FWG Project Outlook for 2021

**Overarching Projects**

1. Work with jurisdictions on their Natural Filters Restoration Program or similar
   1. Continue to involve other Workgroups
   2. Explore other potential public funding opportunities
   3. Work towards developing pilots in 2021
2. Renew WQGIT/ MB leadership to coordinate and expand state-level forest buffer work
   1. Work at WQGIT and MB level to form RFB coordinating body/advisors in each state where goals are regularly not being met
   2. Develop state high-level Action Strategies in each jurisdiction to help focus and coordinate RFB efforts
3. Forest Restoration Strategy and Shared Stewardship Agreement
   1. Agroforestry Team being revived
   2. Identify ripe, actionable actions: currently scheduled for May FWG
   3. Forest Restoration Strategy storymap in development
4. STAC Water Temp Proposal (Rebecca Hanmer and Katie Brownson)
   1. Beginning March 2021: Compilation and synthesis of available information on impact of rising water temperatures in Bay and Watershed; identification and analysis of agricultural and urban forestry BMPs (preservation and restoration) to prevent/mitigate harm of rising water temperatures to aquatic resources (how, where)
   2. Cooperate w/ USWG and Habitat, Healthy Watersheds, Fisheries GITS and STAR/Climate Resiliency WG
5. Communication Products
   1. Work with Rachel Felver on assessment of communication products and needs, look at utility of developing a communications strategy
   2. Update Riparian Forest Buffer website
6. Riparian Forest Buffer and Stream Restoration GIT Project (CBT will grant this project out in 2021 and a Project Team will be formed)
7. Land use change products: Tree Canopy Fact Sheets for localities and Baywide Reports
8. Verification Ad-Hoc Team (Rebecca Hanmer and Sally)
   1. Sally preparing analysis of BMP credit durations for forestry BMPs; adding backout procedure

b. FWG may update Verification Guidance with changes in credit duration, how to use land use analysis for verification, and procedure in event of ‘net loss’ of acres (so forestry practices not held to a higher standard than other practices).

1. DEIJ issues, implementation/action team results

**Month-by-Month**

January—

* Riparian Buffer Workplan submitted for final MB approval/action.
* Tree Canopy SRS planning is in full swing for presentation at March MB (focus of Jan FWG)

February--

* Follow-up on Joint Land Use-FWG meeting (Feb FWG)
* STAC Water Temperature Proposal submission
* Tee-up need for NFWF proposals

March--

* Presentation on urban forest research (March FWG)
* FWG proposal on how back-out and land use data could work for Verification of tree BMPs (March FWG)
* Develop guidelines for longer term riparian forest buffer management (e.g., stocking standards, thinning, invasives, etc. “what guides the need for management?”) (March FWG)
* Workplan items needing FWG focus- (March FWG)
* STAC Water Temperature: Preparation phase begins, call for information from Workgroups
* Stormwater Conference including Forestry Panel

April--

* Tree Canopy Workplan and draft Fact Sheets (April FWG)
* Expect Forest Service funding transfer to states (grant proposals to USFS)
* NFWF Small Watershed Grant proposals due in this time frame
* GIT funding ideas, brainstorming

May--

* Final Tree Canopy workplan due to MB
* Highlight Forest Restoration Strategy actions (May FWG)
* Work with Climate resiliency, joint meeting on water temp
* LSR project ideas

June—

* Draft high-res land Use change Products available
* Annual Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act reporting due

BMP Verification Update

* STAC Water Temperature: Cross-GIT Progress meeting
* All USFS grants due from states

July—(FWG meeting tent cancelled)

August--

* FWG meeting to feature presentations from prior NFWF grant recipients

September—

* State Reporting of annual BMP progress begins

October--

November--

December—

* Final land use change products available
* Annual BMP progress due to CBP