

## **Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) Conference Call**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**9 AM – 11 AM**

### **Participants:**

Rebecca Hanmer, *Chair*  
Sally Claggett, USFS, *Coordinator*  
Tuana Phillips, CRC, *Staff*  
Tanner Haid, Cacapon Institute (WV)  
Anne Hairston-Strang, MDNR  
Colin Jones, MDA  
Eric Sprague, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
Tom Ward, NRCS  
Carolyn Sedgwick, Piedmont Environmental Council  
Judy Okay, VA DOF  
Sloane Crawford, NY DEC

### **Land Use Loading Rates Presentation – Olivia Devereux**

For a link to Olivia's presentation:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/22125/loadingrates\\_devereux\\_20141001\\_forwg.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22125/loadingrates_devereux_20141001_forwg.pdf)

### **Discussion Points:**

- The group spent time discussing the Phase 5 average targets for harvested forest and other land uses on slide number 6.
- It was pointed out that if FWG members could get access to the list of literature documents TetraTech has already looked at, members could then suggest other documents for information that is missing. Olivia said she would try to get that list for members.
- It was also pointed out that the group needs to determine the loading rate numbers for orchards.
- Riparian area will be used as an overlay for all land uses in Phase 6. This means every land use will have a certain amount or percentage defined as riparian area.
- Upland, or true forest, will be used as a category in Phase 6. Also, harvested and disturbed will be two different categories.
- In the coming weeks, the FWG will spend time discussing the following land uses: urban tree cover, and harvested vs. disturbed forests.

### **Phase 6.0 CBW Model Update**

This update was skipped because Olivia covered all of the modeling topics Sally planned to talk about.

## **Urban Tree Canopy Summit Update**

Eric provided the group an update on this Summit:

- The FWG was awarded EPA funding to hold the UTC Summit on October 14-15 in Linthicum, MD.
- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay was commissioned to help coordinate the effort, and Maryland DNR is also playing a leading role.
- The first day (Oct 14) will be presentations and discussions. Urban forestry leads will share with other states what they are doing. Oct 15 will be mostly small group break-out brainstorming.
- Partners at the meeting will be discussing how to meet the urban tree canopy outcome in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. This will be the focus of the break-out sessions on the second day. Partners will come up with draft recommendations for management strategies.
- Part of the conversation will be focused on how to encourage local governments to promote urban tree canopy programs.
- All states will be represented at the Summit.
- The FWG will use the discussions and recommendations from the Summit to guide the management strategy conversation at the December 2-day meeting.

## **Healthy Watersheds Goal Team Activities Update**

Tuana provided background and an update on The Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT).

- Background: This GIT intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today, as a programmatic complement to the “impaired waters” approach which focuses on restoring waters if they become degraded. The GIT has two workgroups: the Tracking Workgroup and Local Engagement Workgroup. For more information on this GIT and its workgroups:  
[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/maintaining\\_healthy\\_watersheds\\_goal\\_implementation\\_team](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/maintaining_healthy_watersheds_goal_implementation_team)
- Currently, the GIT is spending energy and effort on the development of management strategies. The GIT is responsible for management strategy development of three outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement: the Healthy Watersheds Outcome, the Land Use Metrics and Methods Outcome, and the Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome.
- The GIT is hosting a brainstorming Work Session on October 30<sup>th</sup> dedicated to the three outcomes it is responsible for. FWG members are important to participate, as forests are an integral component of healthy watersheds.

## **Other Discussion Points:**

- The GIT’s map of State-identified healthy watersheds was a discussion point. Rather than having states come up with their own definitions of healthy watersheds, FWG members asked if it would be more valuable to do a single Bay-wide assessment of healthy watersheds. A barrier that is preventing this from happening is that states are concerned about potential regulatory consequences.

**Other Announcements:**

- Congratulations to this year's Chesapeake Forest Champions: West Virginia CommuniTree, Nancy Baker, Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation, and Joe Howard. The Champions were recognized at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The final Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy Report is complete and available online <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>
- The Large Landscape Conservation Initiative is meeting this week in Shepherdstown, WV. Much of the agenda will be focused on the Land Conservation Goal and outcomes, and forests are a big piece of that discussion.
- A Rivers of the Chesapeake grant proposal was submitted for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Landscape Collaborative to protect some priority parcels for federal acquisition.
- *A Field Pastures, Creek Sides, and Trees* Workshop will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Warrenton, Virginia.
- Maryland update: The Lawn to Woodlands Program will convert 100 acres of lawns to woodlands next spring.
- Virginia update: An agreement between the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and VA DOF will get more trees on the ground in VA. Non-profit groups are a part of this grant, and it includes urban tree canopy projects as well.
- West Virginia update: The Cacapon Institute and WV DOF will plant 1,200 trees with Project CommuniTree as well as for riparian tree canopies. Furthermore, the Cacapon Institute is starting to work with a lot of HOAs on land that is no longer being managed.
- \$50,000 of EPA GIT Funding is going to a Landscape Level Demonstration Project Proposal designed to test incentives for forestland retention through the TMDL Model.

The next FWG conference call will be in November. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the FWG will have a face-to-face meeting somewhere in the Annapolis area with a focus on Management Strategies.