



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Minutes

Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup (FWG)

Conference Call

September 5th, 2018 10AM – 2PM

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

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

Members

Rebecca Hanmer, *Chair*
Julie Mawhorter, USFS
Katherine Wares, CRC, *Staffer*
Robert Corletta, DC DOT
Jim Woodworth, DDOE
Marcia Fox, DNREC
Kesha Braunskill, DE FS
Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR
Marian Honecny, MD DNR
Mark Hockley, PA BOF
Rachel Reyna, PA BOF
Peter Hoagland, PA NRCS
Barbara White, VDOF
Matt Poirot, VDOF
Judy Okay, VDOF
Herb Peddicord, WV DOF
Frank Rogers, Cacapon Institute
Holly May, ACB
Jenny McGarvey, ACB
Kathy Boomer, TNC
Emily Freeman, CRC
Laurel Abowd, CRC
Laura Drescher, EPA
Earl Bradley, Sierra Club

Stewardship GIT Funding Project

A study found 80% of students are not receiving hands-on conservation action, which is one of four part of the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) curriculum. Schools are also often overlooked as options for BMP implementation. The Education Workgroup under the Stewardship GIT

put forth a proposal, *Quantify and support BMP installation and restoration at schools to contribute directly to Bay restoration goals*, which would address this issue and increase student participation in watershed restoration on school grounds. The project would identify barriers of getting schools involved in restoration, determine the impact these school ground BMPs would have on water quality goals, and determine how to increase student and school participation in restoration. Frank Rodgers asked the FWG to encourage the WQGIT to support this project during the GIT Funding selection process. The FWG agreed to tell the WQGIT to support this project.

Tree Canopy SRS Review

The Tree Canopy Outcome will be presenting at the November 15th Management Board meeting. The three meeting materials are due in late October. Julie ran through the Tree Canopy Logic Table Workplan and Questionnaire draft documents. FWG members should send Julie language on key workplan actions or Management Board requests (“asks”) that they would like to have prioritized in the presentation to the Management Board. For the Questionnaire, the questions in red are newly drafted and incomplete in some cases – please focus your edits/suggestions on those sections. Final edits and comments on the Logic Table Workplan and Questionnaire are due to Julie by September 24th. (jmawhorter@fs.fed.us)

Discussion

- Maintenance needs more effort, funding, and attention. Maintenance issues are critical and need to be mentioned in the Logic Table section. It could go under several factors.
- Change Maryland’s rating for 1.1 to high.
- Regarding action 3.2, bay-wide data needs to be clip-able to jurisdictions so each community can see how UTC is changing.
- Where can we tie in conserving healthy forests into Tree Canopy? Source water and priority watersheds could be a place to connect to forest health.
- We should add a workplan action (including ID of funding) for an Urban Tree Canopy summit to go through new tools and trainings.. States said the previous Summit was very helpful and another should be held.
- Regarding action 4.2, we need to get the word out about the Chesapeake Tree Canopy website so that our key audience is tuned in. Jenny McGarvey can present on the website to groups if needed. The first step might be to review the results from Google analytics to see who is viewing the website. We should check to see if every state website has a link to the Chesapeake Tree Canopy website. Suggest forming an ad hoc team of FWG/tree canopy folks who want to help improve the website into the future.
- Rachel: It is important to integrate TMDL/WIP efforts with Tree Canopy goals. There needs to be an opportunity to update the original state goals set for the Outcome now that we are refining those targets through our Phase III WIP planning.
- Should the Tree Canopy goal be changed? The group can revisit the goal as WIP planning ends.

The Big Picture

The workgroup needs to brainstorm and refine key messages and priorities to convey to the Management Board at the November SRS meeting. Send Julie any suggested language for Management Board asks.

Discussion

- Rebecca gave an example storyline of Tree Canopy.
 - Members wanted to add/include preservation of existing trees in development sites, better support coordination with Urban Stormwater, vital importance of maintaining existing and new trees needs funding, and importance of tree canopy for community livability.
- What would it take to significantly “move the needle” in your state, to both protect and expand canopy? What are the most important actions/needs for us to focus our CB/FWG collective efforts on in next 2 years? What specific actions could CBP Management Board/leadership take to advance our goals?
 - Members said they need reliable funding. For the SRS presentation, we need to lay out specifically how the Management Board can assist with funding. Looking into other avenues of funding in advance may be helpful during the presentation. TNC would be good to consult with regarding with trying to find an economic engine. We should engage and work with TNC, LGAC, the Local Leadership Workgroup or the Communication Team to create and send a message that resonates politically. Using co-benefits as messaging to attract funding sources. State leads could go back and see if the Governor’s office can assign this funding priority to someone higher than the Tree Canopy state leads. Marian Honecny offered to help with crafting wording related to a funding ask – something that gets each state to consider and use the new tree canopy funding guide that will be released through our MD Environmental Finance Center/Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay project in December 2018.
 - **Suggested new workplan action:** Compile and develop outreach materials that have the latest research on tree canopy co-benefits that can be used around the Watershed (with less “Chesapeake Bay” language) to advocate for Tree Canopy.
 - The second Summit could be a presented to MB as either a priority action or an ask – need to clarify.
 - Rebecca wants members to think about how we can use our presence under the WQGIT to communicate with other workgroups like the Urban Stormwater Workgroup.

Tree Canopy Indicator discussion/decision and BMP data needs

The Tree Canopy Indicator Proposal was modified to address state concerns expressed at June FWG meeting and June 28 Tree Canopy meeting. Julie asked members to propose specific edits. After those edits are made, the final proposal will be presented to the Status and Trends Workgroup in October and will be finalized within the partnership before the November SRS meeting.

Discussion

- Members had questions regarding the “not counted” section. Better wording and clarity is needed. Anne suggested counting everything but having language that the loss of forest cannot exceed tree canopy and use loss of forest to find net tree canopy.
- **ACTION:** Julie will set up a call with Peter Claggett, Frank Rodgers, Anne Hairston-Strang, Kesha Braunskill/Jimmy Kroon, Rob Feldt to change wording around not counted. Julie will also set up a call with Peter and DC.
- Rachel would like to see the goals match up with WIP/TMDL process

Round Robin

Recap and Next Steps: FWG members need to review workplan/logic table and questionnaire by September 24th. Julie and Rebecca will use those to draft the presentation and might go over that at the October meeting. There will be a small group call to refine the TC Indicator Proposal. Julie will reach out to leads for tree planting BMP progress data and to review the Finance document. Rebecca and Julie will follow up with TNC to discuss funding. Katherine will follow up with Sally and the WQGIT to find out what happened to Virginia DOF’s GIT funding proposal submitted by Judy in early June.

Delaware: The Arborist seminar will be on October 10-11th. Please pass on information about the seminar.

DC: Tree fund money will be used to fund private property work. Jim Woodworth has taken over for Luke Cole as DOEE FWG member.

Maryland: Chesapeake Watershed Forester interviews next week. There is a new training coordinator which will help with education and maintenance.

Pennsylvania: Matt Keefer has been working on a turf to trees or meadows program.

Virginia: Tree planting funds are low this year.

West Virginia: Carla Hardy and Community BMP projects are starting.