



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup (FWG)

Conference Call

November 7th, 2018 9AM – 11AM

Conference Line: 888-844-9904, Code: 6802405#

Adobe Connect: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/fwg>

Members

Rebecca Hanmer, *Chair*
Sally Claggett, USFS, *Coordinator*
Katherine Wares, CRC, *Staffer*
Jim Woodworth, DC DOEE
Anne Hairston Strang, MD DNR
Joe Winters, MD DNR
Matt Keefer, PA DCNR
Teddi Stark, PA DCNR
Peter Hoagland, PA NRCS
Derrick McDonald, PA DEP
Matt Poirot, VA DOF
Judy Okay, VA
Herb Peddicord, WV DOF
Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute
Tanner Haid, Cacapon Institute
Craig Highfield, ACB
Holly May, ACB
Jenny McGarvey, ACB
Kathy Boomer, TNC

Welcome and Announcements

On October 30th, Julie Mawhorter had a baby girl, Sonia. At the Chesapeake Watershed Forum, the following Forest Champion awards were given out:

- Jennifer Gagnon for Most Effective at Engaging the Public
- Matt Keefer for Greatest on the Ground Impact
- Rick and Kathy Abend for Exemplary Forest Steward

December Face-to-Face Meeting Update

Sally reviewed the draft agenda for the December face-to-face Meeting. There will be a presentation on forest effects on nitrogen retention by David Nelson at UMCES. The remainder of the meeting will discuss Forestry BMP reporting to NEIEN. Jeff Sweeney will update the FWG on the NEIEN process and states will give an update on their role in reporting and their next steps to improve reporting.

ACTION: Katherine Wares and Sally Claggett will work to find a location for the December meeting.

ACTION: Katherine Wares will invite state NEIEN contacts to the December meeting. FWG state representatives will reinforce participation to their NEIEN contact.

Update on WIP Tools

Sally gave an update on High Resolution Land Cover Analysis and Buffer Data that the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBPO) has been working on.

- CBPO calculated riparian forest buffer opportunity data by county; an excel spreadsheet of this data is posted to the [meeting page](#).
- CBPO is developing a data tool (Chesapeake Decision Support Dashboard) that will allow users to visualize data from the Phase 6 Model, including potential areas for RFBs and areas of co-benefits. Other organizations can also use the data to develop even more specific targeting tools. If members have thoughts on how to deliver this information, let Sally know.
- Matt Johnson worked on an analysis for Pennsylvania to assist in setting tree planting goals. Sally gave a synopsis of the analysis he developed for Pennsylvania. Other states can also request an analysis from Matt and set their own parameters.
- Sally has updated the Forestry WIP BMP Guide. The most up to version is posted to the [meeting page](#). Members should review it and let Sally know if there are any edits and comments; the 2016 model input data has not been updated.

Discussion

ACTION: Katherine Wares and Sally Claggett will work with partners to get the Forestry WIP BMP Guide out to CBP groups and websites. Jenny McGarvey will post it to the Tree Canopy Network website. FWG should let Sally or Katherine know of other distribution avenues.

State Updates on WIPs

State representatives provided a brief update on how the forestry sector has been involved in WIP development.

- Pennsylvania has several workgroups: forestry, agriculture, stormwater, local area, funding, and communication and engagement. The chairs meet monthly and the full workgroups meet several times a year. Pennsylvania is working with Matt Johnston on various analyses. Each of the workgroup is tasked to prioritize BMPs to reduce loading from their sector. The PA Forestry Workgroup determines a plan for ag buffers, urban buffers, and tree canopy. They are working to convert turf land cover into tree canopy or pollinator habitat. They are using the land conservation WIP template and Land Use Workgroup scenarios as resources. For the WIP document, Pennsylvania is using the two-year workplan framework as a template and are editing it to include gaps. A draft will be available for a review in early 2019 before a final copy is submitted to EPA. The Pennsylvania goals are 80,000 acres for ag buffers, 3,100 for urban buffers, 50 acres for tree canopy (which is 50,000 trees), 5,000 acres for urban forest expansion, and 5,000 acres for conservation landscaping. There is a workgroup to create county-level WIPs. There are four counties along the Maryland border that are working to create their county-level WIP.

- West Virginia has 8 counties in the watershed. Herb Peddicord and Frank Rodgers are on the Bay Trib Team, which has conference calls to discuss WIP. Frank and Herb are also reporting forestry BMPs to NEIEN. Herb is attending West Virginia agriculture meetings to discuss forestry opportunities. West Virginia's Two-Year Milestones are 200 acres of buffers and 10 acres of urban tree planting per year. A goal in West Virginia is to maintain tree canopy land cover in urban or developed areas. Two counties in the watershed have tree protection goals. They are hiring an intern to review regulation and guidelines for development. They are hoping to see regulations on protecting canopy in development, currently there is nothing. West Virginia is planning to plant 6,000 trees as part of CommuniTree.
- Virginia has a task force that contains all the different sectors. The task force meets once a month. They are working with Virginia DEQ to create a strategy for the urban sector and the ag sector to develop WIP goals. They are also working at the local level for goal development. There will be meetings this month to run the final numbers in CAST to see if any adjustments are needed to meet the reduction goals. Specific numbers should be determined in the next couple weeks.
- In Maryland, MDE is working with the urban sector and MDA is working the ag sector. MDA is meeting with stakeholders and agriculture groups. WIP goal for the ag sector is 1650 acres of forest buffers per year. MDE will be meeting with counties to start addressing the urban sector later this month. Central and Western Maryland is more of a focus area for buffer plantings. Joe Winters will be doing a 100-foot buffer analysis and will be breaking it up into ag and urban areas. WIP goals for the urban sector is 250 acres of forest buffers per year.
- DC is currently drafting their WIP. The annual planting goals is 10,000 to 12,000 trees. That goal is mostly tree planting; there is little buffer opportunity in DC.

Tree Canopy Asks for the MB

Rebecca ran through the [final Tree Canopy asks](#) that will be presented at the November 15th Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting as part of the SRS Process. These asks have been presented to the WQGIT and STAR.

Round Robin

- Maryland DNR has a new Chesapeake Forester, Joe Winters.
- Pennsylvania is having a state-wide RFB submit February 20th – 21st in the Harrisburg area. They are working on using the \$20 million for buffer work.
- Virginia received a \$750,000 grant to work private landowners in the James River watershed to get riparian forest buffers on their property.
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is hosting an Urban Tree Canopy Financing Workshop in DC on December 13th. Information has been sent out and tree canopy leads are encouraged to invite relevant local governments and partners. The guidebook has a series of community case studies on successful and transferable approaches. These communities will present on their approaches at the workshop. You can register on the Alliance's webpage.
- At CBPO, STAC is having a workshop on multifunctional buffers next week; let Sally know if you would like to attend. Ag NFWF meeting in Lancaster December 3-5th. The Buffer Action Team will need to reconvene; in time to get on MB December agenda. CBPO is still waiting to hear

about new Director. The co-benefit WIP factsheets can be found on the WQGIT page. There will be more information on the Land Image Analyst, a user-friendly software package, in the future. Per Kathy Boomer's suggestion, Sally will work with Margot Cumming on a future joint Wetlands-Forestry Workgroup meeting.

- Previous FWG Staffer, Tuana Phillips is defending her master's thesis on urban tree canopy physiology and benefits 9:30-9:50 on Friday November 16th at UMD.
- Farm Bill Update: They are still trying to cross-walk the gaps between the House and Senate versions which have been out for a while.