



## Meeting Minutes

### Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup (FWG) May face-to-face Meeting

May 6th, 2015, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Western Maryland Research & Education Center (WMREC)

18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756

#### Meeting Participants:

Sally Claggett (USFS), *FWG Coordinator*  
Julie Mawhorter (USFS), Mid-Atlantic Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator  
Tuana Phillips (Chesapeake Research Consortium)  
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)  
Judy Okay (VA DOF)  
Colin Jones (MDA)  
Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute, WV)  
Justin Hynicka (MD DNR)  
Tracey Coulter (PA Bureau of Forestry)  
Jenny McGarvey (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)  
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)  
Jeremy Hanson (VA Tech)  
Matt Poirot (VA DOF)  
Greg Evans (VA DOF)  
Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)  
Marian Norris (NPS)

#### Update on Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel – Jeremy Hanson:

- The UTC Expert Panel is hosting an open session on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Those interested in attending should RSVP no later than May 19<sup>th</sup> to present and no later than May 27<sup>th</sup> to attend. Presentation slots are still available, and FWG members are welcome to present.
- Question: Will people get a chance to hear about the work of the Expert Panel to date?
  - Answer: Briefly, but the bigger point of this open session is for others to come in and network with members of the Expert Panel. The Expert Panel has only had two conferences to date so their work is still very much in the early stages.
- Comment: This Expert Panel was called to address this issue. We are expecting this avenue to dig a little deeper. I would recommend that this Open House bring in specific people who can speak to this issue.

- Sally Claggett and Anne Hairston-Strang offered to help Jeremy “plant some seeds” and get more people to sign up to present.

### **The Woods in Your Backyard Presentation – Jonathan Kays**

Jonathan Kays (UMD Extension) provided an overview of the Woods in Your Backyard (WIYB) and newest updates to the program and guide. For more information, please see [Jonathan's presentation slides](#). Other Woods in Your Backyard resources can be located online at: <http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/woods-your-backyard>

Other presentation points, questions or comments:

- Currently he and others are working on a new version of the WIYB guide and a downloadable workbook as well.
- The guide uses a learning approach with lessons and hands-on activities. The user ends up basically with a forest stewardship plan.
- Question: Are you collaborating with Land Trusts?
  - Answer: There is some collaboration going on in Pennsylvania. A land trust in the area has been using this material.
- When talking with small acreage people you need to get them in the mindset to think big. Sometimes they think that planting a couple of tree is sufficient.
- Question: With the hack-and-squirt – are most people interested in controlling invasives or for habitat?
  - Answer: Both.
- UMD Extension is also currently developing an online course for landowners. The details are still unknown at this stage.
- Question: What about the economics of having trees around your house? It might be a good idea to instruct people on how to use trees to their advantage for economics.
  - Answer: This new version focused more on water quality and soils, not so much on energy.
- Comment: In the PA Women in Woods Program participants also draw their property and then explain it to the rest of the group. I found that to be really helpful.
  - Response: Yes, it's about values, not objectives. People know what they like.
- Question: are you doing a modified version of this presentation to developers? E.g., highlighting how trees increase the value of land?
  - Answer: No, this is more of a grassroots effort.

### **Forests for the Bay Presentation – Craig Highfield**

Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay) spoke about how the Forests for the Bay builds off of the Woods in Your Backyard in Maryland and other Chesapeake Bay States. For more information, please see [Craig's presentation slides](#).

Other presentation points:

- Forest for the Bay loves WIYB because:
  - WIYB is very adaptable, like the red maple. For instance, you can offer it at any time of the year.

- WIYB is also a unifier, like a white oak. It unifies parties and fosters collaboration.
- Craig reviewed some of the past workshops, attendance numbers and overall successes of the program.
- The program has been key in particular in PA. A small workshop became a conference. 200 people attended a 2015 workshop. There have also been offered different types of workshops focused on habitat and the green in your backyard.

