



Connect • Explore • Network • Engage • Inspire

WSA'S 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**SPRING INTO ACTION!**

# Conference Program

February 25-26, 2022

Thank you to our  
Atlantic White  
Cedar Sponsor



**BARTLETT  
TREE EXPERTS**

SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

**410-305-0353**

[bartlett.com/annapolis-md](http://bartlett.com/annapolis-md)

Lic.#802

The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

# Table of Contents

*Quick tip: It's interactive! Click the content you want to view*

<a href="#">Friday Schedule with Zoom Links</a>	3
<a href="#">Saturday Schedule with Zoom Links</a>	6
<a href="#">Session Descriptions</a>	9
<a href="#">Thank You to Our Sponsors!</a>	15
<a href="#">Surveys</a>	16



# Friday Schedule with Zoom Links

February 25th, 2022

8:30 am Virtual Morning Networking (Optional)

8:45 am Conference Welcome

9:00 am Plenary Session

**1A- A Watershed Moment: Taking a Look Inside WSA's DEIJ Journey**  
*Michael Ramsey, Vice President of JIJ Impact*

10:00 am Break

10:30 am Morning Sessions

**2A: Making Collaboration Work: What Research Tells Us**  
*Marc Stern of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech*

**2B: Meet The Funders! - Opportunities to Fund your Next Project**  
*Joe Toolan and Jeffrey Popp of the Chesapeake Bay Trust; Tara Mairs of Unity Gardens; Carrie Decker of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Sally Albright of the AACo Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration; and representatives from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

**2C: Stop Bugging My Project: Squashing Invasive Insects**  
*Karin T. Burghardt, Ph.D, of the University of Maryland*

11:30 am Break

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89556754021?pwd=MmtXT1Avc0ZMbTJtcGd2dzJJUEludz09>

**Meeting ID:** 895 5675 4021

**Passcode:** 673669

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84071459079?pwd=eUE5ZzZlUFB00Thqb2hBOEZVTkVxZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 840 7145 9079

**Passcode:** 978870

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725955043?pwd=K2ExN3daSE1YMzZqVDF1SmtkWGw4UT09>

**Meeting ID:** 817 2595 5043

**Passcode:** 372173

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86582107619?pwd=dk1SZXlTW80ellvaGpWSWZqb0hRZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 865 8210 7619

**Passcode:** 520428

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760



12:30 pm Afternoon Sessions

### 3A: Your local government at work: Restoration, Planning and Resilience

*Erik Michelsen, Deputy Director, AA Co Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration; Jackie Guild, Deputy City Manager: Resilience & Sustainability for the City of Annapolis; Michael Stringer of AACo Office of Planning & Zoning. Moderated by Kate Fritz, CEO of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89204965526?pwd=QnZLT1BSWmJ2WmpYWkxtSTB0a0xQTz09>

**Meeting ID:** 892 0496 5526

**Passcode:** 202102

### 3B: Creating Outdoor Spaces for Peace & Play

*Julie Dieguez, Green Schools Specialist at AACPS*

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84389158572?pwd=VkRocUFsYStiSlBrZ2VMWWZHUUM4QT09>

**Meeting ID:** 843 8915 8572

**Passcode:** 618140

### 3C: Digging Into Soils

*Dr. Sara Via, Professor and Climate Extension Specialist at the University of Maryland College Park*

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194708451?pwd=RDJrMWlkd3plbmtuR3ZveFFncDA4dz09>

**Meeting ID:** 881 9470 8451

**Passcode:** 021218



**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

1:45 pm Watershed Stewards Only *[Closed Session]*

Anne Arundel Stewards: Get the latest updates from the AAWSA Team and help plan a year of action.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84487298427?pwd=THJxWmNyTENCMW5BdnZJenNESnhHUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 844 8729 8427

**Passcode:** 847697

Calvert, Cecil, Harford, Howard, National Capital Region, and St Mary's County Stewards: Get the latest updates from your WSA team and get ready to discuss your year ahead!

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://umd.zoom.us/j/96266372719?pwd=NVUrRkZlb2lpciIOMUVyWklEQXZOUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 962 6637 2719

**Passcode:** 917863

2:15 pm

Small Group Discussions

*Continuation from Stewards Only Session - for Anne Arundel Stewards Only*

Maintenance Corps

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86477774555?pwd=WXdVZmxPMXRNQWJQVlBpWEIbcXN0Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 864 7777 4555

**Passcode:** 483701

Residential Site Assessment

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83136744918?pwd=QWQ2Wk9wTzNqOVRPZzA1NlFjVnpwUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 831 3674 4918

**Passcode:** 266415

Steward Engagement

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83327388435?pwd=ZORUaHB6NGNVaWqvVElhdW5mdksxdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 833 2738 8435

