

“Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters, Healthy People”

To be considered, please read the following guidelines carefully before registering your proposal.

Introduction and Background

This year’s theme, *Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters, Healthy People* was chosen so that we may explore the connection between the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and its effect on those of us living here. We are especially interested in engaging the health care community to explore collaborations and to learn from their successes. Proposals that highlight this connection or engage the health care community will receive strong consideration. To this end, each track will incorporate one or more sessions that speak to this health connection and that highlights their specific track focus.

Each track will also include the following:

- at least one session that provides track-themed information (see Specific Track Needs below) geared towards reaching out to, or of interest to diverse audiences,
- at least one skill based session that would be helpful to new Chesapeake professionals just starting their careers.
- two, 45 minute presentations that will match the track theme (see Specific Track Needs below) and be delivered as a case study or TED type presentation.

In addition we are opening up the post-Forum, *Professional Development*, one-day workshops to outside proposals to encourage issue experts and certification programs to submit on topics that will provide in-depth analysis of or training in emerging topics germane to restoration. (To apply for a post-Forum, *Professional Development* workshop please send a one page concept plan that includes intended audience and what participants will leave with and send to letgen@allianceforthebay.org).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 31, 2017 (COB)

Forum Presentation Guidelines:

- More than one session proposal may be submitted, but each proposal must be registered separately. (see Specific Track Needs below)
- Sessions should focus on a combination of instruction and hands-on skill-building - not just lecturing. Based on past participant feedback and due to our inability to offer more than one presenter scholarship per session, the planning team **discourages workshops with panel discussions**.
- Sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes OR 45 minutes. Ample time should be reserved for a question and answer period. **Proposals that demonstrate audience interaction will be viewed more favorably.** Please indicate if your proposal is for a 45 or 90 minute session on the on-line registration form.
- Sessions should be geared toward the following audience(s):
 - Staff, board members and volunteers with local/regional watershed conservation organizations and this year, public health organizations, AND/OR
 - Elected or appointed officials and staff of local governments
- Workshops should highlight valuable lessons learned and potential transferability to other localities and watersheds.

Specific Track Needs:

As general guidance, we are looking for proposals that can incorporate the following: track-themed information geared toward or of interest to diverse audiences; skill-based sessions that would be helpful to new Chesapeake professionals just starting their careers; and presentations that will match the track theme and be delivered as a case study or TED-type presentation.

Track 1 - Restoration Science and Practice:

This track will provide scientific methods, technical tools and practices for the protection and restoration of watersheds

Track 2 - Watershed Conservation:

General Guidance - This track seeks proposals with a focus on the following three topics:

- The process of protecting or conserving land and/or natural resources
- The management of conserved land and/or natural resources
- Using conserved land and/or natural resources to improve watershed and human health

Proposals that will receive top priority will include one or more of the following themes:

- Interactive components for participants (skill-building exercises, field demonstrations, use of computer lab, etc.)
- Components addressing diversity, inclusion, and equity issues
- Current human health and environmental health connections

Suggested specific topics of interest include:

- What wildlife conservation efforts are taking place throughout the watershed?
- What does the land protection process look like from initial landowner engagement through recording of land protection? (from multiple perspectives: regulators, landowner, etc.)
- How do you manage/replant/maintain conserved land after invasive plants have been removed? (life after invasive plant removal)
- What technology is being used to manage conserved lands and/or natural resources? (e.g. - GIS programs, mobile apps, other mapping/tracking programs, etc.)
- Recent trends or case studies about conservation in urban areas
- Success stories or case studies regarding any of the three topics above-- the process, management, or utilization of conserved land and/or natural resources

Track 3 - Planning and Regulation:

Proposals that will receive best consideration should:

- Provide practical and applied guidance for watershed and community groups to engage with their local Watershed Implementation Plan process. Can include what the WIP process is, who is involved, how to engage in implementation, etc.
- Provide introductory level information on Comprehensive Plans (how they're updated, what they include and don't include) and how community and watershed groups can get involved in the Comp Plan update process from the beginning. Examples of successful case studies are a plus. Looking for an overview of community planning with examples and/or a mock community planning session as an audience engagement activity.
- Highlight how hazard mitigation planning incorporates Bay restoration and community health issues.
- Show how MS4 jurisdictions are using those requirements to meet state or local level WIP goals as well.
- Identify research of environmental justice / environmental racism when dealing with city/urban planning across the bay watershed.
- Surprise us! Suggest a topic that includes planning and/or regulation efforts that cover both local water quality and community health improvement.

Track 4 - Organizational Development and Fundraising:

This track will provide sessions on key aspects of organizational development and fundraising, as well as the financing of restoration and watershed projects.

Track 5 - Chesapeake Forests:

- 1) Proposals that relate to sparking action in a diverse audience with a focus on human health, including, but not limited to, volunteers, businesses and foundations, private landowners, governments, and the general public, on topics related to, but not limited to, tree planting, tree maintenance, forest conservation, or forest management.
- 2) Proposals related to innovative approaches in urban forestry.
- 3) Proposals related to practical forest or tree-based skill development that preferably translates to an interactive outdoor session (e.g., tree ID, foraging, how to develop a planting plan, etc.)

The Chesapeake Forests track presumes a basic understanding of the merits of forests for meeting the restoration goals of the Chesapeake Bay. Please indicate whether your proposal is for a 45 minute or 90 minute presentation.

Track 6 - Communications and Advocacy:

This track will provide sessions on strategies, methods and messages for communicating with communities about watershed restoration, protection and management. It will also work to provide opportunity for developing collaborative advocacy strategies.

In addition to the guidelines listed above, we are looking for proposals that highlight innovative strategies to target youth and underserved communities through art.

Track 7 - Citizen and Community Engagement:

Proposals sought for *interactive sessions* that highlight new and/or innovative approaches for engaging citizens and communities on restoration and human health issues in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. These approaches may, and are not limited to, focusing on:

- 1) Sharing tools, techniques, best practices and inspiration to assist watershed organizations and local governments to engage citizens and communities in watershed planning, protection and restoration activities, and related human health issues.
- 2) Promoting connections and communications among groups and local governments engaged in watershed activities.
- 3) Fostering the engagement of citizens and communities in collaborative advocacy strategies for influencing public policy, (including addressing human health issues when appropriate) and learning how to inform and influence effectively.
- 4) Targeting skill development for new professionals in the area of citizen and community engagement.
- 5) Strategic opportunities to identify the social and environmental nexus for underserved communities.

Proposal Registration Information:

Proposal Preparation

If you would like prepare your thoughts ahead please be thinking about how your proposal will address the following objectives and question:

Objective 1: As a result of attending this session, participants will gain information and knowledge about:

Objective 2: As a result of attending this session, participants will garner skills to:

Objective 3: As a result of attending this session, participants will be able to enhance their watershed work by:

How will your workshop relate to the theme of the Forum, *Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters, Healthy People?* (250 words or less)

Where do I go to enter my session proposal?

Click on this [link](#) (or <https://allianceforthebay.wufoo.com/forms/zpox8ei17b2lqi/>) and you are all set to go.

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For further information or questions about the guidelines please contact Lou Etgen at letgen@allianceforthebay.org or (443) 949-0575.