



Meeting Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) February Conference Call

February 3rd, 2016, 9:00 AM – 10:30 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)
Matt Poirot (VA DOF)
Greg Evans (VA DOF)
Judy Okay (VA DOF)
Justin Hynicka (MD DNR)
Tanner Haid (Cacapon Institute, WV)
Matt Keefer (PA DCNR)
Tracey Coulter (PA Bureau of Forestry)
Neely Law (Center for Watershed Protection)
Jeremy Hanson (VA Tech)
Peter Claggett (USGS)
Renee Thompson (USGS)
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)
Nicholai Francis-Lau (MDE)
Tim Garcia (NRCS, Annapolis)
Kris West (Finger Lakes Land Trust)
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

9:00 Welcome and introductions

Rebecca Hanmer welcomed everybody to the call and confirmed participants.

9:10 Tree Canopy Mapping for Phase 6 - Peter Claggett (USGS)

To see Peter's PowerPoint presentation slides, please visit the following link:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23446/fwg_forest_v_canopy_020316_peter_c.pdf

- A. Peter briefly reviewed the [recent proposed changes](#) to the way Tree Canopy is being mapped for Phase 6 of the Chesapeake Watershed Model. In summary:

- The shrub-scrub category was eliminated.
 - Tree canopy over turf and tree canopy over impervious will be mapped in developed areas.
- B. The larger part of the presentation and discussion was focused on establishing the mapping rules for trees <1 acre in undeveloped areas and in developed areas that are not one of the Tree Canopy classes. The last time the FWG saw this, most of these patches were formally called Tree Canopy over Shrub-Scrub.
- **DECISION:** The FWG agreed to the following:
 1. Small patches of trees (< 1 acre) in developed areas = “Tree Canopy over Turf Grass”
 2. Small patches of trees (< 1 acre) in undeveloped areas = “Open Space”
 - **UPDATE:** This recommendation was presented to the Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) at 10am. Multiple LUWG members voiced concern that we were assuming the small patches in developed areas would receive fertilizer and requested that we class those small patches as “open space”. So the LUWG’s recommendation is:
All small patches of trees (<1 acre) = “Open Space”
Sally has contacted jurisdiction representatives, who agreed that FWG should join the LUWG's decision. Thus, the joint FWG-LUWG decision is that trees < 1acre will be classed as Open Space unless they occur in the previously-defined Tree Canopy over Turf or Impervious classes. This joint workgroup decision will be presented for approval to the WQGIT on February 8.

9:35 Tree Canopy Loading Rates for Phase 6 - Justin Hynicka (MDNR)

To see Justin’s PowerPoint presentation slides, please visit the following link:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23446/fwg_020316_justin_h.pdf

Justin reviewed his work on a new approach using a water balance model to determine the amount of pollutant loading appropriate for the Tree Canopy land use. His presentation included an explanation of the process he took and preliminary results.

REMINDER - February 11th Webinar: Tree Canopy Loading Rate Partnership Review. For more information visit <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23466/>

9:55 Governance Issues - Sally Claggett and Rebecca Hanmer

The FWG has been tasked with developing and submitting for approval a consensus-based governance protocol to address potential partnership decisions where full support from all participating members is not able to be obtained.

ACTION: FWG members should read the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team’s Governance Protocols if they haven’t done so already, and send Sally ideas on at large

numbers in the FWG Protocol. This includes ideas on how many people would be included in this group and who else should be included other than members who are currently represented.

Link to Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's Governance Protocols:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23446/water_quality_git_governance_protocols_v8.24.15.pdf

ACTION: Sally will draft a Governance Protocol and present it to the FWG at our March Conference Call.

10:20 FWG 2016 Prospectus - Sally Claggett

ACTION: FWG members should review the Prospectus document posted online. Please send any input or comments to Sally.

Link to Prospectus Document:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23446/fwg_2016.pdf

ACTION: Contact Sally if you would like to RSVP to the Riparian Forest Buffer Forum on February 25th and 26th.

10:30 Announcements

- The Forestry Suite at the Chesapeake Bay Program is pleased to welcome Jasmine Napier, a Presidential Management Fellow. Jasmine will be working at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office ~three days/week over the next 2 months—splitting her time between there and the Washington Office of the Forest Service. Jasmine currently serves as a Natural Resource Specialist in the recreation program on the Sam Houston National Forest. She holds a BS in Environmental Studies from Spelman College and a MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health from Saint Louis University. Before embarking on a career at the Forest Service, she worked for the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, OSHA, and Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals. Jasmine will be compiling additional information for the Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy (a future web component) as well as other duties.
- Maryland recently hired a forester to work on riparian buffers and is in the process of hiring a second forester.
- West Virginia is getting ready to hire a buffer forester in a couple of weeks and another one in the April timeframe.
- Virginia has hired two out of three of their foresters to work on buffers.
- Pennsylvania has not been able to make any movement in hiring because of significant budget challenges. PA might look into partnering with another organization to get the funds to hire somebody.

- The Riparian Forest Buffer Forum for riparian forest buffer practitioners will occur on February 25th and 26th.
- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Forests for the Bay Program is hosting two upcoming workshops called *Your Woods and Your Wallet* (February 13 in Easton MD and February 23 in Monkton MD). In Virginia, the Alliance is working with Adam Downing and company to organize the *Woods and Wildlife* conference. Furthermore, Eric Sprague and Craig Highfield are presenting at the Society of American Foresters in February.
- February 25th is the Northern Virginia Roundtable talking about soils in construction sites and remediation of them, etc.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program's Citizen Advisory Committee is having a two day meeting in February and they are working with Julie Mawhorter to have a section of the meeting dedicated to reviewing and discussing the Tree Canopy outcome.

The next FWG meeting will be a conference call on March 2nd. We will have a face-to-face meeting on April 6th.