



Forestry Workgroup Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2021
9:00am-10:30am

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

Attendees:

Frank Rodgers, CI
Marian Honecny, MD DNR
Paul Emmart, MDE
Anna Hairston-Strang, MD DNR
Rachel Felver, ACB
Julie Mawhorter, USFS

Taryn Davidson, DE FS
Teddi Stark, PA DCNR
Peter Hoagland, NRCS
Jason Swartz, PA DCNR
Lydia Brinkley, USC
Cassie Davis, NY DEC

Program Updates and Announcements *Sally Claggett and Julie Mawhorter, USFS*

1. Communications Project- Request for members to share survey with networks
 - Project background: need for strategic communications approach around tree planting goals, compiling and evaluating existing messages and materials. Focus on behavior change through social marketing, removing barriers to plantings.
 - Ask members to share effective tree planting campaigns and projects and distribute survey to networks, can be shared statewide, outside of the watershed
 - Lydia- One Tree Planted has a lot of tree planting campaigns in various locations, NYS DEC buffer in a bag. Would send it out to soil and water conservation districts,
 - Judy- James River Association and Friends of the Rappahannock
 - Iris- We can share it with our Stream ReLeaf meeting attendees in Maryland
 - Frank- WV can distribute through DEP Watershed Stewards listserv
2. GIT Funding- Brainstorm project ideas for FY21 by outcome

Riparian Forest Buffers, *Sally Claggett, USFS*

Still waiting on RFP, updated from last year. One proposal per outcome, need to address a component of workplan. Sally shared four different ideas including the 1) Natural Filters Revolving Fund Pilot (one MD MS4 county), 2) Hazard mitigation plans, 3) Financing RFB's in underserved areas, 4) Climate-smart training for TA's

- Judy- Pruning and protection before hurricanes could be incorporated in 2 or 4, supporting pre and post evaluation, homeowner education
 - Julie- Publication called storms over the urban forest, focus on how to manage those risks before and after, using urban forest strike teams for storm damage assessment.

- Marian- Those teams exist, responding to disasters in VA and further south
- Judy- Is the USFS behind this? I know VA does it, but at a county or local level?
- It is through the USFS, specifically southern region, they go everywhere
- Julie- idea of buffers as a resilience tool on the landscape,
- Sally- Judy's comment can be part of the fabric of it all. We put these projects out to bid, they have to be written explicitly. Settle on one of these ideas and include these comments.
- Frank- In the realm of FEMA, they purchase properties prone to flooding, transferred to the city who demolishes buildings but then leaves a vacant lot, no management plan.
- Anne- FEMA issues are critical, one of the angles we have been trying to coordinate is with local council, there's no time to plan and having strategies beforehand is critical, planning stormwater response, opportunities like Frank mentioned
- Rebecca- FWG consensus to develop a project related to hazard mitigation plans.
 - Judy- If possible, roll number 4 into number 2
 - Rebecca- can approach CRWG to sign on with us as well
- Anne- Maybe for the RFB funding pilot, we could engage partners such as US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, potentially in conjunction with drinking water protection/land conservation efforts that are moving forward.

Tree Canopy, Julie Mawhorter, USFS

Funding and Policy roundtable to help address issues of loss by thinking bigger, discussing new ideas, tapping into other funding areas like public health. Using roundtable as a catchall word, could look more like a summit. Developed potential briefing papers for distribution before the roundtable. Who do we want to most engage?

- Anne- anything happening nationally, local elected officials might want to be aware of resources, build support for policies. Public works
- Frank- State highways, MD does well but not other states.
- Marian- Virtual platforms allow more people to participate too, if there's a way to tie in virtual trainings as well
- Frank- Recommend involving Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Matt- Need to engage other agencies or leaders, right partners in the right places, address what's important to those other agencies and leaders so we connect with what drives their decisions and investments.
- Julie- Matt is suggesting an initial gathering to hear different agencies perspectives, key gaps and needs
- Sally- grouping the briefing topics and finding a way to make them work together

3. Local Government Educational Modules- Updates on state-specific resource sheets and rollout plan Julie shared the modules and went through the fact sheet on the benefits of trees, and presentations. We want to have companion fact sheets for each state, specific to their programs and resources. Idea is to have a small contract with Greenfin to develop state resource fact sheets. Working with state leads to put together content. https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/local_leadership_workgroup

- Sally- thoughts on how to get this in the hands of local governments? From a forestry perspective
 - Anne- Choose Clean Water Coalition could share it effectively
 - Sally- Watershed Forum and Chesapeake Tree Canopy network,

- Paul- The regulated community, tying in permit compliance
- Anne- how would they link to that?
- Paul- public works, utilities like water facilities, and the stormwater and sustainability office. They have their own compliance needs
- Sally- Going back to the Tree Planting Communication Lessons Learned, it would be good to compare "million trees" big goals with other approaches
- Lydia- NYS DEC division of forestry- would be great to get them more involved.
- Iris- UMD extension as well
- Julie- Will return to FWG for more feedback on a rollout strategy, refinements and additional thoughts
- Rebecca- Ask each state to give you a list of the specific organizations in the tree community, the "top ten" places to start marketing these materials? Opportunities for live presentations at conferences.
 - Mark- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, PA Department of Health, PENNVEST, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PSU Extension, Leadership in PA DCNR, Policy Office, and Bureau of Forestry Leadership, RGGI initiative representatives

4. Climate Directive- Review updates to the [Climate Narrative Document](#)

Executive Council meeting on October 1, will be signing beforehand committing to addressing threats of climate change. Incorporates a lot of our existing work, focus on vulnerable habitats and communities.

- Judy- This seems to mesh well with water temperature in streams, the STAC workshop
- Rebecca- EPA is looking at examples of what other federal agencies are doing, does the USDA have a role on the EC?
 - They are invited and given a speaking role often but not a part of the EC.
 - Rebecca- With the administration change, could encourage renewed participation
 - Rachel- Oct meeting is mostly the boat tour and ceremonial signing, but we are still planning another in December or January.

Round Robin

- **MD-** working on a calculator to address how to advance financing forestry, bring it to local governments and MS4 jurisdictions, promote forestry as BMP of choice. Maryland Forest Financing Implementation Tool (MD FFIT), a calculator designed to assist MD local governments, counties, and their partners seeking loans to fund forestry efforts and earn restoration credits for permits. The video shows how MD FFIT can be used to review different implementation scenarios, evaluate how much a forestry project would cost, estimate how many MS4 credits and environmental co-benefits can be achieved. Website link: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/tmdl/datacenter/pages/tmdlstormwaterimplementation.aspx>. Riparian forest buffer long term monitoring report out by the fall, capturing pace of functions, concentrated flow issues have draft fact sheets, and an invasive species cookbook for homeowners and land managers. 5 million trees for climate response in HB 991, significant grant opportunities will be available in underserved areas, trying to kick off Potomac buffer strategy, will be reaching out to folks shortly.
- **PA-** Hired a tree equity specialist, watershed forestry program was awarded one million in NFWF funds to support buffers lawn conversion. Rebecca Lauver- Joined the PA ACB team, recording of Marel's presentation from the Buffer Summit: <https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/mod/hvp/view.php?id=3707>

- **NY-** Focusing on maintenance and monitoring for buffer steward project, getting ready for fall. Buffer health is dependent on landowner maintenance.
- **DE-** Completed a spring planting, organizing more for the fall.
- **USFS-** New chief starting in August, mentoring several high school students that will be invited to the August FWG meeting.

10:30 am Adjourn