



## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup (FWG) August Conference Call**

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

#### **Meeting Participants**

Rebecca Hanmer, Chair  
Sally Claggett (USFS), FWG Coordinator  
Julie Mawhorter (USFS)  
Katherine Wares (Chesapeake Research Consortium)  
Luke Cole (DC DOEE)  
Marcia Fox (DE FS)  
Derrick McDonald (PA DEP)  
Mark Hockley (PA DCNR)  
Teddi Stark (PA DCNR)  
Tracey Coulter (PA DCNR)  
Lauren Townley (NYSDEC)  
Marian Honeczy (MD DNR)  
Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)  
Dakota Durcho (MD DNR)  
Jess Baylor (Aberdeen Proving Ground)  
Judy Okay (VA DOF)  
Craig Highfield (Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay)  
Ryan Davis (Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay)  
Jenny McGarvey (Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay)

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Rebecca welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed participants.

#### **Chesapeake Forest Service Budget**

In fiscal year 2017, our FS budget which comes from the National Forest Stewardship line item, was reduced by about half (from 800k to 400k). Some projects that normally receive funding were partially funded and many were completely eliminated (including program funds for 5 states). Two months later, we received some unallocated funds from the Washington Office. There will not be a Smith Island watershed forestry training this year. We were able to provide some funding to priority work but the process has been disjointed and goes on. FSA Riparian Forester positions are continuing in 2017 in several states. For EPA's 2018 Chesapeake Bay Program, while the President's Budget zeroed it out, the House countered with a \$60million budget (down from 73M in 2016). No word from the Senate yet. The Forest Service budget for 2018 will not be determined for a while.

### **Phase III WIP Forestry Info Packet**

Sally ran through the Phase III WIP Guide for Forest Practices. The document has an introduction on WIP expectations, the Phase 6 Model, and CAST; a section on the importance of forest retention with information on forecasting land use, forest value, and tools for limiting growth; descriptions, progress and opportunity data of forestry BMPs; information on BMP cost and optimization; and a list of reporting contacts and verification guidelines. Should look at costs in another meeting. Sally asked members to provide comments on the document at the meeting or via email by August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Comments**

- Rebecca said it's important to include progress and work that states are doing in the packet.
- Judy Okay said that the \$99 total annual cost per acre for Riparian Forest Buffers seems low. Members said they want a more in-depth and clearer explanation for cost in each table.
- Derrick McDonald suggested adding a comparison table for prices.
- Tracey Coulter said they report state forest plan and asked if it is being counted. Julie suggested checking with state contacts.
- Anne suggested updating verification information.
- Rebecca suggested getting comments from the advisory councils and outsiders on the packet.
- Julie suggested a one or two pager that could point people to this document.
- Sally suggested looking at cost information further at another meeting.

#### **Round Robin**

- CBP: There were no FWG GIT Funding proposals for FY17, and they are still trying to find a bidder for FY16 multifunctional buffer project. The FSA/USFS CREP landowner survey (done by Don English and Skip Hyberg) is complete and will be made available. The Chesapeake Forest Buffer Website has been updated with new enrollment data for the period January 1- June 30 2017. Julie announced that the Chesapeake tree canopy justice workshop "Trees for All" is happening August 8-9 and there are still seats available.
- DC: Luke Cole said they are about to award a Large Parcel tree planting grant award that will move the D.C. dial for the urban forest planting BMP. They are also preparing for fall planting.
- Delaware: Marcia Fox announced that with help from CREP partners, they recently did a mailing over 4,000 letters to landowners within the watershed, and received phone calls across each county and have potentially 1,500 landowners to continue working with.
- Maryland: Anne asked if there could be a training for FS forest buffers; Teddi said she could check. MD DNR received funding for landscape grant; they are currently working on forest buffer assessments, and they've finished an assessment with Delaware on forest buffers.
- Pennsylvania: Ryan Davis said that the Alliance is organizing outreach events for the fall and they are working on a NFWF Appalachian Steward project which is due in two weeks. Tracey Coulter announced the third forestry advisory committee meeting on alternative funding. Marah Vecenie is doing a multifunctional buffer presentation to landowners. PA DCNR will have upcoming agroforestry trainings with New York in October. Teddi Stark said they have hired a buffer forester technician and that a prime prospects project is undergoing a proof of content test where they analyze consumer data to find landowners most likely to install. Mark Hockley announced that there are 3 grants for Treevitalize.
- Virginia: Judy Okay said there should be news about VA state cost share funding of CREP funding in the fall.

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: The 2017 Forest Champion contest is open for applications, which are due September 1. A new forester has been hired. Al Todd retired on Monday, and Kate Fritz is the new director.

**Adjourned**