



Meeting Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) June Special Conference Call

June 23rd, 2016, 2 PM – 3:30 PM

Meeting Participants:

Sally Claggett (USFS), Forestry Workgroup Coordinator
Julie Mawhorter (USFS), Mid-Atlantic Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator
Tuana Phillips (Chesapeake Research Consortium)
Jeremy Hanson (VA Tech)
Neely Law (Center for Watershed Protection)
Greg Evans (VA DOF)
Matt Keefer (PA BOF)
Nancy Falxa Sonti (USFS)
Kesha Braunskill (DE FS)
Barbara White (VA DOF)
Matt Poirot (VA DOF)
Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute)
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Luke Cole (DOEE)
Ear Bradley (Sierra Club)

The purpose of the call was to discuss the status of the Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel's recommendations for the urban tree canopy BMP. The FWG was asked to approve the recommendations and report.

Documents for FWG review:

- [Memo – Summary of Partnership Comments and Panel Responses to Draft Report of Recommendations from the Best Management Practices \(BMP\) Expert Panel for Urban Tree Canopy](#)
- [Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel Report \(Draft\) Version 2 with Tracked Changes](#)
- [Comments and Responses in Table Format](#)

Other Helpful Documents:

- [June 10 2016 FWG Tree Planting Tier 2 Proposal](#)
- [Neely Law and Jeremy Hanson PowerPoint Slides June 23rd Meeting](#)

Additional Notes:

- The Watershed Technical Workgroup will be able to fully address and clarify the comments and questions received related to tracking, reporting, and modeling.
- The Expert Panel reviewed the Tier 1 and Tier 2 approach as proposed by Justin Hynicka at the last FWG meeting. Some expert Panel members were in support of the proposal, others were not.
- Comment: Some valid points were raised in the comments about the 300 trees per acre conversion. I would love to see an option of some flexibility of that conversion number for programs that can demonstrate better BMP performance.
 - Response: It sounds like you are describing a tier 1 plus enhanced credit. This was discussed by the panel explicitly but it did not seem like having another BMP was worth it. It is a balancing act, we do not want to make reporting too complicated. Also note that in the model if they are doing these types of enhanced programs it will show up in the imagery eventually so there is some incentive for planting trees with better performance.
- In regards to the Tier 2 approach, I am concerned that if we don't go through with that we will lose the motivator for municipalities to grow and not mow. Taking land and setting it aside on park and school ground and declaring that repurposing to make into a forest is very difficult.
- If we move forward with the Tier 2 approach, the qualifying conditions will be have to be determined and reviewed by the FWG as well (e.g., how many trees need to be planted in the quarter acre).

DECISION: The FWG approved the Tree Canopy Expert Panel Report, including the crediting approach for Tree Canopy over turf and over impervious, with the contingency that the "Tier 2" Urban Forest Planting BMP proposal be included in the BMP approval process.

DECISION: For the "Tier 2" Urban Forest Planting BMP Proposal, the FWG supports the option proposed by the Expert Panel to modify land use conversion credit to "Mixed Open" in place of "Forest". The Mixed Open land use will provide a lower loading rate than "Tree Canopy Over Turfgrass" but higher loading rate than "Forest". This change will be reflected in a revised Tier 2 BMP proposal for the partnership review.

ACTION: Julie Mawhorter will try to schedule a call in the next week or two with those interested in the Tier 2 BMP proposal edits (Frank Rodgers, Nancy Falxa Sonti, Kesha Braunskill, Barbara White, Greg Evans, Anne Hairston-Strang). Julie will get input and revise *June 10, 2016 FWG Tree Planting Tier 2 Proposal* to provide support for a Tier 2 "Mixed Open" planting and refine the "qualifying conditions", with a time target of July 13th before the Stormwater Workgroup meets on July 19th.