



Forestry Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2020

9am-10:30am

Conference Line: 929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 200-260-643

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/200260643> Password: Forestry

This meeting will be recorded for internal use to assure the accuracy of meeting notes

Sally Claggett, USFS, *Coordinator*
Nora Jackson, CRC, *Staffer*
Katherine Brownson, USFS
Frank Rogers, CI
Peter Hoagland, NRCS
Teddi Stark, PA DCNR
Jason Swartz, PA DCNR
Kelsey Miller, PA DCNR
Cassandra Davis, NY DEC

Lydia Brinkley, USC
Kesha Braunskill, DE DNREC
Marion Honecny, MD DNR
Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR
Iris Allen, MD DNR
Craig Highfield, Alliance
Paul Emmart, MDE
Taryn Davidson, DE
Matt Poirot, VA DOF
Sherry Witt

Moving Forward: Our Next Steps from Management Board Input *Sally Claggett, USFS*

Sally reviewed some of the main takeaways from the [Quarterly Progress Meeting](#) for the Forest Buffers outcome. Received a lot of support for the natural filters program, but some hesitancy. The goal is to develop the program alongside individual states, so we need their engagement. MB requested more information on the program, hosted and recorded a [webinar](#) on September 3. Sally will be returning to the MB in September to share more.

Questions and Comments

- Rebecca- The WQGIT emphasized needing to pay more attention to agricultural BMPs with multiple benefits during their presentation. We need to ensure riparian forest buffers are on that list and engage with new WQGIT leadership
- Anne- There is strong interest in any type of tree planting BMPs, the question is what can we do for realistic funding and action, we are in a position to start designing these programs and need to make it more tangible, ie what will it take to get carbon credits.

Assessing Factors: What influences our ability to meet our Outcome? *Sally Claggett and Sherry Witt*

Reflecting on the work we've done so far, Sherry and Sally facilitated a discussion and gathered input using Menti on lessons we've learned, what influences our effectiveness in meeting the buffer outcome, and identifying overarching factors of critical importance.

What do we need to get more buffers in the ground? Word cloud most common topics were funding, collaboration, willing landowners, technical assistance, policy changes. What is positive from this, what's been working?

Questions and Comments

- Frank: Installing buffers should be the standard and removing them should be the exception. A paradigm shift in legislation would be moving away from paying farmers for flood damage to crops.
- Sally: the MB may not help with the Program as much as we would like. We can do this work if we get the funding, prove the concept, and work more closely with state leadership.
- Anne- concerned about seedling supply, available stock has been an issue in the past.

What influences our success in meeting our outcome?

menti

Quadrant Analysis, using four draft factors: Funding, collaboration, technical assistance, and outreach. Looking for high success/high impact in moving the needle. All responses fell in the same area, so we need to know more. By design these are all high impact, so we're looking for where can we have a high influence *and* high impact.

Questions and Comments

- Rebecca: Low impact scoring may reflect low rate of success so far. Another wake-up call, what would it take for the partnership to have more influence on these factors?
- Sherry: another workgroup assigned "thought leaders" to each of the factors, thinking about them a bit deeper and providing guidance and input.
- Anne: Lead with goals and vision, keep pressing why trees are important. We are making progress, need to emphasize temperature elements where trees are a unique BMP that addresses temperature as well as water quality. Maintenance also needs to be clear in our support and messaging.

Previous Factors

Reviewed previously identified factors to see how they have changed. NGOs are already on board, we can remove that factor, and the multiple engagement factors. We need to be more strategic and targeted in our approach.

Questions and Comments

- Anne added that government and NGO coordination has been very successful.
- Katie commented that some of our discussion yielded actions rather than factors, but all are working towards better coordination, increased funding, etc.

10:00 am Round Robin

WV- CREP training coming up in the next couple of months. Jeremy used GIS analysis to identify current woodland production parcels with streams and found that there is a million feet of stream-lots of opportunities for buffers.

PA- Buffer advisory committee, and lawn committee and keeping partners engaged. Extend EPA funding for buffers, waiting to hear on state funding for current fiscal year. Still getting positive responses from the landowner outreach this summer and planning first TreeVitalize partner conference.

NY- USC is working on CREP reenrollment plans, up against some barriers and issues with FSA. Buffer stewards assessed 800 acres and completed management and post-planting establishment activities. 20 planting projects, over 100 acres. Opening a new round of funding for buffer projects, land purchase easements and BMPs

DE- Developing DE Tree Stewards program, and working with the MD urban program, offer online trainings end of month/October.

MD- Training for increased site visits, to take a more active role in harvest BMP practices reporting and implementation rates. Iris is working on tree and forest canopy loss data, and opportunity mapping. Healthy forests healthy waters nonprofit partnership, alliance plantings. The trust fund is a gas tax from rental cars, and that will be down in the next fiscal year. Tree planting projects have been competing very favorably, and there is increased interest in bundling strategies. Another year of funding from USFS for riparian forest buffer program, a lot of interest in Agroforestry, particularly the MD dept of ag with soil health initiative. Fall tree plantings planned that were postponed from the spring.

VA- Plantings lined up with the mountains to bay program in the middle James. Terry Lasher is working on a prioritization program to set goals and priorities for specific watersheds. Ramping up 3rd quarter BMP implementation monitoring for forest harvesting practices. Recently reported 96-97% BMP implementation rate for forest harvesting.

Katie will be stepping away for a few months for a detail!

CBP: Thanks for getting all the grant work done. We have the riparian forester grants coming in this year, all the states are managing the same as previous years except DNREC and CI in DE and WV, which are new organizations hosting the position. CBP move date is postponed to March 2021. A lot of work processing files will need to be done before the end of this year. The move will not impact our regularly scheduled meetings.

NRCS: National NRCS Riparian Forest Buffer Standard has been approved, expected to come out in the next handbook release in the next month or two. Will send a link once it's posted. State level leadership changes, Dan Ludwig new state conservationist and Barry Frantz will be retiring in February.

10:30 am **Closing Comments and Next Steps**

Adjourn