



Meeting Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup (FWG) February Conference Call

February 1, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting Participants

Rebecca Hanmer, *FWG Chair*
Sally Claggett (USFS), *FWG Coordinator*
Katherine Wares (Chesapeake Research Consortium)
Julie Mawhorter (USFS)
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Marian Honecny (MD DNR)
Dakota Durcho (MD DNR)
Lauren Townley (NYSDEC)
Tracey Coulter (PA DCNR)
Barbara White (VA DOF)
Judy Okay (VA DOF)
Matt Poirot (VA DOF)
Laura Johnson (VA DOF)
Herb Peddicord (WV DOF)
Frank Rogers (Cacapon Institute)
Tanner Haid (Cacapon Institute)
Jenny McGarvey (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
Kathy Boomer (TNC)
Jeremy Hanson (Virginia Tech)

9:00 Welcome and introductions

Rebecca Hanmer welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed participants.

9:10 Urban Forestry Planting Guidelines

Julie presented a draft version of Urban Forest Planting BMP guidelines and requirements. Urban Forest Planting BMPs were approved so now it is important to form guidelines and requirements for plantings in order to receive credit. Julie asked the group to review the section “Required Planting and Maintenance Plan” and make comments. Sally and Barbara suggested making the maintenance plan longer, 2-5 years. It was also suggested to add “controlling competing vegetation” wording for addressing different maintenance practices. Rebecca suggested that a Q&A section to the document could be helpful to help readers understand terms and issues. Julie asked the states to look at the Stocking Density values in the table under “State Stocking Guidelines” and provide any corrections or more specific values. It was discussed whether to provide one stock density value as guidance with links to state information in order to review state standards instead of having the table. Julie mentioned that the BMP says to use state standards so having the table could be more helpful. Under “Review/Approval of Planting and Maintenance Plan”, three options were listed. Rebecca suggested a 4th option which

would address approved/trusted partners whose plans would need less review. Julie suggested offering a webinar training on requirements for urban forest plantings and making partners complete the training in order to report to states and get credit. Rebecca commented that we will need to consider how the training would relate to all urban forest BMPs. Julie asked for members to submit additional comments on the document in two weeks. The draft document can be viewed [here](#).

ACTION: Members should submit additional comments on the Urban Forest Planting BMP guidance document to Julie Mawhorter by February 15th.

9:40 Rollout of New Websites

Sally asked members to brainstorm how to roll out the Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer and Chesapeake Tree Canopy Networks and list avenues that they use to get the word out about tools and data. Sally also asked members to consider if their leadership will need to approve the websites or if they would like a walk-through.

The following avenues were suggested for getting the word out: presenting it at upcoming workshops and events (Virginia has workshops in March and September, Maryland has a green justice event, a forestry board meeting in March and urban forestry conference in the fall), sending email blasts (Maryland can send email blasts to 150 local government organizations), announcing it in newsletters sent out by partner organizations (Mid Atlantic chapter of ISA, Tree CityUSA, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Soil and Water Districts, Chesapeake network), and through social media channels. Some members suggested providing a short description of different BMPs and a FAQ. Jenny asked the group if they thought a webinar on the websites would be a good idea; some agreed that it could be good publicity for the websites.

10:00 RFB Forum

The Chesapeake RFB Networking Forum is occurring March 2-3, 2017 at the Bishop Claggett Conference Center in Buckeystown, Maryland. Sally ran through a draft of the agenda for the event. To view the draft agenda, click [here](#). Sally asked members to email her with any additions or comments on the agenda. To register for the forum, click [here](#). States should invite important personnel to attend and register for the forum.

10:15 Round Robin

- Pennsylvania: Three new riparian foresters have been hired.
- West Virginia: The governor will be announcing budget cuts soon. Carla Hardy West Virginia Project CommuniTree program is on schedule for spring plantings with a good amount applications being submitted.
- Virginia: Virginia Trees for Clean Water applications are due February 16th. DuPont has agreed to pay Virginia a \$50million settlement to be applied to restoration efforts; some of the funds might go to riparian buffer work in Shenandoah Valley and land conservation.
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: The Alliance is working with NFWF to add Catoctin Creek to their RCPP program to complete the project.

10:30 Adjourned