



Meeting Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) March Conference Call

March 2nd, 2016, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

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)
Greg Evans (VA DOF)
Justin Hynicka (MD DNR)
Tanner Haid (Cacapon Institute, WV)
Tracey Coulter (PA Bureau of Forestry)
Jeremy Hanson (VA Tech)
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)
Nicholai Francis-Lau (MDE)
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
Tom Ward (NRCS, Greensboro NC)
Nancy Falxa Sonti (USFS)
Barbara White (VA DOF)

9:00 Welcome and introductions

Sally Claggett welcomed everybody to the call and confirmed participants. She also gave a few updates:

- The Riparian Forest Buffer Forum on February 25th and 26th was a success. 95 people from around the watershed attended and every state represented.
- There is another BEES webinar coming up, tomorrow (3/03) at 3 PM about a fencing project that FWS and Trout Unlimited are doing in West Virginia.

Tree Canopy Loading Rates for Phase 6 of the Watershed Model - Justin Hynicka (MDNR)

Justin Hynicka and Dr. Marion Diver received valuable feedback on their work after their presentations during the February 11th Tree Canopy Loading Rate Partnership Review Webinar. Since then they have incorporated the feedback to make small improvements to their proposed methodology and the relative land use loading rates for tree canopy. Justin gave a presentation to the Forestry Workgroup and highlighted the changes to the methodology as well as the updated estimated relative loading rates for tree canopy land uses. To see his presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23447/fwg_030216_justin_h.pdf

Some of the changes Justin made include:

- Changes to CN assumptions to better reflect runoff at small scales.

- Using soils from hydrologic soil group C rather than D which are likely more representative conditions in the urban environment.
- Expanded rainfall data to look at daily weather data 11 years (2005 to 2015); the final result is based on an average.
- Throughflow is the most difficult to figure out; it was improved a little bit.
- Water yields changed slightly, but not by much (decreased a bit).

The presentation also included a slide or two on Olivia Devereux's work related to the relative loading rate of Tree Canopy over impervious from roads and buildings.

Questions and Comments:

- Question: You added the biomass to canopy over impervious. Did you not add that to turf grass because it is already taken account through uptake and also because of the issue with throughflow?
 - Answer: Correct.
- The big difference between this work and the urban forest buffer work is that this is all calculated by precipitation.
- If you think about each of these land uses, even though percent reductions are the same here, the actual loadings are different because you get different amounts of N and P applied.
- Sediment reduction is relative to turf grass; turf grass will also have reductions. For me [Justin] this was a reasonable assumption without having the data to really suggest otherwise.

DECISION: The FWG approved the methodology and relative loading rates for tree canopy land uses.

Within the next two weeks, Justin will present to the following workgroups and teams for their approval:

- March 2: Land Use Workgroup
- March 3: Watershed Technical Workgroup
- March 8: Urban Stormwater Workgroup
- March 10: Modeling Workgroup
- March 14: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

9:40 Governance Issues – Sally Claggett

The FWG has been tasked with developing and submitting for approval a consensus-based governance protocol to address potential partnership decisions where full support from all participating members is not able to be obtained. Sally drafted a document on the proposed Forestry Workgroup membership. To see this document:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23447/proposed_forestry_workgroup_membership.pdf

DECISION: The FWG approved the document and recommended that at-large members be changed from “up to 6” people to “up to 10” people.

Sally also reviewed the FWG 2016 prospectus document:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23447/fwg_2016.pdf

10:05 Round Robin Updates

FWG members and participants shared the excellent and ongoing work happening across the watershed.

- Cacapon Institute:
 - WV Project CommuniTree received more applications for spring 2016 than any other tree planting season since the program launched in 2012. We are excited to work with the 20 groups that will be awarded trees this spring. You can view a map of these projects by visiting the Forestry tab at www.CacaponInstitute.org.
- Maryland:
 - New grants and funds are being distributed to at least five jurisdictions for staff and plantings.
 - Later this year we will have more plantings on the Eastern Shore.
 - We are gearing up for spring planting, so we are hoping to get some more buffers established. We are doing some tree planting in places where we want to re-enroll for CREP.
 - We are planning for a total of 46 acres of land to be a part of the Woods to Lawn program and we are searching for new funding for that.
 - The Backyard Buffer programs are now taking applications; roughly half of MD counties have that.
 - We are excited to hire two new forests funded through the Forest Service cooperative agreement with FSA to work on forest buffer enrollments and re-enrollments.
 - We are working on a regional CREP monitoring approach that Penn State is leading.
 - At the UMD Appalachian Lab Dr. Nelson got funded to do research looking at retention on different land uses of atmospheric deposition of nitrogen.
 - A sunset clause on licensing is in motion; it is looking like licensing will be required every two years rather than annually.
- NRCS:
 - West Virginia is hosting a couple of trainings for riparian forest buffers.
 - Pa NRCS has hired a forester for the first time in 30 years. Peter Hoagland is now the full time forester in PA.
- Virginia:
 - VA hired two of 3 people for CREP re-enrollments. We are working with FSA on how to do this most effectively and address institutional issues (money is finite).
 - We just completed our BMP monitoring report.
 - We are working on the PA/VA partnership program as part of phase 2 of the Healthy Watersheds – Forest TMDL GIT Funding Project. We are still waiting on approval from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to move forward with the project.
 - In regards to the Tree Canopy expert panel and work, VA is really interested in focusing on forest land retention. We would like this to be raised to the Expert Panel to look into what the capability of Watershed Model is to be able to do this.
 - We just went through another application cycle for Virginia Trees for Clean Water. Similar to the Cacapon Institute, we had a tremendous number of requests. 24 requests asked for 104,000 plus trees. 22 were in Chesapeake Bay requesting 90 thousand and we are only able to give 50 thousand.
- PA:
 - As part of the North East Professional Development Program we are offering a 3-day agroforestry training in September. This will take place in Adams County.
 - We continue to struggle with budget issues in PA.

- The Chesapeake Advisory Team will meet on March 28th. This will consist of 40 individuals representing state, local NGOs, and also some buffer people.
- WV:
 - A new CREP forester started yesterday. Another will start in about a month.
- DE:
 - We are offering grants for tree planting projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This grant is offered alongside our state wide grant program. We have several applicants now that will be reviewed. The target is nonprofits, HOA's, municipalities for plantings in public spaces. In addition to the projects that will take place in Seaford and Laurel we are expecting upcoming projects in New Castle County and Delmar.
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay:
 - There are several Woods in your Backyard Workshops coming up.
 - The Eastern Shore Conservancy plans to do a presentation on Lawns to Woods.
 - We are applying to the Maryland Coastal Bay Trust Fund with MD FS to do tree plantings in Maryland.
 - Regarding the Mason Dixon RCPP, we met with Conservation District and NRCS folks and things look pretty good for the first round of ranking applications for EQUIP funding. We will spend all of the money we have for this year. We are also working with two new foresters at DNR to really start promoting RCPP in Washington County.

The next FWG meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on April 6th.