RFB FORUM MARCH 2 & 3, 2017

West Virginia

Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative

Potomac River Watershed

Overview

SUMMARY

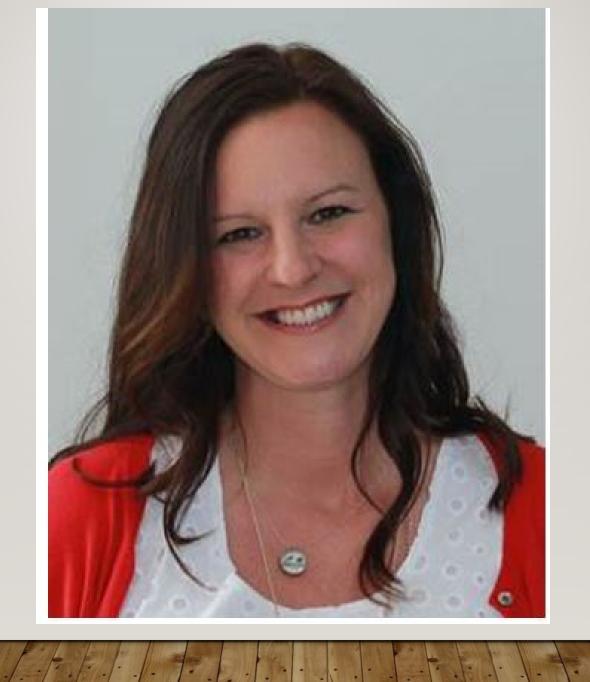
- Farm Bill programs have been the principle funding source for the creation of new RFBs in WV's Bay watershed.
 (nearly 90% via CREP, EQIP, and WHIP)
- CREP is the dominant program by far.
 - Enrollment authority of up to 9,160 acres. Over 6,000 acres enrolled. (nearly 60% within the Bay)
- A large number of acres will expire in the next 4 years.

ATALE OF 2 STRATEGIES

I. USDA Task Force RFB Strategy - resulted in \$1 Million pledged to WV for RFB implementation (requires a 20% match from the State of West Virginia)

2. RBF strategy for State and Non-governmental agencies





- 20% State match achieved!
 - \$100,000 cash to be provided to producers through the WV Conservation Agency at \$20,000 per year over 5 years
 - \$100,000 of "in-kind" contributions from various agencies' services and inputs toward CREP Riparian Buffer contract activities, including eligible Federal contributions

- USDA The need for a statewide Environmental
 Assessment dictated that only certain items could be funded with the \$1 million
- USDA Will provide a special contract approval/signing incentive for new contracts and/or re-enrolling contracts in the Bay when Riparian Buffer acres are contracted

- USDA \$200/acre for new 14 to 15 year Riparian Buffer (CP22) contracts
- USDA \$500/acre for re-enrolling 14 to 15 year
 Riparian Buffer (CP22) contracts
- WV \$40/acre for new or re-enrolling 14 to 15 year
 Riparian Buffer (CP22) contracts

Rolling out the new CREP Addendum:

- An Addendum to our CREP Agreement document is being near ready.
- After the new CREP Agreement Addendum is signed, we are planning another joint training with partners to discuss new incentives. We will also develop other outreach tools to get the word out.
- Outreach tools will be used to get the word out.

Other Actions:

- WV FSA is working to strengthen the enrollment efforts among our County FSA Offices. In addition to increasing Riparian Buffer acres, this ties directly into WV's need for reaching our Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) goals.
- WVCA has obtained additional grant funding to assist with expenses related to Chesapeake Bay area trainings and outreach materials.
- Multi-agency trainings for CREP Partner Agencies was completed in May 2016. All areas of the State received the training during this time.











In addition, two new CREP foresters positions have been hired; one in each Conservation District.

Funding is through EPA Bay funds to WV DEP, and FSA Funds through USFS to fund a position through The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

RFB'S THROUGH NON FARM BILL TYPE FUNDING

- CB Implementation grants (CBIG)
- 319 programs
- Stream Partners grant
- NFWF
- Ctree, Lowes, Toyota, CBF

CBIG OBJECTIVE 23 – RFB AND AFFORESTATION

- Most successful non-farm bill RFB program is CBIG.
- 35 Plantings on 26,000 stream feet with over
 1,650 volunteer hours from 2008-2016.