**Passcode:** 678288

Large Restoration Projects

**Join Zoom Meeting**

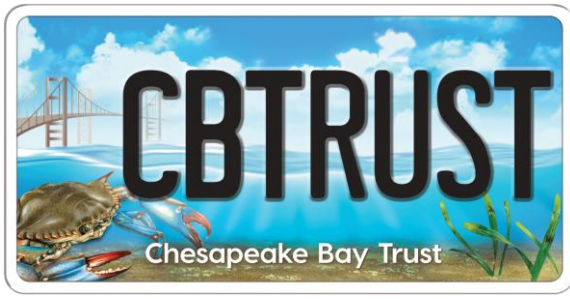
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85345125901?pwd=b1JEZXlpOVRTN3Y1K3phNUZFT1MxUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 853 4512 5901

**Passcode:** 264386

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760



## Saturday Schedule with Zoom Links

February 26th, 2022

8:30 am Virtual Morning Networking (Optional)

9:00 am Conference Welcome

9:15 am Plenary Session

### 5A: Taking Action: Applying Equity and Justice in Our Watershed

*Jan-Michael Archer of The Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health at UMD; Abel Olivo, Executive Director of Defensores de la Cuenca; Carmera Thomas-Wilhite, WSA Board Vice-Chair and Director of Urban Conservation Initiatives at The Conservation Fund*

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89675191853?pwd=UmFHdklLTEUvWXIsQ2ZMRzBjNFdqdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7519 1853

Passcode: 765190

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Morning Sessions

6A: Equity, Environmental Justice, and Me You! And experts in equity, justice, and the environment

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87662183695?pwd=eHJ6aGNib0lzWkRldmNQaUdRMGQzZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 6218 3695

Passcode: 951861

Access any session by phone: Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

**6B: Next Stop on the Pollinator Pathway**

*Alison Milligan, Elmer Dengler, Jim MacNicholl, and  
Lauren Toomey, Watershed Stewards and Native  
Plant Experts*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373334732  
?pwd=VGZUS25wRlJ4K2QyV3l6ZnJPMnV2  
Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373334732?pwd=VGZUS25wRlJ4K2QyV3l6ZnJPMnV2Zz09)

*Meeting ID: 823 7333 4732*

*Passcode: 120247*

**6C: WSA 101: Using WSA Resources To Make A  
Bigger Impact**

*Brad Knopf and Stacey Wildberger, Watershed  
Stewards, and Josh Clark, WSA Restoration  
Coordinator*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81891391240  
?pwd=RmZsRHlwY2xQbnB6bkhyVnJCSVhh  
UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81891391240?pwd=RmZsRHlwY2xQbnB6bkhyVnJCSVhhUT09)

*Meeting ID: 818 9139 1240*

*Passcode: 912266*



**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

11:30 am Break

12:30 Afternoon Sessions

**7A: Boosting Behavior Change**

*Steve Raabe, Founder and President of Opinionworks; Sally Albright, Grant Manager, AACO Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81684150225?pwd=QmhZUEdrMituRHVTanpocUlmQ1JXZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 816 8415 0225

**Passcode:** 763312

**7B: Trees for All: Increasing Tree Equity**

*Ryan Alston, Communications & Outreach Manager and Elliot Weidow, Director of Operations for Baltimore Tree Trust*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82210038163?pwd=dmprL2lxS1kxQ2EzM0lmcm9UT2EzZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 822 1003 8163

**Passcode:** 308316

**7C: Truly Native: Choosing Plants Inspired By The Natural Ecosystem**

*Darlene Robbins, RainScapes Planner, of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84640994819?pwd=NzhFMm9WVThXeWIBRlBQYnJaQlg4UT09>

**Meeting ID:** 846 4099 4819

**Passcode:** 931172



**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760





## Session Descriptions

### Conference Day 1- Friday, February 25, 2022

#### 9:00 am Plenary

##### **1A- A Watershed Moment: Taking a Look Inside WSA's DEIJ Journey**

*Michael Ramsey, Vice President of JIJ Impact*

In the midst of today's complex, often troubling racial climate, WSA has continued to evolve into an organization that incorporates diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) into the core of its DNA. As part of this process, JIJ Impact was tasked with gathering insights and guiding the development of a unique DEIJ strategy. JIJ Impact's Michael Ramsey (Vice President) will discuss how WSA's equity journey has unfolded to-date and the important lessons that have emerged for the broader environmental community.

#### 10:30 am Morning Sessions

##### **2A: Making Collaboration Work: What Research Tells Us**

*Marc Stern of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech*

What does research tell us about how to navigate conflict and disagreements about the management of shared resources? Join Professor Stern for a practical discussion of the lessons that social science has revealed over the past few decades about how to approach these challenges.

