



Meeting Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) August Conference Call

August 5th, 2015, 9:00 AM – 10:40 AM

Meeting Participants:

Rebecca Hanmer (Retired Citizens Advisory Committee), *FWG Chair*
Sally Claggett (USFS), *FWG Coordinator*
Julie Mawhorter (USFS), Mid-Atlantic Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator
Tuana Phillips (Chesapeake Research Consortium)
Greg Evans (VA DOF)
Matt Poirot (VA DOF)
Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute, WV)
Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
Justin Hynicka (MD DNR)
Tracey Coulter (PA Bureau of Forestry)
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)
Jeremy Hanson (VA Tech)
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Judy Okay (VA DOF)
Tanner Haid (Cacapon Institute, WV)
Barbara White (VA DOF)
Colin Jones (MDA)
Jeremy Hanson (VA Tech)
Clair Ryan (PA CBF)
Jenny Tribo (HRPDC)
Neely Law (CWP)
Peter Claggett (USGS)
Tom Ward (NRCS)

Welcome and introductions

Sally Claggett welcomed everybody to the call and confirmed participants.

Discussion on GIT funding and proposals

Last year EPA provided funding to support projects that the partnership's Goal Implementation Teams identified as valuable to their work. This year EPA is providing funding again for projects that support program goals, outcomes, management strategies and workplans. Sally went over the process and EPA's guidance for proposals.

Other points:

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust has been awarded the administration of these funds. Any not-for-profit (including governments) will be eligible to apply to the RFPs.
- EPA is looking to fund projects related to workplan development, metric development and tracking, and implementation projects.

Sally and Julie Mawhorter also presented two project proposal ideas for the FWG's input. The first, written by Sally, is a proposal to hire somebody to help amend CREP agreements to help boost RFBs.

Comments:

- MD needs more help with implementing some of these things, or negotiating, not so much amending.
- Cross-agency training is a good idea but is already being funded through other opportunities.
- Action: send Sally an email by August 12th if you have ideas on what aspect of the State Task Force process would need the most help.

The second proposal, written by Julie, focused on outreach strategies for bridging tree canopy and environmental justice goals.

Comments:

- The proposal could be more competitive if it crossed over with other Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals like diversity and local leadership.
- MD would definitely benefit from this.
- It looks like you would be asking a lot for 50k.
- We want to make sure we get the most out of past work and lessons learned.
- One of the gaps WV is interested in is groundtruthing work.
- Action: send July an email by August 12th with more ideas or input.

Round robin updates:

BMP Panel:

- The Panel met last week and reviewed and approved the revisions made to the guidance document. They went over all materials and states will be receiving detailed reports on BMP verification this Friday, August 7th. Their comments are in yellow, red and green. The Panel noted that certain topics, such as inspection and protocols for urban tree canopy, need some beefing up. They will meet again at the end of August.

Virginia:

- The forestland retention pilot project, which was partially funded by EPA through GIT funding last year, is nearing the end of Phase 1. This project is assessing growth trends in the Rappahannock River Basin region and evaluating the spatial variability of forest ecosystem service value by simulating the loading impact of alternative development scenarios and comparing the cost of additional urban BMP implementation. Modeling was completed by the end of July by DEQ and results are currently being put together to

be sent to the Chesapeake Bay Program and Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team.

- VA Trees for Clean Water Program is underway in the Richman area to do tree canopy plantings. This is being made possible due to collaboration with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and private funding leveraged with other money.

Forests for the Bay and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay:

- This year's Chesapeake Watershed Forum will have a forest track.
- Chesapeake Bay Forest Champion Awards are occurring this year again, please nominate if you haven't yet done so.
- Penn State and the Clean Water Conservancy are scheduled to do workshops.
- There is a tentative date for this year's Smith Island trip in November. Craig will be reaching out to state representatives soon.

WV:

- WV DOF will have a CREP Forester starting within a few weeks. Their position is being funded by CBIG. Another CREP forester will be hired in the future as well. In general these foresters will do general outreach but will also coordinate technical providers, work with state leads on riparian forest buffers and collect data as requested by FSA.
- The Cacapon Institute is looking forward to another robust fall season of West Virginia Communitree and other school plantings.
- The state is struggling to meet the land use assessments being requested by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Only 2 or 3 counties have the appropriate land use data, so WV is currently pressed to meet the August deadline.

PA:

- Christine Ticehurst is leaving her job on the 14th. If any of you sent Tracey Coulter an email in the past three weeks, please resend (her email got wiped out).
- The PA Forest Magazine was dedicated to agroforestry in the latest issue.

CBF (PA):

- CBF has 5 buffer specialists who have been hard at work this summer.
- CBF's buffer bonus program is very popular particularly in the Lancaster and Juniata Counties. This voucher program targets new enrollees. So if the farmer works through CREP to get a buffer CBF gives the farmer a voucher toward conservation and nutrient planning and implementation.

MD:

- DNR hired a new Emerald Ash Borer Planner.
- MD installed monitoring wells for water quality and stream buffer analysis. This was through a NFWF grant and the wells are all in Frederick County. MD is working with TNC on a water table model that will also combine land use data.
- MD is working on their BMP evaluation protocols and will have that revised by the end of the year.

July Executive Council Meeting:

- On July 23rd Executive Council members passed a resolution that has to do with riparian forest buffer implementation and how states will implement their task force reports. There was also a livestock inclusion element to the EC meeting where members signed a letter which supported programs to keep livestock out of streams. At this meeting they also approved the 25 management strategies.

Update and decision on Urban Forest land uses

The Urban Tree Planting/Expanded Tree Canopy Expert Panel has begun making urban forest land use recommendations to be included in Phase 6 of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Neely Law (Center for Watershed Protection and Chair of the Urban Tree Planting/Expanded Tree Canopy Expert Panel) Jeremy Hanson (Expert Panel BMP Assessment Project Coordinator) and Peter Claggett (USGS) provided an update and requested that the FWG approve the Panel's recommendations. For more information, please see their PowerPoint presentation available on the meeting calendar website page.

During the call, the FWG approved the Panel's recommendation to develop the following land uses for tree canopy: tree canopy over impervious, tree canopy over herbaceous, and tree canopy over scrub-shrub.

Other discussion points or questions:

- Why not calling turf instead of herbaceous? That would make more sense.
 - Peter: We can change it to be called turf instead if that is preferred.
- Loading rates are needed by the end of the month, ideally. The Expert Panel doesn't really have time to recommend loading rates, but that was to be expected anyway. Loading rates are still a workgroup decision at the end of the day. The FWG will most likely recommend to keep the same loading rates as before.

Workplan updates and future meetings

- The FWG will have a face to face in September, probably in VA.
- The newest version of the Workplan template is available on the meeting calendar website page. The first workplan drafts are due at the end of October. Sally and Julie have already been in touch with some FWG members. Members were encouraged to start thinking about what to fill in the blanks with. By September, Julie and Sally should have a template with the some of the key actions and performance targets filled out.