



Minutes
Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup (FWG)

December 6, 2017 9AM – 10:45AM

Conference Line: 888-844-9904, Code: 6802405#

Adobe Connect:

<https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/fwg>

Members in Attendance

Rebecca Hanmer, *Chair*
Sally Claggett (USFS), *Coordinator*
Katherine Wares (CRC), *Staffer*
Julie Mawhorter (USFS)
Rick Turcotte (USFS)
Barry Frantz (NRCS)
Peter Hoagland (NRCS)
Peter Claggett (USGS)
Laura Free (EPA)
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Dakota Durcho (MD DNR)
Lydia Brinkley (USC)
Teddi Stark (PA DCNR)
Matt Keefer (PA DCNR)
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)
Frank Rogers (Cacapon Institute)
Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
Holly May (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
Jenny McGarvey (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
Ryan Davis (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

Welcome and Introductions

Rebecca Hanmer, Chair

WQGIT Update

Sally Claggett and Rebecca Hanmer

Decisions will be made at the Principal Staff Council meeting, December 19-20, on draft local targets, Conowingo, climate change, and how to incorporate projected land use into Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Planning. The WQGIT suggests reflecting policy and science to account for climate change (not numerical targets from the model at this time) and to use the 2025 land growth forecast.

2016 Forest Buffer Data

Sally Claggett and Katherine Wares

Katherine showed the workgroup the 2016 buffer miles calculated from BayFAST compared to the miles reported by the state buffer leads to the FWG.

Discussion

- Sally asked states if they can report average width. New York, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania said they can record and report average width.
 - Anne asked when the next high resolution imagery will be available. Sally said 2 to 3 years had been discussed. [After the meeting Sally learned that USGS is suggesting the next imagery be flown in 2019 or 2020].
 - Anne commented that Pennsylvania reported voluntary practices but it does seem like those practices were put into NEIEN. Matt said he would follow up with Ted Tesler to make sure that they are accounted for it in NEIEN and to see what he's planning to do with the Penn State survey data.
 - Sally commented that when buffer acres are entered into NEIEN there should be an option whether it is one side or double sided buffer, people will need to record that in NEIEN.
- ACTION:** Sally will report back on what this will look like at the next conference call

Land Growth Forecasting Part 2

Peter Claggett

Peter presented the 2025 future growth scenarios. The Conservation Plus Scenario includes key policies and conservation practices that jurisdictions could achieve. All land use forecasts will be put in CAST for jurisdictions to use while planning Phase III WIPs. Peter asked members to respond to the survey Katherine sent on December 6th by Monday December 11th to help refine the key elements of the Conservation plus Future Land Use Scenario. He said members can also help by participating in Phase III WIP activity and considering land change modeling needs.

Discussion

- Sally asked, when completing the survey, should people go by what is most likely for their local area. Peter said yes.
- Matt asked what the process is after the PSC meeting. Peter said the main decision the PSC needs to make is should we use 2025 condition for the Phase III WIPs and should we update it every 2 years. Peter's team is going to try to simulate the Conservation Plus scenarios as quickly as possible, but most will be out in the spring. States can start WIP planning with current zoning scenarios and as the conservation plus scenarios come out, states can use or incorporate them.
- **ACTION:** Sally and Katherine will reach out to Virginia to make sure they complete the survey and consider what they've learned from the Healthy Watersheds Forest Retention Study.

Verification Guidance Updates

Sally Claggett and Julie Mawhorter

Julie and Sally walked through proposed updates to the Forestry BMP Verification Guidance. These proposed changes can be seen [here](#).

Discussion

- Julie asked if people have comments on including planting locations for Urban Tree Canopy, Urban Forest Planting, and Urban Buffer BMPs. Some members said county/city for urban tree canopy expansion and latitude/longitude for the other two. Barry Frantz commented that some landowners might not want their addresses or latitude/longitude shared.
- Julie asked if members want language on crediting voluntarily plantings. Some said they would like the language to say in the document and suggested softening the language on discounting and connecting it to the spot checks.
- Julie asked if members are okay with the language of 1-2 years or longer for maintenance for urban forestry BMPs. Anne suggested distinguishing watering and vegetation maintenance. Sally thought this may be low and said 3-5 years has been needed to establish buffers. Others suggested changing "pesticide" to "fertilizer" specifying there should be no post-planting fertilizer application.

- Julie said she will find out whether the 10 year credit period applies for Ag or Urban Forest Buffers. Anne suggested, in addition to the 10 year period, add good BMPs will continue to receive credit based on their growth in high res imagery as a reminder.
- **ACTION:** Sally and Julie would like comments in two weeks by December 20th

Review of 2017

Sally Claggett

Because we were short on time, please see [Retrospective online](#) and send any comments to Sally by end of the year.

Round Robin

All

Maryland: DNR has a new NFWF grant on invasive species issues and outreach on buffers with the Cacapon Institute. MDA will cost share for CREP but implementation differs with counties so there is an issue with consistent implementation across counties.

Pennsylvania: DCNR is working on buffer grants and Phase III WIPs (look at last month). They are also working on a NFWF grant for Stream ReLeaf, are hiring another buffer technician, and are having a buffer conference February 28th – March 1st.

West Virginia: DEP is preparing to send out a mailing on additional incentives available, but they are waiting on the federal office for wording.

CBP: Buffer planting data for 2017 is still needed from West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. They may be a mini RFB forum; it will most likely be on February 8th. The Chesapeake Bay Forest Service budget has received some cuts. Nick DiPasquale is retiring as director of the CBP; Jim will be acting director.