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

## **2B: Meet The Funders! - Opportunities to Fund your Next Project**

*Joe Toolan and Jeffrey Popp of the Chesapeake Bay Trust; Tara Mairs of Unity Gardens; Carrie Decker of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Sally Albright of the AACo Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration; and representatives from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

Connect with local funders who invest in restoration and outreach projects in Anne Arundel County. Speakers will share funding opportunities, and how to increase your chances of getting funded. We'll also dive into the changes being made for more equitable funding.

## **2C: Stop Bugging My Project: Squashing Invasive Insects**

*Karin T. Burghardt, Ph.D, of the University of Maryland*

Spotted Lanternflies, Jumping Worms, GAT Traps, and more! Dr. Burghardt of [Burghardt Lab](#) based in College Park, MD will discuss invasive insect species and how to manage them in restoration projects.



## **12:30 pm Afternoon Sessions**

### **3A: Your local government at work: Restoration, Planning and Resilience**

*This session will feature Erik Michelsen, Deputy Director, AA Co Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration and Jackie Guild Deputy City Manager: Resilience & Sustainability for the City of Annapolis Michael Stringer of AA Co Office of Planning & Zoning and be moderated by Kate Fritz, CEO of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*

Join Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis environmental leaders to hear the strategies and successes in watershed restoration and progress toward planning for a resilient and green future.

### **3B: Creating Outdoor Spaces for Peace & Play**

*Julie Dieguez, Green Schools Specialist at AACPS*

If there is one thing during these challenging times that everyone can agree on, it's that we all could use less stress, more peace and reasons to smile. More than ever the outdoors has

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

become a welcoming place of respite, even just a few steps outside your door. Learn how to create easy outdoor spaces for relaxation, mindfulness, healing, play and general well-being, and let the smiles begin.

### **3C: Digging Into Soils**

*Dr. Sara Via, Professor and Climate Extension Specialist at the University of Maryland College Park*

It's time to get your hands dirty! Taking an active role in generating healthy soil will establish a lasting foundation for successful stewardship projects. Increasing soil biodiversity and organic matter set the groundwork where plantings can thrive! Learn the basics of soils, soil health, mycorrhizal networks, and how everything works together.

## **1:45-3:00 pm Stewards Only [Closed Session]**

### **4A: Calling All Stewards!**

This session is for Certified Watershed Stewards! If you are a Steward in Anne Arundel County, or another WSA in Maryland, sign up for this session!

**Calvert, Cecil, Harford, Howard, National Capital Region, and St Mary's County Stewards:** Get the latest updates from your WSA team and get ready to discuss your year ahead!

**Anne Arundel Stewards:** Get the latest updates from the AAWSA Team and help plan a year of action. Then, join us for a small group discussion around a specific action type for 2022.

#### **Maintenance Corps:**

This action group gets together regularly to work on project maintenance. Hear from group leads Amy Clements, Denise Peach, and Ann Jackson to hear about what's been accomplished, what's next, and how you can help!

#### **Residential Site Assessment:**

Share your knowledge to make an impact! The RSA group helps community members identify positive changes they can to reduce pollutants entering our watersheds. Learn how you can get involved!

#### **Steward Engagement:**

We want to hear how you'd like to engage! You should attend this group if you haven't quite found your niche in WSA, or want to share ideas for how you can stay connected post-certification course.

#### **Big Restoration:**

Have you taken on a large restoration project in your community? Perhaps you'd like to or have some plans brewing! Get together with other Stewards to ask questions, share wisdom, and plan next steps for big restoration projects!

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

## Conference Day 2- Saturday, February 26, 2022

### 9:15 am Plenary

#### **5A: Taking Action: Applying Equity and Justice in Our Watershed**

*Jan-Michael Archer of The Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health at UMD; Abel Olivo, Executive Director of Defensores de le Cuenca; Carmera Thomas-Wilhite, WSA Board Vice-Chair and Director of Urban Conservation Initiatives at The Conservation Fund*

In November 2021, WSA hosted an Environmental Justice event in partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Libraries. The final day of Spring into Action will start with our speakers continuing that conversation and exploring how equity and justice connects to environmental stewardship and our collective work.

### 10:30 am Morning Sessions

#### **6A: Equity, Environmental Justice, and Me**

*You! And experts in equity, justice, and the environment*

Dive deeper into what equity and environmental justice mean in your community and how your environmental work can influence change. Whether you wonder how equity and environmental justice relate to WSA's mission, want to share your experience, or know how to be a better ally, take this opportunity to ask questions, gain a deeper understanding and learn more about how to apply equity in your communities, projects, and actions.

