Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup
Agroforestry Team Meeting
May 7-8, 2014
William C. Forrey Training Center
King's Gap Environmental Education Center
500 Kings Gap Rd, Carlisle, PA 17015
(717) 486-5031

Meeting Minutes

May 7th, 2014
Participants: Sally Claggett, Julie Mawhorter, Chris Firestone, Sunshine Brosi, John Munsell, , Tom Ward, Mike Jacobson, Colleen Rossier, Kate MacFarland, Katrina Krause, Tracey Coulter, Dan Rider, Tuana Phillips, Roy Brubaker, Herb Peddicord, Karen Sykes, Paul Patterson, Joe Frassetta, Jim Gillis, Dan Dostie, Mathew Meals

Agroforestry in the Chesapeake Bay Forest Restoration Strategy
USDA Forest Service Chesapeake Bay Program - Julie Mawhorter/Sally Claggett (USFS)

Julie and Sally provided an overview of Chesapeake Bay Watershed forestry strategies and riparian forest buffer work. See their full presentation at:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/chesapeake_agroforestry_may_2014.pdf

- The Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Forestry Workgroup (FWG) coordinates, develops and implements plans and projects which focus on the contributions of forest lands in restoring the health and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The group provides a forum to discuss issues and identify opportunities among the forestry community, interested individuals, organizations, and government agencies. For more information:
    - http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/forestry_workgroup
- The Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) program, otherwise known as the "pollution diet," is a regulatory push to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering the Bay. All states within the Bay Watershed are responsible for developing Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) to guide their work and reach TMDL goals.
- The 2010 Chesapeake Bay Executive Order drove the development of new restoration strategies across the Bay watershed. Agroforestry was identified as a strategic priority during the development of in the Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy, completed in 2012.
    - See full Strategy at http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/New-Forest-Restoration-Strategy-for-the-Chesapeake-Watershed.aspx
    - Five agroforestry practices were included: riparian forest buffers, windbreaks/shelterbelts, alley cropping, silvopasture, and forest farming.
- States first set Riparian Forest Buffers goals in 1994. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was first used in the late 90s.

For a full report on the progress and challenges of restoring riparian forest buffers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21542/cb_forest_buffer_status_paper.pdf

- In an analysis done by the Chesapeake Bay Program office, the riparian forest buffer practice is second only to land retirement in Best Management Practices (BMP) most counted-on for nitrogen reduction.
- Challenges in riparian forest buffer work:
    - Recent data on riparian forest buffers shows little progress in recent years. Furthermore, 75% of all buffers were implemented in 25% of Chesapeake Bay Watershed counties.
    - Expiring contracts is an emerging issue.
    - Declining budgets, shortage of boots on the ground
- The Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative Leadership Summit will bring together representatives from NRCS, FSA, USFS, and States in June to highlight the unique importance of forest buffers to the Chesapeake, review local success stories, seek consensus on the issues that should be addressed, and commit to a process and allocation of staff resources for determining the key actions needed to accelerate riparian forest buffer adoption.

Hearing from states about agroforestry efforts within state jurisdictions and AFTA:

Pennsylvania – Tracey Coulter, Jim Gillis & Dan Dostie (NRCS)

- Two new staff members have joined USDA-NRCS: Susan Parry and Jim Gillis
- NE SARE Project: *Advancing On-Farm Understanding and Application of Silvopasture Technologies in Pennsylvania*
    - The project goal is to substantiate past research and deliver practical technical guidance, including lists of suitable tree and forage species as well as materials outlining important considerations during the process of establishing and maintaining silvopasture, ensuring both operator success and resource availability.
    - Project Team: PA Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), in partnership with PA DCNR, USDA ARS AND NRCS, Dickinson College Farm in Cumberland County, and Wyebrook Farms in Chester County.
    - The Dickinson College Farm site produces a lot of the food served at Dickinson College's dining halls. It also serves as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for college employees and students. At this site, the Project Team used thinning to help establish forage under the trees.
    - The Project Team also planted 71 trees (bare root 1.25" caliper trees) on one site.
    - The project also offered a course looking at the social, cultural, and economic components of silvopasture practice.
    - For more information on project details and status: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/ne_sare_project_-_advancing_on-farm_understanding_and_application_of_silvopasture_technologies_in_pennsylvania.pdf

