

Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) Conference Call

March 5th, 2014

9 AM – 10:30 AM

Participants: Rebecca Hanmer, Sally Claggett, Tuana Phillips, Tim Culbreth, Heather Montgomery, Eric Sprauge, Chris Peiffer, Tom Ward, Herb Peddicord, Craig Highfield, Anne Hairston-Strang, Tracey Coulter, Judy Okay, Matt Poirot

Forestry Workgroup Updates:

Sally Claggett provided Chesapeake Bay Program updates, which included: some new Farm Bill details, 2013 forest buffer progress, 2-year Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) TMDL Milestones, and forest conservation and urban tree canopy tracking going forward. For more information, please see Sally's PowerPoint presentation available at:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21542/fwg_updates_3-5-14.pdf
- As a reference, the final version of the Buffering the Bay status report is available at:
 - http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21542/cb_forest_buffer_status_report.pdf
- Other discussion points:
 - Sally encouraged FWG members to give feedback on the draft WIP milestones for 2014/2015 either directly to your state contact or through her (sclaggett@fs.fed.us).
 - Sally also shared that new forestry-related land cover data will be available in the coming months. This will include data layers such as riparian floodplain, riparian floodplain forest, urban tree canopy, and “true” forest cover.
 - Sally acknowledged the excellent SOL curriculum developed for *Growing Native*. She noted that there is a lot of potential for the FWG to support and promote grassroots efforts to host Growing Native events either in or out of the Potomac watershed. Starting in August, the Forestry Workgroup will discuss plans for the Fall 2014. For more information : http://www.growingnative.org/pcgn_about.html

Round robin Announcements:

Upcoming Workshops:

- Penn State Extension and Forests for the Bay is offering a one-day workshop titled “The Woods in Your Backyard” on March 30th. Approximately 75 people are expected to attend.
- The Catoctin Land Trust and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay are sponsoring a Woodland Conservation Funding Workshop: “Your Woods and Your Wallet.” This workshop will take place March 12 in Frederick County, MD.

Maryland:

- Emerald Ash Borer has spread significantly in the state this year. In addition, Black Walnut Twig Beetle has been found in Cecil County.
- The State held an Open House on Tuesday, March 4th for Marylanders to learn more about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, speak with experts and knowledgeable staff, and provide input to ensure the best possible final agreement for the State and Bay. Approximately 30 people attended the Open House.

Virginia:

- Virginia Tech is hosting a Symposium on Forestry Best Management Practice Effectiveness in the Eastern United States. The event will take place May 12 – 15 in Blacksburg, Virginia.

West Virginia:

- The Cacapon Institute and WV Forestry have 17 tree planting projects lined up through Project CommuniTree. ~600 urban trees will be planted this spring.
- In Grant County, WV is developing restoration strategies for lands with abandoned mines.

Pennsylvania:

- In collaboration with the Clean Air Board, PA is addressing air pollution along the I-81 corridor. Part of this effort includes engaging with private landowners to have more trees planted along the corridor.
- PA needs more information on the ability of trees to enhance air quality along transportation corridors. --not unlike the living snow fence initiatives in Iowa and Minnesota. PA is starting similar initiatives by working with landscape architects in PA's districts.
- PA is also looking for information on how to address chemicals on roads.
- PA has ongoing community outreach with a local connection to an organic farmer in Lost Creek, tributary to the Juniata, a brook trout stream with high pH.
- PA is working with a woodlands group, 4H and other collaborators on invasive species management and control on Hawk Mtn. Goats are employed as there is interest in reducing pesticide usage.

NRCS:

- Dr. Eunice Padley has joined NRCS as National Forester.
- James Tillman has been named the new Regional Conservationist for the Southeast (VA is the only state in the Chesapeake Watershed that falls in the Southeast region).
- Working Lands for Wildlife, a partnership between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, can be funded using 10% of EQIP.

Presentation from Maryland Forest Service:

Anne Hairston-Strang gave an overview of what the MD FS has been doing – and is planning to do – to meet Bay goals for water quality and habitat. For more information, please see Anne's PowerPoint presentation available at:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21542/md_presentation_wshedforest_rycbp.pdf