#### **6B: Next Stop on the Pollinator Pathway**

*Alison Milligan, Elmer Dengler, Jim MacNicholl, and Lauren Toomey  
Watershed Stewards and Native Plant Experts*

You know pollinators are important. You know they need native plants. As we recognize that ecosystems supporting native plants have diminished, there is a growing and increased demand from the public for growing native plants. Yet, finding native plants is more difficult than it should be. Join this session to learn about a new program to grow and distribute native plants to reestablish native ecosystems, and how you can be part of a huge movement connecting habitat throughout Maryland.

#### **6C: WSA 101: Using WSA Resources To Make A Bigger Impact**

*Brad Knopf and Stacey Wildberger, Watershed Stewards, and Josh Clark, WSA Restoration Coordinator*

Are you a long-time Steward who could use a refresher? Or perhaps you're interested in becoming a Steward and want a sneak peek into what that means. Join this session to dive into what's new with WSA resources and learn how you can have a bigger impact in your community. Plus, see how Cape St Claire Stewards have gotten their community involved!

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760



## 12:30 pm Afternoon Sessions

### 7A: Boosting Behavior Change

*Steve Raabe, Founder and President of Opinionworks; Sally Albright, Grant Manager, AACO Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration*

This workshop will explore Baywide trends in stewardship behaviors and dig into local behavior change examples. Steve Raabe of Opinionworks will share a new tool that will help you use real data to choose the best behavior and prioritize the right audience to create an effective campaign. He'll also answer your behavior change questions and explore key social science concepts using real world examples. Sally Albright of Anne Arundel County will preview a new pet waste campaign, *Stop Poolution*.

### 7B: Trees for All: Increasing Tree Equity

*Ryan Alston, Communications & Outreach Manager and Elliot Weidow, Director of Operations for Baltimore Tree Trust*

Trees help provide clean water, clean air, and reduce the impacts of increasingly high temperatures. Tree equity is when the amount and distribution of trees in an area allows EVERYONE to experience their health, climate and economic benefits. Hear from experts at the Baltimore Tree Trust about how and where they are working to increase tree canopy in Baltimore City, and how we can be strategic about where we plant more trees in Anne Arundel County.

### 7C: Truly Native: Choosing Plants Inspired By The Natural Ecosystem

*Darlene Robbins, RainScapes Planner, of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection*

An introduction to reference landscapes, those pockets of unspoiled land that show what our watersheds looked like prior to colonization. Learn why natural ecosystems should inspire what native plants we use in stormwater best management practices (BMPs).



**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760



Thanks to you, dedicated Master Watershed Stewards, for volunteering your time and energy to engage your communities. Your efforts are bringing about real change, and healthier waters!

**OPINIONWORKS**  
PUBLIC SPIRITED RESEARCH

Steve Raabe, President

410-280-2000 · www.OpinionWorks.com · steve@opinionworks.com

**CBLP CHESAPEAKE BAY**  
Landscape Professionals

*Gain new skills and find new opportunities in Sustainable Landscaping and Stormwater Practices as a CBLPro!*

Join us for CBLP Training in 2022 and take 10% off with code: WSA10

For more information, or to register visit [cblpro.org](http://cblpro.org)



**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

### Atlantic White Cedar Sponsor - [Bartlett Tree Experts](#)



### Sweetbay Magnolia Sponsors

[Actaeon](#)

[Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#)

[Arundel Rivers Federation](#)

[BayLand Consultants and Designers](#)

[Chaney Enterprises](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)

[Environmental Quality Resources, L.L.C.](#)

[Green Landing Nursery](#)

[Homestead Gardens](#)

[McHale Landscape Design, Inc.](#)

[OpinionWorks](#)

[Paydirt, LLC](#)

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760

## Serviceberry Sponsors

[Ciminelli's Landscape Services, Inc.](#)

[Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc.](#)

[FTC Aggregate Supply](#)

Kevin and Stacy Green

[Deborah M. Schwab Landscape Architecture](#)

[Severn Grove Ecological Design, LLC](#)

[SMC](#)

[Welspryng](#)

## Surveys

### Conference Evaluation

Your feedback is important to us! Please take a moment to complete the Conference Evaluation to let us know about your experience.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WR9N35K>

### Demographic Survey

Our brief demographic survey helps to identify our constituents and gain insight to your interests. Additionally, we use this data to identify opportunities to engage new audiences.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRM8WBT>

## Work For WSA!

WSA seeks a passionate and committed team member to expand our capacity and visibility. The Development and Communications Coordinator will support WSA's Executive Director and Board of Directors to manage the execution of the WSA Development and Communications Plan. Applications accepted until March 1st.

Please find the full job description and application information [HERE](#).

**Access any session by phone:** Dial **301-715-8592** and enter the Meeting ID - [RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Need Tech Help? Email Briana Yancy: [Yancy.Briana@epa.gov](mailto:Yancy.Briana@epa.gov) or call Terryl Acker-Carter at 410-343-9760