- The Stroud Water Research Center held a workshop on Forest Riparian Buffers on May 6th. The workshop was led by Bern Sweeney and facilitated by Rich Shockey.
- TNC, NRCS, the Conservation District, and DCNR are working together on a buffer project in the Juniata watershed. The upper reaches of the Lost Creek have been identified as high quality water for brook trout habitat. As it drops down into the valley where it joins the Juniata (a primary tributary of the Susquehanna) it loses the ability to sustain brook trout population. Partners are working with locals to install BMPs on the ground.
- PA held a Maple Syrup workshop.
- Penn State, PA DCNR and NRCS are working on Vegetative Environmental Barriers (VEB) projects to create buffers around poultry operations and mitigate the effects of particulate matter.
- PA is working with Penn State to encourage farmers to grow non-timber forest products, edible and medicinal plants.
- A farmer with a passion for native plans thinned his wood lot and now has 7acres of native plants sold for restoration purposes.
- Tracey traveled to Missouri for a Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG) meeting. She is working on putting together a SARE grant to provide workshops similar to those offered by MAAWG, and hopes to revise the MAAWG training manual for the mid and northeastern parts of the country.

Maryland – Dan Rider (MD FS)

- MD is thinking strategically about how to create an Agroforestry Program with lack of funding and staff support. There are a handful of state folks in MD who are very interested in agroforestry.
- MD has a small grant for a silvopasture demonstration project.
    - The silvopasture project is on a 10 acre piece of state land 25 miles north of DC. The area is a working landscape. It was once poorly managed by a beef producer, whose lease was not renewed. The area has since quickly become overrun with all sorts of growth, and there is now an opportunity to clean it up.
    - What made this project work: A very enthusiastic farmer who raises sheep, cattle, and chickens was looking for an opportunity to expand production.
    - Project participants worked on paper work and planted cover crops in the fall. In the spring, 5 different species of trees were planted. The area was fenced to keep all of the sheep inside.
    - The next step is to install interior fencing, using 6 foot tubes.
- MD is working on riparian forest buffers and VEB work.

West Virginia – Herb Peddicord/, Karen Sykes

- See full presentation at: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/agroforestry_wv_05_07_14.pdf
- 78% of WV is forested, and roughly 20% of the forested area is agroforestry
- WV has 8 counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This part of the watershed consists of a ridge and valley system, with wide valleys and rivers winding through. A lot of this land is open pasture land with hardly any forests.
- WV has a state-wide ginseng program within the Division of Forestry.

- Mountain roots are highly valued by communities.
- WV is producing mushrooms and maple syrup as well.
- WV has several agroforestry-related organizations and ongoing research/events, including: Herb Association, Agroforestry Workshop, Maple Syrup Association, silvopasture research by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and WVU extension workshops.
- Agroforestry is not mentioned in the WV WIP plans, although riparian forest buffers are a priority practice for agriculture. The Forestry section of the WIP Phase II is focused on harvest BMPs.
- WV does not have an Agroforestry Program, and there is a need for a demonstration project.

