



**CSPDC Chesapeake Bay TMDL
Watershed Implementation Plan
Stakeholder Meeting**
December 10, 2020, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Via Zoom Video Conference Call

Meeting Summary

In attendance:

David Hirschman, NFWF Liaison	Christin Anderson, Headwaters SWCD
John Reeves, Rockingham County citizen	Genevieve Goss, VCC
Dale Chestnut, JMU	Rachel Winter, Headwaters SWCD
Jonathan Griffin, Rockbridge County	Morgan Shrewsbury, Augusta County
Keith Thomas, City of Harrisonburg	Doug Wolfe, Augusta County
Lyle Hartt, City of Staunton	Peter Kesecker, City of Staunton
Rebecca Joyce, CSPDC	Hunter Moore, CSPDC

Welcome and Introductions

- Hunter Moore welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the call. She asked the group to introduce themselves through the video call or in the chat box.

WIP III Update

- Hunter gave a brief update on recent activities with the PDC’s WIP program. First, the GIS data request deliverable was recently completed. Hunter coordinated with all locality GIS contacts to collect and compile the requested data that will be used in the Chesapeake Conservancy’s high-resolution land cover project.
- Hunter also discussed the grant assistance provided to CSPDC localities this past fall for the VA Department of Forestry’s (VDOF) Trees for Clean Water grant program. Assistance was provided more so with the Town of Glasgow with cost estimates and their



application. Both the Town of Glasgow and City of Buena Vista were funded for their tree planting projects.

- The CSPDC received their WIP draft scope of work and deliverables for 2021 and are now in the process of reviewing the scope and making comments and edits. They will be submitting their comments to DEQ by December 15th. The new contract with DEQ will begin January 2021.
- Hunter also discussed their recent contact with David Hirschman, NFWF liaison, and possible NFWF project development. The CSPDC submitted project ideas to David and his team and received valuable feedback on all ideas. Before discussing the project idea further, Hunter turned it over to David to give the group an overview of the NFWF programs.

NFWF Grant RFP (David Hirschman)

- Dave gave an overview of NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) funding opportunities and program priorities. The opportunities include the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants and the Small Watershed Grants (SWG).
- The RFP for INSR was recently released and the Letter of Intent for this grant is due January 15, 2021. This program no longer requires a pre-proposal and award amount is \$500,000 to 1 million. Non-federal match requirement is 50% and applications are due on March 1st, 2021.
- David mentioned that NFWF is looking for INSR projects in urban stormwater sector.
- The SWG program is split into two: Implementation and Planning/Technical Assistance. Implementation grants award up to \$500,000 and there is a 1/3 match requirement. This program supports on the ground actions to protect water quality, species and habitats. The Planning grants award up to \$50,000 and there is no match requirement. This program supports improving capacity for future action, planning, design and assessment.
- The SWG program is becoming more competitive than past years. Implementation funds allow for some planning and design in the budget, but it will not get funded if this exceeds 10 to 20% of budget. SWG grants are usually due in March as well.
- Dale Chestnut asked if these grants can be used for meeting TMDL goals. David answered, stating that yes, the funds can be used for MS4s to meet their TMDL goals. The proposal will be more competitive if partnerships are made or if the project is more innovative; not just meeting baseline compliance.



CSPDC NFWF Project Idea

- Hunter gave an overview of the detention pond rehab / retrofit site assessment project idea and stated that the CSPDC is considering applying for a SWG planning grant. This assessment would be done by a consultant to assess sites for the region.
- The funding could also be used towards having a dedicated person to provide guidance and direction to churches and businesses that need detention pond rehab / retrofits. It could also be used for researching ownership of these facilities that need attention and providing outreach materials for awareness.
- The CSPDC WIP program focuses on assistance to unregulated, non-MS4 communities; however, this study could also include MS4 sites.
- Hunter shared some of the feedback the CSPDC has received so far on the project idea. Overall, feedback was positive and supportive. Suggestions included adding stream restoration sites to the assessment, since they have more “bang for their buck.” Determining the demand for a possible citizen group training for monitoring and light maintenance, especially where the ownership is not clear, could be wrapped into assessment. Also, looking at other BMP interventions for the entire basin drainage area.
- Hunter then asked the group for feedback, additional thoughts, comments, and questions on the project idea.
- The group discussed the possible push for lowering stream restoration credits. David added that DEQ may not be accepting return rates and rigors of stream restoration design are going to be required.
- Morgan Shrewsbury commented that the grant funding could limit the site assessment, and maybe could not support both detention pond and stream restorations sites.
- John Reeves asked if riparian buffer sites could be looked at as a part of stream restoration. David said that buffers are eligible and stream restoration usually includes buffers.
- Hunter asked the group if the assessment would be beneficial to others if implementation funds could only cover 2 or 3 projects. Could localities apply for their own implementation funds using this assessment? David responded by saying the best-case scenario would be matching the NFWF project with a SLAF grant. Matching the implementation NFWF funds



in some way so that everyone benefits from assessment and all projects get funded would be good. Discussion ensued on how many sites could be assessed with a SWG planning grant and whether the assessment would need to focus on a smaller area of the region. John suggested a potential site in Rockingham County.

- John also asked if the State had put more money into the SLAF program. Doug Wolfe responded by saying that Mike Crocker with DEQ is planning to issue the SLAF program soon with at least a 60-day submittal deadline. Hunter said she would try to get more information on SLAF.

Community Updates

- Hunter asked the group if anyone would like to share any BMP projects that communities are currently working on or share any other WIP related business.
- Keith Thomas shared that they are finishing up the planting of the riparian buffer for the Northend Greenway in Harrisonburg. They also have had their Purcell Park bioreactor for a year now and JMU is doing water quality testing. Harrisonburg is also working to replace Rebecca Stimson's position soon.
- Since Sara Bottenfield with DEQ was unable to join the meeting, Hunter shared a couple DEQ updates. First, DEQ will host the first public meeting for the James River, Maury River and Jackson River PCB TMDL Project on Tuesday January 12, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Second, the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be held virtually on Wednesday February 24, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hunter said she will send more information on these updates in the follow up email.
- Before the meeting ended, Hunter added that as folks start planning their events and workshops for 2021, to reach out to the CSPDC for any assistance they may need or if any help with grant writing is needed. Hunter also shared that she will be starting maternity leave sometime in February, and Rebecca Joyce will be in charge of the WIP program while she is out.

VIII. Adjourn

- With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.