

**Progress Report – September 2006**  
**“Championing” Forest Sustainability: 2006 RSF Project - *Engaging the Broader Community of Forest Stakeholders at Multiple Scales***

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1. **Roundtable on Sustainable Forests** – Work is continuing with the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests as a designated “champion” for forest sustainability. With the support of the RSF/Forest Service, two Criteria and Indicators refinement workshops were attended last year, and a commentary was co-authored with Jeff Horan of MD DNR on local perspectives on the 2003 *National Report on Sustainable Forests*, which was presented at the December 2005 RSF meeting. The current RSF work plan identifies an outreach project, “Engaging the Broader Community of Forest Stakeholders at Multiple Scales.” One part of this work includes contracting a writer to prepare a case study on Baltimore County’s experience in developing and implementing its Forest Sustainability Strategy. This project, coordinated by MD DNR, is now underway. The case study and outreach materials will be used to broaden awareness among local governments about forest sustainability and approaches for integration with local land use planning and environmental management. An invitation was accepted to represent communities/local governments on the Roundtable’s Core Group, which guides the work of the RSF. An invitation was also accepted to participate in a proposed Forest Service panel session in April at the 2007 Conference of the American Planning Association in Philadelphia.
2. **US Forest Service *SD-e News*** - A short commentary, “Urban Forests: Closest to the People” was prepared in response to an invitation from the Forest Service for the Fall 2006 edition of their Sustainable Development electronic newsletter, *SDe-News*. The commentary concludes that counties have the greatest influence in stemming the vulnerability of forests to loss from development. But it is the Forest Service that can influence significantly the awareness of urban counties about the strategic use of their forests for multiple environmental programs. The commentary is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustained/e-news-fall-2006.html>
3. **American Planning Association** – In response to an invitation by the American Planning Association, a scoping symposium in Chicago on March 21-22 was attended for a new project on *Planning for Urban and Community Forestry*. The APA project, in collaboration with American Forests, the International Society of Arboriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service, will result in a state-of-the-art, best practices manual about how urban and community forestry can best be integrated into long-range and current municipal planning activities in the U.S. The symposium discussed the outline, principles, potential case studies, and audience for the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Report, which will be distributed to the public for sale and by APA’s subscription service to planning organizations throughout the U.S. Maryland’s Green Infrastructure and forest conservation programs and Baltimore County’s Green Renaissance/Forest Sustainability initiatives were offered as potential case studies for the report, which will be published in 2007. More detailed information on the project is available from the APA website at: <http://www.planning.org/forestry/>. An invitation was subsequently received to participate in a proposed APA panel session in April at the 2007 Conference of the American Planning Association in Philadelphia.
4. **EPA Region 3 2006 States Source Water Tour** – On May 16, an afternoon field tour was organized and provided for a group of source water professionals for the EPA Region 3 2006 *States Source Water Tour* on “Protecting Reservoir Watersheds in Baltimore County.” The group, including EPA, MD Department of the Environment, and other state source water

program managers in the Region, visited several reforestation and restoration project sites in the Loch Raven Reservoir watershed. An overview was provided of the County's growth management and environmental programs, including the *Linking Communities to the MPC* project and several implementation projects. An invitation was subsequently received to present at a conference in October sponsored by the West Virginia Water Research Institute.

5. **Washington Council of Governments** – A brief Power Point presentation was made about Baltimore County's Forest Sustainability Program on June 28 at the Washington D.C. Council of Governments (WashCOG)'s "Waste Wood Utilization Workshop" as part of their long-standing Community Forestry Network events. Interest was expressed in having a follow-up presentation for WashCOG's member jurisdictions, which has yet to be scheduled.
6. **EPA, Trust for Public Land, and MDE** – A meeting was attended on June 5 at the MD Department of the Environment with the Trust for Public Land and EPA Region 3 source water officials. This exploratory meeting focused on more effective use of existing programs and new tools to expand land conservation efforts for source water protection, and how agencies and conservation organizations can better partner in these efforts. Some of the landscape assessment work done for the Baltimore County Forest Sustainability Strategy (fragmentation and parcelization) was described and offered as an example for other source water managers. Implementation projects such as the Rural Residential Stewardship Initiative were also discussed. These approaches may be incorporated into upcoming meetings to be held with MD counties as the State agencies provide guidance for meeting the requirements of recently-enacted HB1141, which requires that counties add a water protection element to their comprehensive plans by 2009 and develop implementation programs. An invitation was also subsequently received to participate in a proposed EPA panel session in April at the 2007 Conference of the American Planning Association in Philadelphia.
7. **2006 Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters** – A brief presentation on Baltimore County's reservoir protection and forest sustainability programs was made on July 11 for several dozen attendees at the 2006 NAASF meeting hosted by MD State Forester Steven Koehn. The presentation was made at the Loch Raven Reservoir, one of the field tour sites. The group included the State Foresters from 18 of the Northeast Area's 20 states, as well as other Forest Service and MD DNR foresters.
8. **Center for Chesapeake Communities** – The first "Urban Trees-Baltimore SIP Workgroup" meeting was held on June 21 at the MD Department of the Environment to introduce to local governments in the Baltimore region the potential for incorporating urban tree programs in the region's State Implementation Plan for air quality. The meeting was facilitated by the Center for Chesapeake Communities and included presentations by CCC and MDE air quality program staff. The meeting was attended to learn about the future opportunity to credit urban canopy expansion in the SIP, and to discuss local data and tools that can be used. Promoting local forest sustainability programs will result in local governments being able to better protect forests from loss, to reforest feasible areas, and to deal with urban canopy needs, all of which are potential approaches for meeting air quality standards.
9. **Mason-Dixon Task Force** – Baltimore County participates with neighboring counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware in the Mason-Dixon Task Force (MDTF), a cooperative inter-local group established in the 1960's in the aftermath of a severe regional drought. The group continues to meet several times per year to discuss water resource and watershed issues of mutual interest. Plans have been made to join the MDTF members at their November meeting to discuss the possibility of a future session on forest sustainability approaches as a tool for local water quality/watershed management.