Forestry Work Group

May 1, 2012

Participants: Ann Hairston-Strang, Tim Culbreth, Allie Baird, Josh Burch, Sally Claggett, Anna Stuart Burnett, Sarah Nicholas, Tracey Coulter, Josh, Chris Peiffer, Gary Moore, Earl Bradley, Matt, WV

**State info about Forests and the WIP**

1. MD: Ann Hairston-Strang
   1. Forest is the biggest land use in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but it produces the least pollution
   2. MD WIP shows increased forest by 2017
   3. Need updated BMPs
   4. Buffer plantings are cheaper than restoration projects
2. DC: Josh Burch
   1. Urban strategy: if they find a spot, they plant in it
   2. urban tree planting is the main action
   3. Planting street trees is great, but doesn’t get the canopy cover they need
   4. They are working with landowners
   5. Developers must have green practices or include tree plantings
   6. Watts Branch Restoration with 10,000 trees
3. PA: Sara Nicholas, Chris Peiffer
   1. PA had a problem with how urban trees were counted in the model
   2. They have templates for prioritizing tree plantings
   3. PAs WIP focuses on identifying county initiatives
4. WV: Herb Petticord
   1. WV is 78% forested
   2. WV needs to increase regulation on timber harvesting industry
   3. Have potential to lose logging inspectors in this economic climate
   4. EPA is funding forestry
   5. A focus is on voluntary incentives for implementation, there is lots of participation (from private property owners)
   6. Stream fencing is critical
   7. CREP and EQUIP funding programs
5. NY: Sloane Crawford, Rebecca Moore
   1. Urban won’t be reported?
   2. Assist with CRP plantings?
   3. Don’t have to worry about double counting
   4. Forest harvesting can lead to more BMPs?
   5. There is no mandatory harvesting reporting
6. DE: None
   1. Not expecting much from urban plantings
7. VA: Matt
   1. Working on statewide goals or BMP implementation and tree planting and riparian buffers
   2. Out of the box thinking: looking at a way to get credit in the model for protecting forest lands from conversion
   3. Gotten requests from localities for information
      1. Localities don’t need to create a forest plan
   4. Will only be able to provide technical guidance on trees
   5. Having trouble with tracking buffers
8. Discussion/ Summary
   1. How can the FWG best assist forestry and state agencies?
   2. Need to look into forest harvesting more in-depth
   3. Need consistency and certainty of practices
   4. Need to be able to report out to larger committees
   5. MD is looking for future funding for Background Buffer program
   6. Verification is always a challenge
   7. FWG should be talking with Joan Salvati and hear what the municipalities are doing to help maintain their trees
   8. Urban environment is improving and having a net gain in urban tree planting
   9. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are key partners to work with and get technical assistance to

**Round Robin**

1. PA: Tracey Coulter
   1. Agroforestry trainings in May
   2. Marcellus Tour: no updates, working with communications director to get info out. 23-24th of May. Look out for updates from Anna Stuart or Tracey.
2. VA: Matt
   1. Held two gravel road workshops, and may hold another one.
      1. About design, implement, and maintenance
3. WV: Frank
   1. Gravel roads workshop in June, Donnelle Keech is in charge of registration
   2. CREP training coming up May 15-16th in Morefield, WV
   3. June 5th at Shenandoah University, talking about innovations in recruiting people for conservation practices and signing people up for conserved lands, encouraging backyard buffers
   4. Finishing planting 440 trees in WV, involving schools
4. MD: Ann Hairston-Strang
   1. 10 counties for Backyard Buffer plantings, it has been well received
   2. Millions of dollars are going from land conservation practices to WIPs
   3. Leading schools and streams projects
   4. Tim Culbreth is trying to apply the targeting system and going around helping with plantings
5. Sally Claggett
   1. May 16th is the deadline for the Small Watershed Grants and Nutrient Reduction Grants
   2. Target early June for Forestry Grants
   3. Forest restoration strategy is near completion
      1. Thanks for all who have helped
      2. Planning more outreach efforts
      3. Planning final version for fall after comment period
   4. May 22nd, Working lands conservation strategy, targeting state folks, and agriculture state and federal folks
   5. Time to propose presentations for Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum at the end of September
      1. Sally will do a release of the Forest Restoration Strategy
      2. Send ideas to Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
   6. Matt needs to send “Forests on the Water’s Edge” document to Sally and Herb