**Forestry Workgroup Conference Call**

**February 6, 2013**

**Participants:** Alli Baird, Eric Sprague, Jason Smith, Craig Highfield, Judy Okay, Karen Cappiella, Matt Poirot, Anna Stuart, Sally Claggett, Michael Valenti, Rebecca Hanmer, Julie Mawhorter, Tom Ward, Josh Zimmerman, Alana Hartman, Herb Peddicord, Anne Hairston-Strang, Lou Etgen, Tim Culbreth, Sara Nicholas, Marcia Fox, Sloane Crawford, Derrick McDonald, Chris Peiffer, Donna Murphy

**Tree Planting in Clarke County, VA**

* Project goals: work with Clarke County to ID priorities for forest restoration using a small watershed grant funded by the USFS through the National Fish and Wildlife Fdn
* Focused on priority placement of riparian buffers and residential turf Riparian buffer targets were generated using a GIS-based riparian forest buffer targeting matrix that uses readily available data layers (depth to water table, slope, land use, nutrient loading, etc)
* Focused on land that drained to impaired waters, parcels that were greater than 2 acres, and within 100 ft of a stream
* Reforested 18 acres of riparian forest buffer
* Grant should be done within 6 months

Questions

* Good to see methodology in action
* Matt: are you working with county employees or SWCD? Mostly with one county planning employee.
* Was there any cross-referencing with cultural heritage resources? No.

**Draft Workplan for Forests and Air Deposition**

* This topic was discussed at the WQ GIT--the workgroup was encouraged to pursue these Mid-point Assessment projects of lower priority to the GIT
* Bay Program website has info on air pollution, but does not make clear how much of the 34% N delivered to the watershed by atmospheric deposition is treated by the forest land use
* Draft workplan contains messages we want to deliver
* Because of the extent of forest land use, attenuation has a huge impact on the amount of deposition that reaches the Bay
* Currently a simple workplan about communicating how forests attenuate atmospheric nitrogen deposition in forests

Comments

* Is there a phosphorus source from forests from road erosion issues: the Bay Model only attributes N and P loads from air deposition
* Harvested forest category gets a higher loading rate in the Model
* Members from FWG (Alliance and others) will review the workplan (recommendation to list as draft) and present it
* ACTION: Rebecca and Sally will present this Workplan and the Forest Harvest Workplan (discussed in December) to the WQ GIT on Feb 11

**Forestry BMP Verification Protocols**

The document will be in “near final” stage by February 14, in order to proceed through the Verification Process developed by the CBP and eventually to be delivered, circa May, to the jurisdictions to write their prescriptive Verification Plans.

Expanded Tree Canopy and Urban Buffers

* For urban tree planting to count, want to make sure that it represents a net gain
* By 2017, there may be an urban tree canopy land use layer but will still report Expanded Tree Canopy as a BMP annually
* Matt has a few concerns: Panel needs to decide who is going to do this at the state level. Also, who is going to pay for it?
* The role of the FWG is to provide technical expertise: I.e., Are the protocols necessary to show a net gain in tree canopy? And is there a better way to do it?
* BMP verification should be “equitable” -- that is, the BMP’s that are most relied upon to reach the WIP targets should receive the most rigorous verification.

Ag Buffers and Ag Tree Planting

* Ag buffers are more easily verified due to existence of cost-share data
* Want to include width in buffer data
* Want to monitor buffers after 10 years to make sure it is still visually functioning
* Need to track previous buffers that are not being re-enrolled— what % are still standing?

Forest Harvesting

* Does not overlap with other workgroups
* Need to know acres harvested and sampled rate of BMP implementation.
* Protocol to determin if the forest harvesting BMPs are effective.
* **ACTION: Matt has preferred language to use for Protocol #3.**
* **ACTION: NEED ALL COMMENTS BY WED. FEBRUARY 13, 2013.**

**Announcements**

* Alli Baird, VA: online GIS database for natural heritage resources. Will be live March 1st. Could be incorporated with other projects (such as reforestation) around the state to help prioritize conservation
* Sally Claggett: March 20-21. FWG will review on-going, watershed-wide projects. FWG members are encouraged to be present--- at least one representative per state. NFWF Small Watershed Grants, Growing Native, Bay Bank, Forestry for the Bay, and Potomac Watershed Partnership coordination
* ACTION: SALLY WILL **EMAIL AN INVITATION TO FWG.**
* Craig Highfield: Tomorrow’s workshop: Real Forestry for Real Estate has 55 people signed up.