

Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Phase II project - Update for LGAC

Mar 16, 2016

The Healthy Watersheds Forest/TMDL Phase II project partners were notified two weeks ago by the Chesapeake Bay Trust that the project was approved by EPA and the Chesapeake Bay program for funding. In addition, the US Endowment for Forest and Communities approved a grant that matched the EPA award so the planned efforts in both Virginia and Pennsylvania will be able to proceed as planned. Representatives from the two Commonwealths have been meeting to determine how to replicate in Pennsylvania the alternative growth scenarios done by Virginia in Phase I. In addition, the Virginia team members will meet in Saluda, Virginia 3/21 to begin planning the discussion sessions to develop the toolbox of incentives, policies, etc. to retain forestland with elected and planning officials in the lower Rappahannock River Basin. The plan is to spend three months in each segment of the basin repeating the discussion and negotiation efforts. Pennsylvania will do the same in the Yellow Breeches Creek watershed demonstration area within Cumberland and York Counties.

Mary: Is there any need for input from LGAC members over the next 3 months or so?

Greg: Yes.

Mary: Will LGAC members in VA or PA be informed of or invited to attend meetings in their jurisdictions?

Greg: Yes.

Following the Saluda meeting which is really the first chance the Virginia members will have to meet all in one room to scope out the stakeholder engagement sessions, some thoughts will be generated that we will want to bounce off interested LGAC members to help frame those initial sessions. Secondly, once we get the first sessions scheduled in the lower Rappahannock River Basin, we will want to invite any LGAC members that live within that segment to the sessions.

Pennsylvania will be moving more slowly. I expect they will be spending most of the first three months focusing on the scenario data collection efforts and then will move into the stakeholder engagement sessions beginning in July.

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