**Forestry Workgroup Meeting**

**August 1, 2012**

**Participants**: Tim Culbreth, Anna Stuart Burnett, Sally Claggett, Tracey Coulter, Derrick McDonald, Chris Peiffer, Josh Zimmerman, Frank Rogers, Donna Murphy, Craig Highfield, Lou Etgen, Alli Baird, Matt Poirot, Judy Okay, Gary Speiran, David Wise

CBP Updates:

1. Annual Executive Council meeting held July 9. Good, open, candid discussions
   1. Lisa Jackson, EPA, representing the Federal govt, is outgoing chair and
   2. Principals attending: Vincent Grey (DC) and Gov. O’Malley (MD)
   3. Other states were represented by their secretaries or asst secretaries
   4. Advisory Committees had a large role, especially Citizen’s Advisory Committee, and recommended actions involving citizen engagement and accountability, and measuring and showing progress, alternatives to the existing model and environmental literacy.
2. Management Board meeting: August 2, 2012.
   1. Looking at better cross-GIT collaboration, what are some projects that support this?
   2. Oyster recovery, environmental literacy, and forest restoration strategy are in similar situations-- required by the EO, but not necessarily adopted by CBP
   3. GITs have been feeding goal statements up to the Management Board for their information. (see attached paper)
3. Executive Order Strategy update:

Riparian forest buffer outcome-- Action items from each of the states was requested by the end of July. Still need 2013 Riparian Forest Actions from PA, MD, and NY to populate the 2013 Action Plan.

* 1. Forest Restoration Strategy: public comments are due August 6

ACTION: Look at the actions in the FRS and report back to the FWG if you have projects pertaining to them.

* 1. Working Lands Conservation Strategy (farms and forest): a forest team met 3 times this summer to draft the forest portion of this strategy

4. Grants Update: All Forest Service: grants for 2012 are in (waiting for finalization on two of them). NFWF Grants—preliminary decisions made. A lot more riparian forest buffer proposals in the Small Watershed Grants program this year.

5. Forest Champion Contest: Nominations are due August 6th. All information available on the web @ www.forestryforthebay.org. There were four forest champions last year, this year there will be three: best at engaging the public, best on-the-ground impact, and best land steward. Last year winners were recognized at the Chesapeake Forum and also got a write-up on the Chesapeake Bay website.

6. 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum: Sept 28-30. All are encouraged to attend. At least 2 presentations planned on forestry (one on Forest Restoration Strategy, and buffer targeting).

7. Annual Smith Island Watershed Training: will be happening **Mon Sept 10-12**. Will be on nearby Port Isabel (not Smith Island).

ACTION: each state will recruit 4-5 people for the training. Get the names to Tim Culbreth by **Aug 22nd**.

8. Planning a FWG watershed-wide program review in Fall 2012 to support budgeting effort. Review is to focus on projects such as Growing Native, Potomac Watershed Coordination, Forestry for the Bay, Bay Bank, Smith Island Training, and similar ongoaing projects to discuss the relevance of each and identify areas of improvement. Tentatively planned for 2 days between Nov 27-29.

9. Next FWG meeting: Sept 5th, face-to-face, tentatively in Annapolis.

10. CBP BMP Verification: A Steering Committee will meet again August 16 and Sept 12. The draft Forestry BMP Verification Principles have been developed with the help of the FWG. A Verification Expert Panel is forming that will these and other draft Principles that have been developed this fall.

ACTION: Circulate the draft Forestry BMP Verification Principles after this meeting.

* 1. Urban tree planting BMP: suggestion to change name to “expanded tree cover”
  2. Not concerned with what/how many trees are planted, but with the canopy cover
  3. ACTION: Sally will send out the most recent document to the group
  4. Why does tree cover have to be a BMP? There is fear that it will become a background effort
  5. Forestry BMP credit reviews: riparian forest buffer and grass buffers, expanded tree cover expert panel

**Round Robin**

1. MD:
   1. Lou Etgen: just shy of 6,000 trees were planted in a 3 year project in Baltimore.
   2. Just received funding to do 3 more years including a social marketing strategy.
   3. The goal is to be planting 6,000 trees/yr.
   4. Craig just finished working with landowner group
   5. going to work with MD forest service to bring real estate program to MD, bring in Va Tech with that project.
2. VA: outreach meeting scheduled for targeting project in Northern part of Shenandoah Valley.
   1. Forest land conservation credit, nutrient trading program.
   2. Green ash bore quarantine initiative.
3. WV: in three years education budged has gone from $43 million to $.5 million.
   1. Environmental literacy strategy. Trying to get a law for an environmental literacy standard (part of National Strategy as a graduation requirement).
4. PA: promotion of CREP forest buffers, prioritized ranking for who gets funds.
   1. Two iTree workshops coming up Aug 16-17 and Aug 20-21. Have until Aug 10th to register.