

Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) Meeting

April 8th, 2014

10 AM – 3 PM

Participants: Rebecca Hanmer, Sally Claggett, Julie Mawhorter, Herb Peddicord, Frank Rodgers, Tim Culbreth, Judy Okay, Brian Ellis, Anne Hairston-Strang, Craig Highfield, Matt Poirot, Tracey Coulter, Sara Nicholas, Tuana Phillips

Round Robin Updates:

Maryland:

- MD's 2014 CARP grant titled *Sustainable Forest Landscapes for Water and Wood Forest Management in Water Supply Watersheds* is on its way. Anne received kudos for having the highest ranked proposal in the 20 state region. This certainly isn't the first time that a grant Anne wrote was ranked highly.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay:

- Real Forestry for Real Estate courses—ACB is starting a 2nd round of these courses in Maryland with new offerings and they are expanding the course into Pennsylvania this year.

Virginia:

- Virginia Tech is hosting a symposium on Effectiveness of Forest Harvest Best Management Practices in the Eastern United States. The event will take place May 12 – 15 in Blacksburg, VA.
- A workshop slated to help people get most out of their land, *Progressive Tree Planting for Farms and Open-Land*, will take place on May 9th from 2 PM to 7 PM at the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative Building in Culpeper, VA. The workshop is co-sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and VDOF. Participants will explore how tree planting can help with land management, how to find sources of assistance for planting, and learn about the possible economic results.

West Virginia:

- WV is using parcel data to calculate average canopy cover in Martinsburg.
- WV DEP installed 6 rain gardens at a school in the Potomac basin.

- Has seen a lot of success with Project CommuniTree and collaboration with Cacapon Institute. Approximately 600 urban trees are being planted this spring.
- Cacapon Institute is doing abandoned Mine Land reforestation work in Grant County, WV. Frank met with Economic Development Council and County Commissioners to tell them what he'd be doing.

PA:

- PA is working with several partners on invasive species management and control on Hawk Mountain. Project leaders are meeting on April 24th. Fences and goats will be used, as there is interest in reducing pesticide usage.
- On the 7th and 8th of May, the Agroforestry Team and guests will meet at King's Gap Environmental Education Center in Carlisle, PA.
- The PA Women's Agricultural Network and Women and Their Woods are collaborating to do an agroforestry tour on June 20th at Dickinson College. The two groups will also go to a local state park to talk about vernal pools.
- PA Legacy is working toward protecting the drinking watershed of Cumberland, MD.
- PA was awarded two grants from NFWF. One grant with TNC and CBF will be used to target high-quality trout streams for placement of forest buffers. The other grant will be used do improved wetland restoration in a 3-part effort that includes mapping what used to be wetlands and ensuring avoidance of flooding roads and disturbing bog turtles.
- PA is piloting ten restoration activities on the ground.
- Trout Unlimited is knocking on doors and talking to community members in Juniata County, where some streams are still healthy despite low canopy cover and heavy agricultural practices. A big summer event is being planned as well.

FWG Chair:

- We are cautiously optimistic that the Best Management Practices (BMP) Verification Panel will approve our forestry BMP verification guidelines. One concern is that our riparian forest buffer verification guidelines overlap with the Agriculture Workgroup's guidelines. The Agriculture Workgroup will discuss this issue at their next meeting on April 30th. Another concern is that we are unclear on where 10 ft. buffers fall in terms of riparian buffers. States will be able to focus their Verification efforts on biggest BMPs.

Judy Okay:

- A few helpful articles are scheduled to get published in the coming months:
 - One paper highlights results from pre- and post- emergent work with herbicides, led by Karen Hall at North Carolina University. This paper also provides management recommendations for invasive *Microstegium vimineum*.

- Another paper from Don Weller and Matt Baker analyzes flow paths at a 30 meter resolution scale to determine the effectiveness of riparian buffers according to how much land area (and what type) drains into a buffer.
- A Steering Committee has been formed to plan a Riparian Forest Buffer Leadership Summit in June to talk about increasing buffer restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This summit will have leaders from USDA, EPA, state WIP leads, NGO leaders, etc.

Presentation on Forest Harvesting BMPs and Tracking in VA

Matt Poirot provided an overview of how Virginia monitors and reports Forest Harvesting BMPs. Matt also gave a brief background on Forest Harvesting BMPs in his presentation. For more information, please see Matt's presentation available at:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21647/vdof_fwg_meeting_april_8_2014.pdf

For more information on Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices, please see the Technical Manual available at:

- http://www.dof.virginia.gov/print/water/BMP/Manual/2011_Manual_BMP.pdf

For more information on Virginia's Best Management Practices monitoring, please see the Silvicultural BMP Implementation Monitoring report available at:

- <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/print/water/BMP/BMPs-Imp-Monitoring-2011.pdf>

Other discussion points:

- How do you handle illegal logging?
Matt: We know where the majority of illegal logging activities are located. Loggers do not want to get fined, therefore they almost always notify us.
- Should VA be reporting only data on significant risk in Forest Harvesting BMP monitoring?
Probably. VA currently reports overall BMP implementation, not those posing "significant risk." VA should define significant risk for further FWG consideration/endorsement.

Monitoring of Forest Harvest BMPs in Maryland and Delaware

Anne Hairston-Strang presented on the protocol used in the Northeast to monitor Forest harvest BMP effectiveness. She also spoke about her project to monitor BMP implementation in MD and DE. For more information, please see Anne's presentation available at:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21647/mdbmpresults2005.pdf

Other Discussion Points:

- The BMP assessment allows you to calculate how much sediment is delivered.
- Sediment erosion programs are not monitored or enforced in Pennsylvania. However, it might be possible to track-down and combine/sample this data from conservation districts in the future.

Forest Harvesting BMP Credit and Reporting in the Chesapeake Bay Model

Sally Claggett provided background information on how the Model currently accounts for Forest Harvesting land use and how it credits Forest Harvesting BMPs. In addition, a new Expert Panel will be formed to review Forest Harvesting BMPs in the near future. For more information, please see Sally's presentation available at:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21647/forest_harvesting_in_cb_model_2.pdf

Land Use Workgroup Recommendations

Sally reviewed the latest annotated list of proposed land uses for Phase 6.0 of the Chesapeake Bay Model. There are a number of new forest land uses that are under consideration by the FWG. These land uses are: Urban tree canopy, riparian/floodplain forest, (true) forest, mixed open, and disturbed forest. For more information, please see Sally's presentation, as well as the Land Use Workgroup's recommendations draft document, available at:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21647/proposed_forestry_land_uses_2.pdf
- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21647/document_-_proposed_phase_6_land_uses_v2.pdf

Discussion Points:

- The upcoming Chesapeake Bay Science and Technical Advisory Committee's workshop **"The Peculiarities of Perviousness"** will have a section on urban tree canopy. The

workshop has been rescheduled for **April 22-23**, and is open for webinar only participation (in person attendance for invited experts only). For more information:

- http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=230
- Certain titles or words used in the Land Use Workgroup's document are ambiguous and could be changed for clarity. For example, "undamaged understory" really should be called "natural understory."
- Other questions about clarity were raised, including whether "wooded pasture" is included in forest layers.
- The FWG should be strategic when considering these layers. We want to be complex where useful, and remove what might not be useful.
- The FWG approved the new forest land uses and supports the Land Use Workgroup's recommendations moving forward.