



Regional Environmental Managers Technical Committee

FY19 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant
CY20 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) Program Grant

May 14, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Digital Meeting and Conference Call

NOTES

Attendees: David Nunnally (Caroline), Michael Newchok (King George County), Scott Rae and Tyler Gelles (Fredericksburg), Trent Funkhouser, John Saunders, Jacob Pastwik, and Chris Stevens (Stafford County), Gef Fisher (Fort A.P. Hill), Evan Miles (Naval District Washington), Brent Hunsinger, Adam Lynch, and Bryan Hofmann (FOR), Pat Coady (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust), Kevin Byrnes (Consultant), Jim Lynch (Friends of DRHT), Marta Perry (Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District), Mikel Manchester (VCE), Eldon James (RRBC), Ashley Hall (Stantec for VDOT), Bryant Bays (VDOF), Jeff Flood (DEQ CZM), Daniel Moore (DEQ WIP), Kate Gibson (GWRC), and Drew Williams and Denise Nelson (Berkley Group).

Outcome 1. We provided full access to the survey results.

Follow up action: Denise will provide survey results sorted by the participant's locality.

Outcome 2. We provided a full copy of the NFWF SWG PTA grant proposal on public education, outreach, and involvement for reference. The proposal provides a template for preparing future grant applications.

Outcome 3. Friends of the Rappahannock is delivering trees and making trees available for pickup during the quarantine. They are planning for stream cleanups and advertising free urban nutrient management planning services for property owners.

Outcome 4. The project wish list is intended to be a living document listing all types of planning, outreach, and physical projects beyond shovel-ready projects.

Follow up actions:

- Denise will identify which documents included which projects.
- Everyone will brainstorm project opportunities and add them to the wish list.

Outcome 5. Name implementation steps to support green infrastructure and forest conservation in local plans, policies, and requirements (**Attachment A**). See:

- GWRC Regional Green Infrastructure Program 2017 Report, p.11-12
- Healthy Watersheds Forest Initiative 2019 Phase III Final Report, p.126-130

Outcome 6. Describe the topics that came up during discussion of implementation next steps:

- Developers build our city and counties in accord with the local requirements. The localities have indicated growth areas, requirements for zoning districts, and other parameters. Is there anything we can do to encourage adoption of requirements supporting conservation and restoration?
- The development industry tends to build sprawling neighborhoods and shopping centers instead of increasing density or redeveloping previously developed sites which would conserve natural areas. This is a complex system of citizen preferences, private company profits, and landowner rights. Is there anything we can do to educate citizens and local business for a behavior change supporting conservation and restoration?
- Perhaps a good place to start is to identify natural areas to protect and provide education and outreach to ensure protection.
- Can we educate people on the value of natural infrastructure and, conversely, the long-term expense of traditional sprawling infrastructure?
- Can we coordinate the timing of plan / policy updates across the region to support adoption?
- Some of the partnerships and funding (e.g. Chesapeake Bay Trust) do not support regulatory actions.
- VDOF staff is happy to partner. They are doing lots of education and outreach to forest landowners on succession planning.
- The FOR river report card describes the quantity and quality of forest canopy and forest protection categories across the region.
- Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives is another resource.
<https://www.southernforests.org/urban/healthy-trees-healthy-lives>
- Moving forward with these efforts will be difficult during the pandemic due to the impacts to staffing and budgets. Can we discuss the anticipated short-term and long-term impacts of covid-19 on our communities?

Outcome 7. List techniques for making the case for green infrastructure and forest conservation:

- Describe the benefits
- Describe the co-benefits
- Point out the losses

- Share the return on investment
- Use digital datasets and visuals
- Share local project successes
- Share local program successes
- Find ways to overcome barriers
- Refer to great resources
- Speak their language

Outcome 8. Invite your colleagues to the June 12 meeting at 10am-12pm to discuss financing options for green infrastructure and forest conservation.

Follow up action: Denise will send meeting agenda and associated files.

Future meetings:

- a. July 9 10am-12pm: training and coordination – CBPA Local Gov Assistance
- b. August 25 1pm-3pm: WIP workplan for 2021