



Forestry Workgroup Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2021

9:00am-11:00am

Meeting Attendees:

Rebecca Hanmer, Chair
Sally Claggett, USFS, Coordinator
Katie Brownson, USFS
Iris Allen, MD DNR
Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR
Craig Highfield, ACB
Rachel Felver, ACB
Patti Webb, DNREC
Jim Woodworth, DOEE
Teddi Stark, PA DCNR

Jason Swartz, PA DCNR
Cassandra Davis, NY DEC
Lydia Brinkley, USC
Lara Johnson, VA DOF
Terry Lasher, VA DOF
Matt Poirot, VA DOF
Julie Mawhorter, USFS
Jenny McGarvey, ACB
Paul Emmart, MDE
John Wolf, USGS

Chesapeake Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard

John Wolf, USGS

John reviewed CBP's diversity outcome and discussed how the [Chesapeake Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard](#) was created to help address DEIJ issues. Taking advantage of EPA's EJ screen with demographic information and apply it to the Chesapeake. Focus on toxic contaminants, public access and DEIJ data. Developed EJ screen Chesapeake tool, but was not user friendly. Intended audience is GITs and workgroups, funding programs, project collaborators. The new dashboard integrates demographic, socioeconomic, environmental, and programmatic topics, and John is interested in other key datasets to include. There are "apps" within the dashboard for both tree canopy and forest buffers that include high-resolution land use. They are also creating a new diversity co-benefits application that will allow users to add filters for different criteria (i.e. areas with low tree canopy and a high % minority population).

Questions and Comments

- Paul- FYI, For additional socioeconomic data sources, you might look at The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future—working toward a healthy, equitable, resilient food system from within the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering. See, <https://mdfoodsystemmap.org/>
- Anne- Are these locations of the organizations or NFWF projects?
 - Lat/long of the project.
 - Anne- some of my NFWF projects covered a lot of ground, not just a point.

- Sally- Some of site specific but some portion covers larger areas, not sure the decision rules for displaying those.
 - Frank- last I looked it was the mailing address of grant recipient.
- Anne- Does it have heat island data?
 - From trust for public lands. It's 30 m resolution, scaled from 1-5, 5 being most intense effects.
- Frank- Percentile of color is 50%, i.e., in the U.S. 50% of the census blocks have a lower ratio of color. Not 50% people of color. What hydro-line was used? USGS? Do you know when the high-resolution stream layer will be ready?
- Julie- would like to be pilot testers when it's available. Part of tree canopy workplan is to work with this tool, scan for other heat related or other data sets to incorporate. American forests new tree equity score viewer should be available in May. Is that something to link to in the programmatic?
 - Yes, might integrate content as well.
- Lydia- tried using the tool when applying for NFWF grants, found it difficult to select specific areas based on watershed. Is there a way to do that?
 - Not currently, since we're dealing with population data at a census unit. Could be a way to do that. Would that be helpful?
 - Lydia- even if we were to describe that in the application, could describe it. Something to help describe demographics without being able to select particular areas.
 - Maybe just having a watershed overlay?
 - Print to PDF or JPEG
- Anne- can you generate your highlighted watershed and download that data?
 - Not a segment of shapefiles but can download entire datasets.
 - Anne- looking for the general targeting, and then where are the community organizations you want to be working with? Inclusion is about grassroots. If we're going to overlay on property view, we would need the shapefiles.
 - Could be doable.
- Anne- can there be a link from Tree canopy network website to this?
 - Julie- yes once we have official guidance.
 - John- collecting feedback and presenting to different workgroups, making the doable updates and then re-releasing in the summer. Content and functionality will evolve and change over next few months.
- Katie- It would be interesting to see if there are any other datasets we could add showing the distribution of funding for restoration work

Forestry BMPs Credit Duration Recommendations

Sally Claggett, USFS

Sally provided an updated draft of recommendations for credit duration and backout for the WTWG to review. While this isn't a huge change, goal is consistency and simplicity. Biggest issue comes down to practices with fencing. Credit duration and backout will all be 15 years.

Questions and Comments

- Anne- does a practice get a higher efficiency because of the fence? What's critical is forest establishment. Is the fence still critical after 30 years?

- The practice doesn't get a higher efficiency because of the fence, but for the fence is considered in the practice lifespan since it's part of the definition of the practice, and keeping cows out of the riparian area.
- Anne- rotational grazing? May be worth considering the nature of the animal pasturage as well, whether it's a two-week or year-round grazing.
- Sally- we may look at this and silvopasture both of which may be BMPs in the future.
- Katie- surprisingly way fewer of the fenced buffers in CAST than there are non-fenced. If you just pull numbers out of CAST, that lower practice life for fenced buffers may not have that large of an impact.
- Sally- that's reported acres, then we'll have our land use data which will confirm if it's reported accurately. Interesting point to continue to look at.
- Frank- Is that modeled as land use or land cover?
 - Sally- Land use since land cover is just tree canopy. Land use separates put TC over turf or impervious.
 - Municipality will probably be looking at land cover. Might get land use, but I understand most municipalities look at whether TC is increasing or decreasing. They aren't involved in the model.
 - Katie- no action required on the part of the municipality; we assume it will be picked up in land use/land cover after 15 years.
- Terry- is there any validation for whether it's picked up? Are we validating whether or not those acres are represented?
 - More backout, time period we expect the practice to be picked up in land use/land cover, that's what Iris will be presenting to the WTWG.
 - Not unless your state wants to take a closer look.
 - States get "upslope credit" an equivalent of "efficiency" upslope. Not just what's happening in the buffer with the conversion of turf to trees, the calculated efficiency includes the 4 acres of upslope (N) feeding that buffer, 2 acres for sediment and phosphorus.
- Julie- to Frank's question, land use in local governments is very different from CB land use data.
- Rebecca- asking Julie to send us in writing what land use means in a municipality, and what it means for CB modeling. Work on verification guidance for urban trees more.
- Paul- if the practice tree planting is used for MS4 compliance credit, that BMP is regulatorily required to be verified every 3 years, built into MS4 permit system in MD.
- Sally- if anyone else has MS4 requirements for Tree planting, email them to Sally.
- Iris has done an analysis of when tree plantings are picked up in hi-res land use. It has to be in the ground 15 years prior to the most recent imagery date. Use for all tree canopy whether its urban or rural.
- Sally- ok to move forward with these recommendations? The WTWG won't overrule us but need to make sure it complies with other modeling issues. Will need to take this to the WQGIT. Members ok with approval of this chart. Move forward with this document barring any objections.