Virginia – John Munsell (VA Tech)

- See full presentation at: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/virginia_update.pdf
- The Catawba Sustainability Center is a showcase for researchers and students from Virginia Tech to engage with the local community – a place to practice, demonstrate, learn, and teach about agroforestry and other sustainable issues that affect our world today and into the future. The Center is owned by VA Tech and is located in the Upper James River Basin in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
    - In past years the Center established native fruit, nut tree and wood floral buffers; wind breaks and edible landscaping; as well as forest farming in degraded woodlands. Most recently, the Center began a silvopasture demonstration and research project.
- VA is also working on agroforestry research and demonstrations at Virginia Tech's Kentland Farm and the McCormick Farm and Southern Piedmont Agriculture and Research Extension Centers. All of their work is tied into education. Agroforestry classes are taken to agroforestry sites, and sites are also a tour stop for new employees.
    - A 5 acre woodland track will be thinned to emulate silvopasture.
    - Another project will thin 20 out of 40 acres.
    - SARE and CIG grants are supporting this work.
- VA is working on a Marginal Lands Prioritization project to examine the intersection of socioeconomic and biophysical needs with agroforestry outreach prioritization in mind. The Macro analysis portion of the project is completed, and four watershed HUCs were prioritized. The next step will include a micro-level analysis of those watersheds, followed by targeted agroforestry networking and outreach.
- VA is offering agroforestry training and professional development workshops sponsored by SARE.
- Springsbury Institute at Casey Tree Farm, in Northern VA– an example for how to reach out to landscape architects. The Casey Trees organization initiated a national competition for a landscape plan Virginia Tech won and agroforestry was a central component of the plan.
- VA is working on Community Food Forests efforts as well.
- Other initiatives: NTPO non timber product output report, Matthews Foundation promoting forest farming in SW Virginia, and Appalachian Sustainable Development with on-the-ground agroforestry riparian buffer projects.

Mid-West, Lake States and New England – Karen Sykes (USFS)

- See full presentation at: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/agroforestry_05_07_14_sykes.pdf

Ohio:

- Northeastern Ohio Windbreak Program: landowner pays $0.34 per row, 1-6 rows of trees and shrubs.
- Other initiatives: Mushroom workshops through Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Maple Producers Association, NW Ohio Windbreak Program, Rural Action advocacy group, Roots of Appalachia Growers Association.

Wisconsin:

- WI is engaged in all types of agroforestry practices – alley cropping, windbreaks, silvopasture, maple syrup, etc.
- Entomoforestry is being used to attract insects.
- Aquaforestry is also practiced.

Illinois:

- IL has windbreaks, riparian buffers, alley cropping, NTFPs, some silvopasture work, and maple syrup.

Missouri:

- MO has windbreaks, mushrooms, alley cropping, silvopasture (mainly for plantations).
- Other initiatives: Forest Woodland Association, National Agroforestry Center demonstrations, Diggers.
- Elderberry Symposium in Columbia, MO, June 2013.

New York:

- Initiatives: Maple Producers Association, NE Forest Mushroom Growers Network, NY Nut Growers Association, NY Agroforestry Center, and Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest.

New Hampshire:

- NH has mushroom production and workshops, NH Maple Producers Association, Black birch (processing for microbrews), Hobby markets. Chaga mushrooms are currently very popular.
- NH has no organized Agroforestry groups.

Maine:

- ME has wild harvesting, wreath (balsam fir) production, Maine Maple (Producers Association), blueberries, woody ornamentals and other decoratives, fiddleheads.

Vermont:

- VT has maple syrup (#1 nationally in production), fiddleheads, and mushrooms.
- No silvopasture.

Common threads:

- Forestry Extension plays an important role.
- A lot of states produce maple syrup and invest in windbreaks.
- Many states practice wild harvesting rather than forested, or cultivated, harvesting.
- Silvopasture is not encouraged by most forestry agencies.

Common issues:

- Poaching and trespassing.

- Rotational grazing systems are not used.
- Non-timber forest products vs. forest farming.
- No organized agroforestry advocates except in OH, MO, NY and MAAWG.
- Outreach is needed – i.e. "What is Agroforestry?"

