



Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

A Partnership for the Future

Tackling Technical Challenges: A National Workshop

Baltimore County Park Oregon Ridge | 13401 Beaver Dam Road

Hunt Valley, Maryland

December 9 - 12, 2007

Draft Agenda

Sunday, December 9 – Orientation Meeting (Optional)

The Roundtable's Communication and Outreach Work Group will host an orientation meeting for all interested Workshop participants Sunday from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to help Roundtable participants develop a common understanding of the Roundtable and its value and contribution to sustainable forest management in the United States and to learn more about how the Roundtable can increase its value to the stakeholder community. The meeting will take place at the Courtyard Marriott Baltimore Hunt Valley in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Workshop Objectives are to:

- Learn about and provide input on how to address some of the challenges associate with indicator implementation and data collection at local, state, regional and national scales.
- Provide input on technical challenges with the implementation of selected indicators.
- Learn about and provide input on alternative methods for data reporting and report formats for the 2010 National Report.

Monday, December 10 – Issues of Scale

- 7:30 a.m. **Registration and Coffee**
- 8:00 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review and Opening Remarks**
Joel Holtrop and Jim Hubbard, USDA Forest Service, and Richard Brinker, Sustainable Forests Partnership, Roundtable Co-Chairs
- 8:30 a.m. **Overview of Scaling Issues and Challenges**
Richard Guldin, Quantitative Sciences, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development
- 9:00 a.m. **PANEL I - Experiences and Challenges with Implementing the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators at the Local Level**
In Baltimore County
Donald Outen, Baltimore County, MD, Department of Environmental Protection & Resources Management
At the Local Level in Baltimore, Wallowa and Gogebic Counties
Maureen Hart, Sustainable Measures
- 10:15 **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **PANEL II – Experiences and Challenges with Implementing Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators at the State Level**
Maryland - Strategic Forest Assessment and Green Infrastructure Plan

Jeff Horan, Chesapeake & Coastal Watershed Services, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Christine Conn, PhD, Maryland Department Natural Resources, Office of Sustainability

Wisconsin – Sustainability Framework- an Indicators System

Rebecca Gass, Division of Forestry, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch**
- Noon **Lunch Keynote Speaker**
James T. Smith, Jr., Baltimore County Executive
- 12:30 p.m. **Possible Media Briefing: Sustainable Forest Programs in Baltimore County and the Region**
- 1:00 p.m. **PANEL III – Experiences and Challenges with Implementing Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators in Different Regions**
Protecting the Forests of the Chesapeake: Executive Council - Directive 06-1
Sally Claggett, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry
Northeastern Area/Northeastern Area Association of State Forester's Overview and Base Indicators
Sherri Wormstead, USDA Forest Service
Southern Roundtable on Sustainable Forests/Indicator Development, Southern Forest Futures Initiative and Other Activities
Charles Van Sickle, The Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Foundation, Southern Regional Roundtable
- 2:30 p.m. **Overview Scale Issues Raised and Direction for Smaller Group Discussion**
Richard Guldin, Quantitative Sciences, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development and Sarah Walen, Meridian Institute
- Highlights of distinct issues and challenges experienced at sub-national scales
 - Guidelines for smaller group discussions
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Smaller Group Discussions**
- What from the presentations and discussion was most surprising to you?
 - How do you use indicators?
 - If you use indicators, how did you address some of the challenges you encountered implementing them? How might you apply what you learned from these presentations and/or what do you want to know more about?
- 4:15 p.m. **Break**
- 4:30 p.m. **Plenary – Small Group Reflections and Discussion**
- 5:15 p.m. **Wrap Up and Preparation for Day II**
Richard Brinker, Sustainable Forests Partnership
- 5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Monday, December 10 - Communications and Outreach Work Group Meeting (Optional)

The Communications and Outreach Work Group (COWG) will hold one of its regular meetings on Monday from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. EST. The primary purpose of the meeting is for the COWG to review its Work Plan and agree on how to proceed with the next areas of COWG activity. All Roundtable participants are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion. The meeting will take place at the Courtyard Marriott Baltimore Hunt Valley in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Tuesday, December 11 – Technical Challenges

