



## Meeting Minutes

### Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) September face-to-face Meeting

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Blandy Farm Virginia State Arboretum

400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620

#### Meeting Participants:

Rebecca Hanmer (Retired Citizens Advisory Committee), *FWG Chair*  
Sally Claggett (USFS), *FWG Coordinator*  
Julie Mawhorter (USFS), *Mid-Atlantic Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator*  
Tuana Phillips (Chesapeake Research Consortium)  
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)  
Judy Okay (VA DOF)  
Barbara White (VA DOF)  
Colin Jones (MDA)  
Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute, WV)  
Justin Hynicka (MD DNR)  
Tracey Coulter (PA Bureau of Forestry)  
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)  
Matt Poirot (VA DOF)  
Greg Evans (VA DOF)  
Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)  
Kat Cooper (Cacapon Institute, WV)  
Mark Hockley (PA DEP)  
Derrick McDonald (PA DEP)  
Sloane Crawford (NY DEC)  
Marian Norris (NPS)

#### Welcome and introductions

Rebecca Hanmer welcomed everybody to the call and confirmed participants.

#### Presentation: Crediting Forests in the Rappahannock and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

Greg Evans (VA DOF) provided an update on this project and also reviewed what is being proposed for Phase II. Background: In 2014 the CBP (through the Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT)) funded Phase I of the Rappahannock forestland retention pilot project. This project is assessing growth trends in the Rappahannock River Basin region and

evaluating the spatial variability of forest ecosystem service value by simulating the loading impact of alternative development scenarios and comparing the cost of additional urban BMP implementation. Modeling was completed at the end of July by VA DEQ. The development scenarios that were looked at include: 1. current TMDL 2025 predictions; 2. a Green Infrastructure Model; 3. a Comprehensive Plans Implementation Model; and a Hybrid Model between 2 and 3.

For more information, including some results of the project thus far, please see [Greg's PowerPoint presentation](#).

Other presentation points, comments and/or questions:

- Phase I was focused more on getting the modeling done; Phase II moves into engagement with the locality to drive incentives.
- Findings will be shared during a Summit in Fredericksburg on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. More details about the Summit to come.
- Question: Pennsylvania pledged 100,000 acres of conserved lands. Would this mean that that land would be credited?  
Answer: This is trying to change the treatment of forestland. The short answer is no. You have to prove that the land was going to be developed or deforested to get the credit for protection.
- Comment: Fracking comes to mind; it could alter a lot of this.
- Results by locality – whether rural, urban, or suburban – confirm that there are benefits to retaining forestland.
- VA DOF wants to collaborate with Pennsylvania on this.
- Comment: Moving forward it would be helpful to analyze the costs of alternative BMPs, but also do an analysis on community services.
- As a reminder, local land data is being collected by the Bay Program right now and in a few years we will have 1m resolution data.
- Other states, like Maryland, are looking at forest BMPs too and finding other ways to delay development.
- Comment: This project is making more obvious the effects of forest removal or retention.

### **Status of Workplans**

Sally Claggett (USFS) and Julie Mawhorter (USFS) provided updates and an overall plan to complete the Workplans for the Riparian Forest Buffer and Urban Tree Canopy Outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. They noted that both Workplans will be discussed in detail at the Forestry's next meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be a face-to-face at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis.

- Riparian Forest Buffer Workplan: Each jurisdiction has a designated lead for riparian forest buffers. These representatives will provide information for the Workplan to Sally by the end of September.
- Urban Tree Canopy Workplan: Julie had a meeting with UTC Jurisdiction leads on Monday (8/31) and went over the Workplan template with them. If anybody outside of the leads wants to provide input, he or she is welcome to email Julie

([jmawhorter@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmawhorter@fs.fed.us)). Julie also noted that an invitation to the FWG October meeting will be sent to other UTC groups and forestry people to get their input and contributions to the Workplans.

Other comments and/or questions:

- Comment: There is need on the UTC Workplan to be specific when talking about tree canopy as a land use versus tree planting as a BMP. Some people use both interchangeably, but they are different.
- Julie and Sally will aim to send draft Workplans to FWG members a few days before the Oct meeting.
- Preliminary drafts of the workplans are due on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Comments on Forestry Verification Protocols**

The BMP Verification Panel and sector experts reviewed and provided feedback on jurisdictions' draft protocols. Sally went over the feedback given on the protocols specific to forestry verification.

Related Documents:

- [Overarching Comments on Forestry Verification Protocols](#)
- [Comments on Forestry Verification Protocols by State](#)

Other points, comments and/or questions:

- The BMP Verification Panel met in July. Comments were given to states in early August, and the Panel had a follow-up meeting last week with each jurisdiction.
- This Friday (9/4) a summary of Panel and State comments will be provided.
- The deadline for resubmitting Protocols is September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Field Trip to Casey Trees Farm**

Tour of Casey Tree Farm Operations from Brian Mayell, General Manager

<http://caseytrees.org/about/treefarm/>