

## **Forestry Workgroup Conference Call August 7, 2013**

**Participants:** Sally Claggett, Eric Sprague, Julie Mawhorter, Anna Stuart Burnett, Derrick McDonald, Frank Rodgers, Jessica Sprajar, Kyle Hoyd,, Tim Culbreth, Tom Ward, Judy Okay, Marian Honeczy, Sloane Crawford, Jen Powers, Herb Peddicord, Anne Buckelew, Anne Hairston-Strang

### **Chesapeake Forest Champion**

- Nominations closed August 6 (FWG members who haven't already made nominations have until August 9)
- Winners will be presented at the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum

### **Smith Island Training**

- October 15-17
- Please figure out who from your state will be attending
- Craig Highfield is coordinating and will be sending details soon.

### **Forest Track at Watershed Forum (Sept 27-29)**

- Session on communicating effectively with woodland owners will include:
- TED style talk
- Presentation on communicating the benefits of trees
- Bird/forest walk on Sat morning
- Sat afternoon forest ecology walk with Phil Pannill (NCTC grounds manager)
- Stewardship and tree planting talks
- How to incorporate agroforestry practices into farming operations
- Valuing Chesapeake forests
- How to connect drinking water users to providers and using forest management for drinking water provision
- Tools and metrics to help landowners conserve and benefit from their forested land
- The Watershed Forum is *the* event for watershed restoration professionals and advocates and the cost is only \$200 for meals and lodging at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown WV.
- To register for the Forum go to <https://allianceforthebay.org/our-work/engaging-local-communities/chesapeake-watershed-forum/>

### **Bay Bank and Forestry for the Bay**

- Going to fold Bay Bank into Forestry for the Bay
- Tools targeted to woodland owners

- Going to integrate iTree data
- Derrick: will Bay Bank/LandServer include NRCS BMP information? No, there will not be a registry of implemented practices.
- Should have some projects to show in the next 6 months
- Have new project with MD in Charles County to demonstrate new tools
- Critical Area: like FCA, requires developers to mitigate attributes of forests (e.g., Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat) not just acres.

## **Chesapeake Watershed Agreement**

- Plan to have final Agreement signed in December by the Executive Council
- Goal Teams will spearhead the process of conducting Management Strategies for each of the Outcomes. They will have ~6 months to do this after the Agreement is signed. Forestry Workgroup will be in charge of Forestry Outcomes in the Habitat Goal.
- Specific Outcome targets support broad goal statements
- CBP is taking public comments on the abridged Draft Agreement until August 15<sup>th</sup>  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page>
- What is new for this Agreement is partners may be able to “opt out” of a particular Management Strategy. The details on how and when this might happen have not been worked out. At this point, all partners are expected to sign the overall Agreement.
- Riparian buffer Outcome: we have not been making the 900 mi/year target in recent years (only made it one year). Does it need to be adjusted?
- Most Outcomes will sunset at 2025.
- Are there consequences for falling short of the goals? Not in the Agreement, but yes in the WIPs (if they don’t meet total reductions).
- Expanded urban tree canopy (UTC) goal
  - Current wording does not make sense (1000 acres in 120 communities) and was not recommended by forestry.
  - Bay Program wants to have meaningful, quantifiable Outcomes in the Agreement so we are suggesting “xxx acres of new UTC by 2025”
  - Jurisdictions track the number of tree planting acres to input in CB Model which could be used, in part, to get to UTC reporting. MD suggests goal of 120 communities—no acres (goal from 2007 was to have 120 communities commit to tree canopy expansion by 2020).
  - Need new wording otherwise we may have already attained that goal (Sally)
  - Previous goal of 120 communities committed to expanding tree canopy did not indicate that anything was happening on the ground.  
1000 acres is probably too high especially if we accounting for loss? (Kyle)
  - Does mitigation not count? Will be able to define how we count it in Management Strategies. See what makes sense.

- 1000 acres seems a little arbitrary
- DE can do 50-100 acres/yr
- Other states **please send what you think would be a good acreage goal/year (average out to 2025) for the CB watershed portion of your state to Sally by August 14.** This would be a goal that is attainable by 2025 and somewhat of a stretch (i.e., WIP targets).

### **Announcements**

- Ran out of time for announcements
- **Email announcements to Sally or Anna Stuart who will compile and send to the group.**