AFTA: Association for Temperate Agroforestry – Mike Jacobson

- The mission of AFTA is to promote the wider adoption of agroforestry by landowners in temperate regions of North America. The organization was formed in 1991 and meets biannually. It is primarily a voluntary organization made up of individuals from universities, public agencies, private organizations and businesses.
- AFTA has a website in test phase, found at the following link: http://aftatest.cloudaccess.net/
    - On the website, users can find more information on regional working groups by hovering over the "Regional" tab. Under this tab, there is a link to the Chesapeake working group website page.
- Iowa State will host the National Agroforestry Conference on June 4th, 2015.
- MAAWG will host another Agroforestry Training Academy workshop this year from July 21st to 25th at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota.

Case Studies of Agroforestry Practices in the Mid-Atlantic – Colleen Rossier (UC Davis)
Putting Trees to Work in the Mid-Atlantic

Colleen presented on 5 Agroforestry Case Studies from farms in VA and PA. See her full presentation at:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/chesapeake_bay_agroforestry_case_studies_cr_5.7.14.pdf

- Briery Creek Forest Farm in Scottsville, VA: http://www.piedmontearthworks.com/Briery-Creek-Forest-Farm.html
    - This 300-acre farm was thinned and used for silvopasture (goats) and forest farming. The farmers, Chris and Lara Fields-Johnson, hope the farm can be a place for agroforestry education and research.
    - They have faced a few challenges, including: large costs to operate and little information previously available on their system.
- Brightwood Farm and Vineyard in Brightwood, VA: http://www.brightwoodvineyardandfarm.com/
    - Susan and Dean Vidal operate and own this 100-acre farm and bed-and-breakfast. They planted black locust and oaks for silvopasture and used alley cropping to grow elderberries and hay. With help from NRCS and CRP, they also planted riparian buffers.
    - The Vidals are investing in agroforestry practices because they are interested in the creative opportunities provided by chemical-free agriculture and sharing their learnings with others.
- Wyebrook Farm in Honeybrook, PA: http://wyebrookfarm.com/

    - Dean Carlson operates 460-acres for chicken, beef, and pork production. The farm has its own store, café, and butchershop that also sells products from other local farmers and artisans. The farm hosted music festivals in the past.
    - Dean created silvopasture in two ways: by planting honeylocust trees in pasture land and by thinning other wooded areas.
    - He has faced some challenges, including: high upfront investment costs, installing fencing on uneven terrain, thinning small trees, and water availability.
- Spring Haven Nursery in Newburg, PA: http://springhavennatives.com/
    - Dave and Dianne Cornman practice Forest Farming at this 30-acre farm. They use various innovative techniques to deal with problems such as root interference and squirrels. They sell their native woodland plants at Farmers Markets and plant sales.
- Forks Farm in Orangeville, PA: http://www.forksfarmmarket.com/
    - John and Todd Hopkins own an 85-acre farm, and lease 15 additional acres. They produce grassfed beef, woodlot pork, pastured chicken and turkey, and pastured eggs. They were interested in rehabilitating the land and control invasives by thinning trees and introducing animals.
    - They have faced some challenges, including: keeping up with the demand, removing invasives, and a need for more local slaughterhouses
- Themes from Case Studies:
    - The period of transition is challenging, but those who choose to do it enjoy their work.
    - Off-farm jobs are often necessary (however, most small farms require off-farm jobs: ERS Report
    - On-farm research, demonstrations, field days and watershed-scale efforts are ideal for the integrative field of agroforestry.
    - USDA can offer support for research and for the transition through loans, CRP, CREP, etc. For more information, see: Agroforestry: USDA Reports to America.

Vegetative and Riparian Buffers for Environmental Stewardship & Renewable Fuels on Poultry Farms – Paul Patterson (Penn State)

Paul presented on Vegetative Buffer (VB) and Riparian Buffer background, research, and opportunities on Poultry Farms. See his full presentation at:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/vegbufferagroforestry2014.pdf

- Management practices for nitrogen are vastly different today compared to practices 20 years ago. There are various ways to manage nitrogen (e.g., compost manure to a stable end point).
- The federal government (EPA) and Bay states are working on issues related to particular matter/dust, as well as ammonia, odor, and viruses/bacteria.
- Today, the state of Pennsylvania uses an odor site index to monitor odor.
- Poultry has issues and trees may provide solutions. Vegetative buffers (VB) can help provide visual screens, farm beautification, energy conservation, and improve snow load conditions.

