



MINUTES
Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup
Michaux State Forest, Fayetteville, PA
September 4th, 2013

PARTICIPANTS

Rebecca Hammer, Forestry WG Chair
Sally Claggett, U.S. Forest Service/Forestry WG Coordinator
Julie Mawhorter, U.S. Forest Service
Herb Peddicord, West Virginia Department of Forestry
Matt Poirot, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Tanner Haid, Cacapon Institute
Amanda Pruzinsky, Chesapeake Research Consortium
Tim Culbreth, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Sarah Nicholas, The Nature Conservancy
Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal
Derrick McDonald, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Stephanie Eisenbise, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Tracey Coulter, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Anne Hairston-Strang, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Craig Highfield, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

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Welcome and Introductions – Rebecca Hammer

Round Robin, Announcements, and Updates – All

- West Virginia
 - Potomac Watershed Partnership Bi-annual Information Exchange
 - Topic: Successful Approaches for Managing Invasive Species
 - Date: December 3rd, 2013
 - Location: Front Royal Library, VA
- Pennsylvania
 - PA DCNR – Submitted pre-proposal for agro-forestry professional training and selected to submit full proposal.
 - PA DCNR – Tracey will be attending the 4 day retreat “Women and their Woods”. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay would be interested in discussing the possibility of bringing the program to other states.
 - DEP – Partnering with other organizations (such as the Fish and Boat Commission) to fund forestry projects

- DEP – Submitted a NFWF proposal for work in Juniata watershed with Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR, WPC, and local partners and the conversation districts.
- Maryland
 - Moving forward on the emerald ash borer project.
 - Almost completed a street tree inventory in Cumberland and will be working on a community response plan with them. Then, will be working with La Plata and Catonsville.
 - Working on creating a project to work with reservoir management plans in drinking water reservoir watersheds in combination with landscape scale stewardship plans to bring a water quality focus to the landscape scale stewardship planning.
 - Will be conducting measurements and summarizing the results of long term riparian forest buffers monitoring sites.
 - Marylander's Plant Trees Program update
 - Deep Creek Lake recreational area – Steering committee was formed to work on watershed wide planning – USFS was tasked to create a watershed specific targeting map to recommend where trees should be planted. Allegany and Garrett County
- Watershed Wide
 - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
 - Chesapeake Watershed Forum
 - 3rd Annual Chesapeake Forest Champions will be announced.
 - Smith Island Forestry Training – Oct. 15 – 17th.
 - Running another real-estate course.
 - Working with Bureau of Forestry in PA to bring the program north.
 - Working with PA Penn State extension on “Woods in your Backyard.”
 - This could turn into a series of webinars, as well as on the ground workshops.
 - Chesapeake Bay Program
 - New Bay Agreement in development
 - Urban tree planting goal – 2,400 new acres by 2025.
 - **ACTION:** States should send a note about how they estimated their urban tree planting numbers.
 - Long term project – Land image analyst beta test is complete, so Sally will be contacting Forestry WG members to start testing the map high resolution land cover categorization.
 - Follow up for land use issues – Peter Claggett and GIS Team are designing a work plan for the new land uses.
 - **ACTION:** Fall Meeting Forestry WG, Land use WG, and GIS
 - Funding for land conservation and forest land conservation – \$50 million for FY15 and \$80 million in the off-years.

- BMP verification and expert panels are moving forward.
- Grants: NFWF grants will be announced within the next month and competitive allocation grants are being submitted.
- CREP tree and grass buffer issue
 - Issue: Cannot re-enroll in CREP grass buffer program if there are trees, so people are having to pay to remove the trees whether they want to reenroll as a grass buffer or tree buffer
 - Need to bring together USDA Forestry Teams, FSA, NRCS, and state foresters to figure out what needs to be done about this issue and how to improve CREP.
 - Within the next year, take the recommendations from the state meeting and bring it to the State FSA Directors and Bay States Cons, along with the State Foresters. Should also bring the CREP tree and grass buffer issue to this meeting.
 - Due to the Executive Order, could this issue be addressed at a regional level?
 - Need to understand the regional differences.
 - Executive Order calls for forest buffers, not grass buffers. The policy directive of FSA and Executive Order are working at cross purposes.
 - **ACTION:** Anne Hairston-Strang will follow up with Steve Koehn and determine where he is on the national and state levels.
 - **ACTION:** Sally Claggett will write-up the issue for discussion.

PA Buffer Outreach and Re-enrollment – Stephanie Eisenbise, CBF

Stephanie provided an update of CBF's role in the Potomac Forests for Water Quality project and new activities associated with outreach to landowners and re-enrollment in CREP. Many PA CREP contracts will expire in the next several years. CBF is one of the groups working to get as many as possible of these expiring contracts re-enrolled so that the riparian forests stay in place.

Discussion:

- Arbor Day Foundation – Bare Root Trees – National Competition will open up soon.
- State conservationist for NRCS – Survey for re-enrollment for forestry buffer and found that only 60% are interested in re-enrollment.
- Types of outreach conducted:
 - Targeted outreach – articles in the local papers, door-to-door, use GIS to identify landowners, discuss with partners (maybe they are already working with landowners), and contact landowners.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program provided an analysis of which BMPs the states are relying on the most – riparian forest buffers is number 2.

Stream Restoration and Habitat Project on the Michaux State Forest – Roy Brubaker, DCNR

Roy Brubaker showed meeting participants the site of an old impoundment/lake area that has had major stream restoration and planting done for the benefit of fish and other wildlife.

Waynesboro Riparian Buffer Restoration Site – Stephanie Eisenbise

Stephanie Eisenbise discussed riparian planting history of Waynesboro with meeting participants and showed them the site. This is one of the last municipal CREP plantings. At first, no herbicide was used and the trees didn't get established. CBF then received some grant funds to try again to get a riparian forest established. Lots of effort, but now seeing progress.