.org or 410-974-2941 x 131.

Thanks for your time to attend the listening session and share your ideas with the group!