#### Group Discussion:

- Question: Is there anything like Maryland's Lawn to Woodland program in VA or PA? –
  - Answer: No.
  - Perhaps something to look into.
- Comment: Even in WV, there is not much we can do when people call. Is there an opportunity to do a one hour presentation with a handout to market consultants to do this kind of work? I think there could be an avenue for that state-wide, not just in the Chesapeake Watershed portion of WV.
- Comment: It is good to give a handout to workshop attendees, something the landowner that they can use to follow up on.
- Comment: The Lawn to Woodlands has some documents, paid through maintenance funds of the Forest Conservation Act. MD has "Backyard Buffer Packages" as well.
- Question: Are there any "train the trainer" type of programs?
  - This is definitely something that could be done.
- Another program to learn from is Ohio's Call Before You Cut Program.
- Comment: It is definitely possible to centralize some of this information on the Forests for the Bay website.

*Action Item – Craig and Jonathan will follow up and continue collaborating.*

#### **NYC Watershed Forestry Tour Presentation – Sally Claggett**

Sally shared what she learned from her trip to the Catskill portion of the NYC watershed from April 14-16 and hosted by the Watershed Agriculture Council. For a map and pictures, please see [Sally's presentation slides](#).

- The city has about 1 million acres protected and managed for BMPs.
- Four model forests serve as education sites for loggers, students and others. There are also recreation opportunities on these model forests.
- Water is piped from reservoirs to NYC – "water for a million people"
- Question: How do you recreate that in another area? Is it money?
  - Answer: We need an economist to look at this. 90% forested but only 10% of the money goes to forestry.
  - Comment: In other places there are water treatment plants already set up to filter and the incentive to protect and steward the land is not as strong.
  - There is a bit of false sense of security in using these filters. Total organic carbon (TOC) is what is concerning in particular, which occurs at the end of distribution system. From a forestry perspective this is not helpful because forests contribute TOC.
- In terms of what might be a good strategy for the FWG is thinking of forest conservation as an insurance policy; make the link between forest conservation and emerging contaminants issues.

- Fairfax Water and their work through ICPRB, and US Endowment for Forests and Communities could be a case study. The Forestland Retention Project occurring in the Rappahannock watershed, VA and funded by EPA Chesapeake Bay could be another case study as well.
- In WV since the Elk River spill there is a lot of attention concerning these issues. You see chemists starting to learn forestry and watershed management.

### **Comments Received to Date on the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) and Riparian Forest Buffer (RFB) Management Strategies**

The Public Input Period for the Management Strategies ended on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Julie Mawhorter spoke to the comments received on the UTC Management Strategy:

- There were very few comments overall.
- Some comments emphasized the need to clarify how state-by-state stormwater regulations match with UTC credit.
- There is also a need to talk more about urban forest buffers in the management strategy and make the connection to the RFP management strategy.

*Action Item - Julie will send an email to the FWG and UTC Management Strategy stakeholders giving everybody a little more time to provide feedback on the management strategy. Last-minute comments will be accepted until May 18<sup>th</sup>.*

Sally spoke to the comments received on the Riparian Forest Buffer Management Strategy:

- 18 comments overall, most are supportive.
- For more information, please see [Sally's presentation slides](#).
- Comment: with sea level rise, we want to plant buffers higher up.

The next step is to work on the Workplans which will be due in the fall. These Workplans are where the rubber meets the road.

- Question: How would WIP goals be reflected or go into the Workplan?
  - Response: We know where we need to be for WIPs, but how do we know which actions will reach our goal? We don't want tweaks to what we've been doing. We want something bigger. Maybe we can think about this some more.

### **Field Trip to Clear Spring Buffer Sites**

Participants visited two buffer sites to discuss how the FWG can help address the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer on buffer plantings, as well as other buffer issues.

Discussion points:

- Ash is a problem when in clumps. One option to help address invasives and their host trees is to plant a diversity of trees. We don't know which tree might be a problem in 15 years.
- Another idea is to coordinate with FSA and agriculture sector on these issues.
- Can we get an estimate of Ash and where they are located?
  - That would be difficult. Hyperspectral imaging would be needed most likely.