- Also, there is a new interest in using vegetation buffers for biomass (litter and fuel).
- A summary of Penn State VB research:
    - Researchers placed different species of plants in growth chambers and set ammonia concentrations to 5 ppb. They found that some plants tolerated ammonia (e.g., honey locust), and other plants did not. In addition, they found that plants deposited nitrogen in their leaves.
    - Researchers also conducted a Pot in Pot study to see if plants are able to absorb ammonia outside of a building. They found that ammonia and particular matter were both reduced.
    - Odor threshold concentrations can be calculated by using an olfactometer. Although results were not significant, researchers detected less odor when VBs are used. An overall 54% reduction in odor emissions was calculated using a nasal ranger and detectable threshold.
    - A Broiler Litter study showed that different kinds of shavings and grasses performed equally well. Pine shavings performed slightly better.
- There is an interest in burning poultry litter as a fuel source and using new bedding with every bird cycle.
- There are ample opportunities through grant partners to increase the number of vegetative and riparian buffers on poultry farms and consequently help reduce odor, ammonia, dust, as well as conserve energy and provide biomass, screening and landscaping.

Perceptions & Constraints of Establishing Silvopasture in Hardwood Stands: Challenges and Opportunities – Tom Ward (NRCS)

Tom presented on the challenges and opportunities of hardwood silvopasture. See his full presentation at:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/addressing_objections_to_hardwood_silvopasture.pdf

- Silvopasture is a combination of trees, forages, and grazing principles which are integrated and managed to promote broader resource utilization and enhanced farm productivity.
- Many places successfully practice silvopasture, including: Spain, Southern U.S., and Midwestern U.S.
- Components of success include: tree/shade management, forage management, livestock husbandry.
- Do cattle and wildlife need shade? It depends on various factors (e.g., whether the Temperature-Humidity Index is over 72).
- Shade can be both good and bad.
- Rotational grazing is essential. At 50% leaf removal there is significant root growth damage.
- Thinning forests is much faster than converting pasture land to silvopasture. Thinning to silvopasture takes approximately 3 years, while planting trees for conversion takes 5-6 years at minimum.

- Silvopasture provides economic and land use efficiency benefits. If native plants are used, silvopasture can also help increase wildlife on a farm.
- Typically, farmers reduce overstory tree count per acre by approximately 60%. Crop tree release techniques allow light to be given to the "best" trees.
- From the forestry perspective, there are a few concerns, including: log quality, site impact/degradation, and regeneration.

Other discussion points from Team members:

- A discussion on terminology (e.g. crop tree release) is needed in the future so that we use the same language when describing agroforestry practices.
- Dan Dostie, USDA NRCS and Mathew Meals, Deputy Secretary of PA Department of Agriculture cautioned the group that the public needs to be made clearly aware of the potential for escape and of existing concerns over the damage to property, agriculture, and ecosystems feral swine and unconfined hogs can cause.

May 8th, 2014

Participants: Sally Claggett, Julie Mawhorter, Chris Firestone, Sunshine Brosi, John Munsell, Tom Ward, Mike Jacobson, Colleen Rossier, Kate MacFarland, Katrina Krause, Tracey Coulter, Dan Rider, Hailu Sharew, Tuana Phillips, Roy Brubaker, Herb Peddicord, Karen Sykes, Paul Patterson, Joe Frassetta, Susan Parry, Brett Chedzoy, Eric Burkhart, Adam Seitz, Craig Highfield, Rachel Reyna

Update from the National Agroforestry Center and Agroforestry Working Group in the Midwest – Kate MacFarland (NAC)

