



## Meeting Minutes

### Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup (FWG) September Conference Call

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

#### Meeting Participants

Rebecca Hanmer, *FWG Chair*  
Sally Claggett (USFS), *FWG Coordinator*  
Katherine Wares (Chesapeake Research Consortium)  
Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute, WV)  
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)  
Tanner Haid (Cacapon Institute, WV)  
Judy Okay (VA DOF)  
Barbara White (VA DOF)  
Mike Santucci (VA DOF)  
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)  
Marian Honecny (MD DNR)  
Matthew Keefer (PA DCNR)  
Derrick McDonald (PA DEP)  
Kesha Braunskill (DE FS)  
Aileen Molloy (TetraTech)  
Andy Fitch (USGS)  
Jenny McGarvey (Alliance for the Bay)

#### 9:05 Welcome and introductions

Rebecca Hanmer welcomed everybody to the call and confirmed participants.

#### Updates

- Rebecca: WQGIT FWG Governance document on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. She will be going to the WQGIT meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> for approval on Urban Tree and Urban Forest Planting BMPs.

#### 9:15 Forest Conservation Priority Maps

Based on comments from the June meeting, Andy Fitch made more iterations to the map layers. Andy presented and explained the updated maps for the following forest priority areas: Woodlots, Large Forest Blocks, Riparian and Headwaters, and Large Forest Patches on Gentle Slopes. The maps can be viewed on ArcGIS Online or [here](#).

#### Questions and Comments

- For the Riparian and Headwaters layer, it was questioned whether only using areas in the top half of elevations within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed does justice to areas in lower elevations. The composite of the 4 forest priority area map layers appeared to represent lower elevations though.
- It was mentioned if there should be a text box within the maps explaining the layer and defining key terms used in the titles of the maps. Andy said that could be incorporated.
- Mike Santucci asked how these maps will be used for future work. Sally referred him to the June 1 FWG Presentation by Jonathan Doherty and how this would contribute to the Bay Program's

goal to protect an additional 2 million acres of land. These maps were made to identify the upper tier of forest lands that would be a priority for conservation.

- It was asked if these maps are publicly available. Andy answered that he can make it available online or on a FTP site or he can send it to interested parties.
- Matt Keefer asked if state Forest Action Plan datasets should be compared to these maps. Yes, this is a good idea and the State Forestry GIS personnel should be given access to these priority forest maps to conduct this analysis.
- Anne Hairston-Strang asked if all the areas in these maps would become high priority forest per the Bay Program goal to protect 695,000 acres of high value forest. Sally responded tentatively in the affirmative and that there would be a FWG session addressing this question and the future tracking conservation.
- Judy Okay asked how we know if any of these area are already conserved Sally responded that the Protect Lands dataset would have to be overlaid with these maps.

**ACTION:** Sally will get back to the group on the status of the 2 million acre goal

**ACTION:** Katherine will send the link the Forest Conservation Priority Maps to the workgroup. The primary state FWG contact should ask their State GIS staff to conduct a comparison with priority forest areas in their most recent Forest Action Plans. This information may be used to modify future priority maps.

### **9:55 Discussion on Ranking Criteria for Forest BMPs**

Sally reviewed TetraTech's project, "Quantifying the Impacts of BMPs on CBP Management Strategies and Goals" and discussed the two scoring guideline drafts (one for each Management Strategy: Riparian Forest Buffers and Tree Canopy) that TetraTech sent to the workgroup for feedback. TetraTech is asking all the GITs and Workgroups to help develop a ranking criteria that will be used to score how BMPs affect their Management Strategies. Sally shared an edited version of TetraTech's scoring guideline drafts and asked members their thoughts. Her edited versions have been posted to the meeting website; members should send edits or feedback to Sally on these revised versions by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Questions and Comments**

- Before the meeting, Frank Rodgers commented that the language in tree canopy "directly preserves"
- Aileen Molloy commented that TetraTech will be asking for scoring in early October and that scoring can be done as a group or each member can submit their own scores.

### **10:35 Round Robin**

- Sally Claggett: NFWF grants were announced in August and can be viewed online. Northeast Area USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grants due September 15<sup>th</sup>. Julie Mawhorter will be finished with her detail and will back at USFS at the end of September. The most recent Rivers for the Chesapeake proposal was sent in last month for Land and Water Conservation Fund Collaborative grant (already allotted funding for FY16 and FY17). Sally and the Alliance for the Bay will be visiting sites and doing QA/QC work on the Penn State Riparian Stream and Wetland Assessment project. Looking for additional funding on to keep Conservation Strategies LLC coordinating around the RFB State Task Force work. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum will be September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. During the Forum, there will be a two day Forestry Track, the Chesapeake Forest Champion awards will be announced, and the movie, City of Trees will be played during prime time (Friday evening). USDA Secretary Vilsack will be coming to the Chesapeake on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to showcase all the good work being done on farms to help the Bay. The next FWG meeting will be a conference call on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Jenny McGarvey: There is still room on the Smith Island Training trip. Contact Jenny if you know someone who would be interested. Terry Noto, Conservation Strategies LLC, finished the review

process for the Pennsylvania RFB Landowner's handbook and it should be in print soon. A similar handbook could be developed for other Bay states so it is also of interest outside of Pennsylvania.

- Matt Keefer: The proposal *Assessing Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Benefits* was accepted and funded by the Bay Partnership. He will let the FWG know how it can help as the project ensues. Pennsylvania is almost finished receiving proposals for their new state grant program for riparian buffers; they currently have close to 40 applicants. They will give awards out this fall and then prepare for the next grant session in spring. PA DCNR is also the partial beneficiary of 2 successful NFWF applications.
- Tanner Haid: Cacapon Institute has 14 projects under CommuniTree this fall. They were also able secure funding to plant trees in memory of Carla Harding.
- Herb Peddicord: West Virginia DOF rehired a former DOF employee as their CREP forester. Timber BMP inspections within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed will continue due to funding but inspections in the rest of the state will not continue, with the exception of complaints. There is the potential for more layoffs in the future since DOF is not receiving funding or backing by the state.
- Barbara White: Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant applications are due and will be ranked this month.
- Anne Hairston-Strang: DNR was awarded an LSR grant for Riparian Forest monitoring. They have completed the data collection for Penn State's Riparian Stream and Wetland assessment.

**10:55 Adjourned**