- 8:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Richard Brinker, Sustainable Forests Partnership
- 8:10 a.m. **Overview of Technical Challenges in the Next Phase of National Reporting**
Richard Guldin, USDA Forest Service
- How some of the challenges identified in the 2003 National Report are being met
 - What was learned at the Montreal Process Working Group Meeting in Argentina
 - What we hope to accomplish at this Workshop
- 8:40 a.m. **Overview of Technical Issues – Criteria 1 – 5**
Stephen Shifley, USDA Forest Service – Criterion 1
Brad Smith, USDA Forest Service – Criterion 2
Frank Sapio, USDA Forest Service – Criterion 3
Mike Amacher, USDA Forest Service – Criterion 4
Christopher Woodall, USDA Forest Service – Criterion 5
- Brief presentation by each of the Criterion leads on the indicator and the technical challenges of concern
 - Direction for following smaller group discussion
- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15 a.m. **Concurrent Technical Sessions - I**
Participants will be divided into 5 smaller groups for discussion on selected technical issues within each Criterion. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in discussions on 2 of the 5 Criterion, the first in Concurrent Technical Session I and the second in Session II. They will be asked to transition to the second Session after 45 minutes of discussion on the first issue. Sessions will run concurrently. Potential questions that may guide the discussion are:
- How should the information in this criterion (specific indicator) best be developed, delivered and/or presented?
 - In the absence of "hard" quantified data, what strategies would you suggest for addressing specific indicators within this criterion and how useful would this approach be to you?
 - Other questions and technical challenges specific to each Criterion (see attachment).
- 11:00 a.m. **Break and Transition to Next Small Group Session**
- 11:15 a.m. **Concurrent Technical Sessions - II**
- Noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Plenary – Small Group Reflections and Discussion**
- 1:30 p.m. **Overview of Technical Issues – Criteria 6 & 7**
Kenneth E Skog, USDA Forest Service – Criterion 6
Fred Cabbage, University of North Carolina - Criterion 7
- 2:15 p.m. **Report on Progress with Indicators 38 & 44**
Kristen Magis, Leadership Institute and Portland State University and Maureen McDonough, Department of Forestry, Michigan State University
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Technical Sessions - III**
Participants will be divided into 5 or more smaller groups (determined based on available knowledgeable staff, grouping of issues, or other logic) for discussion on selected technical

issues. It is anticipated that there will be one group for Criterion 7 and up to 4 groups for Criterion 6. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in discussions on 2 smaller group discussions regarding technical challenges with Criteria 6 & 7. They will be asked to transition to a second smaller group session after 45 minutes of discussion on the first issue. Sessions will run concurrently. Potential questions that will guide the discussion are:

- How should the information in this criterion (specific indicator) best be developed, delivered and/or presented?
- In the absence of "hard" quantified data, what strategies would you suggest for addressing specific indicators within this criterion and how useful would this approach be to you?
- Other questions and technical challenges specific to each Criterion (see attachment).

- 3:45 p.m. **Break**
- 4:00 p.m. **Concurrent Technical Sessions - IV**
- 4:45 p.m. **Plenary – Small Group Reflections and Discussion**
- 5:15 p.m. **Wrap-up and Preparation for Day III**
Richard Brinker, Sustainable Forests Partnership
- 5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Wednesday, December 12 – National Reporting Process and Reporting Formats

- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome Back and Opening Remarks**
Joel Holtrop, USDA Forest Service
- 8:45 a.m. **Presentation on the Northeastern Area’s Forest Sustainability Web-based Indicator Information System**
Sherri Wormstead, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area
- 9:30 a.m. **Increasing Stakeholder Engagement through Innovative Web-based Communication and Conversations**
Eric Norland, USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Co-Chair of the Communications and Outreach Work Group, and Sherri Wormstead, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area
- Overview of selected web-based tools for creating conversations and enhancing knowledge
 - Guidance for smaller group discussions
- 10:10 a.m. **Smaller Group Discussion: The Need and Opportunity for Enhanced Web-based Communication Approaches**
Graham Cox, Audubon New York, Co-Chair of the Communications and Outreach Work Group
- 10:50 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **National Reporting Process and Report Format**
Richard Guldin, USDA Forest Service and a selection of Criterion Leads
- Review of next steps in the National Report preparation process and initial plans for February Technical Workshop
 - Reflections by Criterion leads on how they envision utilizing the input from this meeting in the 2010 National Report
 - Current understanding of data reporting and report format, and what is yet to be determined
- 11:45 a.m. **Wrap-up and Next Steps**
Joel Holtrop, USDA Forest Service
- Noon **Adjourn**