Decision: Members agreed to proceed with the 15-year recommendation for Credit Duration and backout with no objections.

STAC Rising Water Temperatures Workshop: Forestry BMPs *Katie Brownson, USFS*

Katie shared the conceptual model the BMP team is using to look at how near-shore BMPs interact and influence temperature. Classifying BMPs in 8 categories based on the direction of impact on water temperature and the strength of evidence around that impact. Focusing on forestry BMPs, lots of research showing riparian forests effectively cooling streams by reducing solar radiation, reducing ambient air temperature, upland forests cooling runoff.

Questions and Comments

- Sally- if created wetlands are well vegetated, are they still known heaters?
 - For “possible” or “suspected”, the amount of vegetation matters.
 - As soon as you removed cows or let it revegetate, very different environment than 15 years after planted with a shaded community and full tree canopy closure
 - Trying to think about that in time and spatial scale
- Frank- Bottom right under Air Temperature shows heat increases with "Tree Canopy". Should that be "Loss of canopy".
- Anne- UTC research, saying trees over impervious are not impacting air temperature,
 - but could still have benefits for cooling downstream.
 - Anne- anything on transpiration cooling related to the larger canopy area?
 - A little in modeling studies but would be something to think through more explicitly.
- Rebecca- **Please review Katie’s slideshow and send related information, questions, references, etc.** Maybe we need to go to the AgWG- Mark and Loretta, to see how they react to the scheme and overall framework.
 - Katie- on their next agenda to give a request for help.

GIT Funding Project Ideas

Julie Mawhorter, Katie Brownson, USFS

Julie presented recent efforts preparing to submit a GIT proposal for the funding and policy roundtable as outlined in the Tree Canopy workplan. Working on a draft focused on that, weaving in the overlaps with DEIJ and climate resiliency and co-benefits for other outcomes. Reach out if interested in collaborating. Other ideas welcome.

Questions and Comments

- Anne- Any sort of innovative support ideas for how to effectively deliver urban tree planting, in concert with DEIJ principles. The more we can network the better for us with the new 5 million additional trees goal in MD.

State Buffer Action Plan Updates

There will be another meeting today on outcome attainability at biennial SRS meeting. Looking at harnessing that meeting, looking at why this may be, what outcomes are working, what breakthroughs other outcomes have experienced that could help ours. Discussion with MB level folks, further discussions at the secretary level, one on one informational conversations.

- **New York-** Will have more input on buffer action plan, spent a lot of time on CRP and now that we get away from it, we have more opportunities for implementation. Consistent funding and technical assistance are the focus, rather than having to re-apply every year.
- **PA-** Pulled from Phase 3 WIP, more technical assistance, stable and predictable funding, connecting with leaders and ensuring they are committed to advancing efforts.
- **MD-** Forest buffer action plan, legislature HB 991 ended up with a piece of the climate bill. Should have an opportunity to plant 5 million additional trees on top of existing goals before 2031. Funding and positions to come with that. Will build on existing stream re-leaf coordinating committee, tap Phase 3 WIP and see what we can build out with the additional 5 mil trees, how many could be buffers. Engaging at secretary level so they are aware of buffer and tree planting goals.
- **DE-** Draft sent via email from Marcia to Katie. Outline of major barriers, current payments aren't sufficient for new enrollment, USDA programs and rules are changing, challenging to get Ag planners to sell the programs.
- **VA-** Working on a broader strategy, handful of initiatives and directives from GA. Working on it across the secretaries and depts, really engage where we see gaps, what is out state project and profile going forward. Began last summer with DOF, with canopy legislation and localities, what was effective or not. My tree counts app, expanding funding for James River buffer program. New watershed management division within VA DOF. Carbon sequestration and riparian forest buffer cost share programs, hardwood forest initiative to improve use and management of VA's hardwood forests, and wildlife corridor access studies. Matt has gotten more BMP money there in achieving or exceeding goals with harvest BMPs, riparian forest buffer tax credit program is growing, seeing retention of buffers during harvest, commitment from GA to expand nursery operations (hardwoods in Augusta county). RGGI to fund coastal resiliency projects.
- **WV-** Working on a strategy with CREP team. Filling state lead position but connecting with county FSA folks. CI is going to staff two positions each half focused on CREP and geographically located for efficiency. Wrapped up planting season, 500 trees over 2 dozen groups, using EJ screen and targeting with that. Berkeley county celebrating 250th anniversary, to plant 250 commemorative trees in addition to routine plantings, many are going on school grounds.
- **DC-** DEIJ effort, spent arbor day doing a cleanup. Neighborhood land use is strictly commercial and multifamily residential. The "last frontier" is getting trees planted on private property, multi-family housing. Last piece of the pie to make this tree canopy goal is working in high renter neighborhoods, characteristic of a lot of work in SE DC. Hardest work requiring the most effort.

Adjourn