Kate provided some background on the National Agroforestry Center (NAC) and discussed how the center can help and/or collaborate with Chesapeake Bay agroforestry efforts. See her full presentation at: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21784/nac_chesapeake_05-07-14.pdf

- The USDA NAC's mission is to accelerate the application of agroforestry through a national network of partners. It began as a Forest Service Research and State & Private Forestry effort in 1992 and expanded into partnership with the NRCS in 1995.
- In partnership with other groups, NAC creates a range of products. These products include brochures, technical notes, information sheets, newsletters, presentations, tools, and displays. All publications are available online:
    - http://nac.unl.edu/index.htm
- NAC is also involved in agroforestry demonstration sites and case studies, the Agroforestry Academy, workshops, and online training.
- Regional Agroforestry Efforts include: the Pacific Northwest, Mid-America, and Chesapeake Bay.
    - The Pacific Northwest group is relatively new and focused on certain practices (e.g. alley cropping and forest farming).
    - There are also efforts emerging in the Mid-Atlantic, Florida, and Georgia.

Forest-grown Verification, a collaborative effort in PA – Eric Burkhart (Penn State University), Chris Firestone (PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry), Adam Seitz (PA Certified Organic)

Eric, Chris, and Adam gave the history and overview of the Forest-grown Verification Program.

- History of the Program:
    - Ginseng production is rapidly changing. Many people are growing their own ginseng and complicating the interpretation of trade data. Due to these rapid changes, the Forest-grown Verification Program was created.
    - The initiative first began in search for a state partner. However, due to the 2008 economic downturn, PA Department of Agriculture and NRCS could not join in partnership. In 2010, Adam was able to bring PCO in as a third party.
- The Program has standards similar to the national organic standards, and these standards are reviewed by several stakeholders. Marketing and outreach materials are being developed at this moment. The program is set to officially start this summer and expand to other forest grown crops and botanicals.
- Currently there are no funding mechanisms, but the costs are estimated to be reasonable (i.e. $500 to $1000 for initial inspections).
- Standards will comply with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Ginseng is listed under Appendix 2 in CITES.
- The hope for this initiative is to help build and drive a domestic market for ginseng.
- Farmers do not have to be certified organic to get involved in this program.
- PCO has designated two categories for ginseng: forest farmed and wild stewarded (or spontaneously occurring). Standards differ for each of those categories.
- The process for this program will also be verified.
- The program is working on preventing comingling of product.
- This program could be a viable mechanism for existing forest farmers to export ginseng.
- Ginseng is not recognized as a crop, which may cause some issues (e.g. issues pertaining to gas sightings and crop insurance availability).
- Still working how this program will intersect with state programs:
    - DCNR is revising ginseng regulations to better fit with this program's initiatives.

Facilitated Exercise

Parking lot items:

- Terminology (e.g. flash grazing)
- Guidance for specific practices or specific guidance for practices
- Benefits of practices at landscape scale (landscape scale approaches/benefits)
- Describing ecological sites (NRCS has initiative) – how does AF fit in?

1. **Do we need a multi-state/multi-organizational group/team specific to Agroforestry?**
    a. **Why might a group like this be needed? Why would we want to do this?**

- Knowledge/Awareness
- Dispel Misconceptions
- Space to discuss issues (that may be controversial)
- Network of demonstration/research sites
- Bring in key partners (some may be detractors) i.e. consulting foresters - FWS, experts, be sure to include academia
- Branding/image
- Role in broader initiatives/opportunities – how do we "butt" in?
- Clearinghouse
- Coordination
- Communication
- Strategy
- What are stakeholder interests?
- Raise difficult questions and work through them
- Tech transfer – share ideas and models across states
- Diversity of disciplines needed (ecology, forestry, ag, etc.)
- Functional diversity
- Competitiveness for funding AF (landscape/collaboration);
- Need to identify central hypotheses for focus research and research needs
- Need flexibility in messaging about benefits. E.g. landowner vs. landscape
- Need a clear goal statement
- Concerns (feral hogs) based on assumptions – need research and data to report

    b. **What would the overarching purpose of the group be?**

- Get the word out
- Advance science/practice of Agroforestry in region
    - engage with social science
    - economics
    - ecological/environmental
- Bring out niche Agroforestry practices in the region
- Legitimize agroforestry
- Multi-state cooperation
    - no recreating the wheel
- Who are we serving? Business perspective and ecological focus both needed.
- How do we frame the message? And a consistent message
- Intersection of production and conservation
- Provide info unique/relevant to the region
- Build an identity around regional AF
- Understand what others are doing
- Work collaboratively

- Need a communication plan

c. Would our administrators support our participation in this group effort?

- The answer to this question depends on how much time will this take
- Make sure we have measures of success (not just a strategy – but what's the "DO")
- Funding helps
- Bring in fisheries, AM. Rivers, TNC
- Needs will depend on our goal statement
- State support may require outside funding
- As a group we can leverage resources more
- Build more extension participation and support
- PCO partner critical; Bring in PASA and CASA
- Cross-interest and bridge building opportunities with permaculture

2. Do we need a multi-state group?

Yes. We need a group to orient a community of practice with a clear, unified message that will help gather support from agency leaders.

What is the "end in mind" for this group? What outcomes do you hope to accomplish with this group?

(*Note: highlighted items were identified as most high priority.)

- Data: numbers of practitioners, practice data
- Identify research gaps, Decide what data/research is needed
- Increase the number of agroforestry practitioners
- Create a place people can go for help – clearinghouse
- Regularly scheduling training for resource professionals
- Setting a "common language" (branding) – e.g. "Trees on Farms"
- Communication skills needed – internal or external
  - Expressing values of AF
- The "conservation = production" question. You can have both, they are not mutually exclusive
- What is the purpose, what do people want? Food, money, conservation, all? What is their reason for doing AF?
- Not only farmers, but get agency people excited about AF. How do we get natural resource professionals excited (or at least thinking) about AF?
  - Awareness – create a larger "Choir"
  - Capture lessons from the bottom-up
- Support money for practitioners (creating other incentives)
- Capture lessons from the bottom-up
- Network-building – having contact info to contact people in different disciplines. Very important considering AF is interdisciplinary
- Utilize AF strategic framework
- $$ resource leveraging

- Cleaner Chesapeake Bay
- Info-sharing
- Develop common language
- Identify/prioritize critical issues
- Infrastructure (good models), for info/resources/communication
- Create products (symposium, web)
- Advisory Group with "Guide/Notebook"
  - "Readiness capability"
  - "Rapid response"
  - Response might be: Policy, Technical, Resources issues
- Annual meetings

What should the primary function(s) of this group be?

- Building resiliency
- Tech transfer
- Professional development
- Community of practice
- Consistency of presence
- Demonstrate relevancy –time/scale issues
- Responsiveness
- Rigorous open discussion

Structure ideas:

- Working groups by practices – each group has a coordinator
- Synergize on what is already happening, and piggy-back on existing work rather than create new work
- Communication group
- Group needs a leader
- Pull groups according to landscapes
- Large group share/networking at least once a year
- USDA – both agencies speak as one
- Vertical integration
- Steering committee – working groups/objectives with chair/coordinator
- Need a consistent anchor
- NAC, AFTA, Cornell
- Universities lead?
- Need viable options
- NAASF, ARS

What is the next step for us?

- Planning group will evaluate this meeting
  - Will send out survey to get a feel for the level of engagement each person could handle. Include in survey: who do you want to work with? What do you want to work on?

- Look into SARE opportunities to fund meetings, workshops, and update the manual.
- Get the message out to our respective networks that this group exists.
- Are there projects we can do to make us more competitive for grants?
- ID low-hanging fruit.
- Host a webinar after the survey.
- USFW and NRCS Joint Chiefs' work