**Notes Section-4 - 11:00-11:20 - Nature and Society - Working Lands, Conservation Partnerships, Cultural Groups**

**11:05**

**Nature and Society:**

**TVA - Evan Crews** – TRB (Tennessee River Basin) is a focal area for TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority). TVA is unique; does not receive federal appropriations, and that creates advantages for cost-share opportunities with partners. The original mission of TVA included stewardship. Regarding changes, TVA is somewhat immune to Administration changes but those changes are reflected back to us from partners. [Jean Brennan - Our relationship with TVA has been funding Fellowship (Gillian Bee) to advance science and specifically science delivery (delivery of tools to end-users in agencies).] The Fellowship was a big success and allowed us to mitigate for staff losses at TVA; jointly funding a position was extremely effective and we would not have been nearly as successful without it. Funding a position dedicated to the partnership was critical for getting the network off the ground.

**[Energy Industry: TVA Stewardship Program]**

* **[NR Fellowship & TRB]** . Funding a position dedicated to the partnership was critical for getting the network off the ground. The Fellowship was a big success - jointly funding a position was extremely effective and we would not have been nearly as successful without it.

**Smithsonian – Changing Landscape Initiative:** **Tom Akre** – Program Scientist within work area to integrate science across groups within Smithsonian (pan-Smithsonian initiative called “conservation commons” to bring together science centers for leveraging info for conservation). We have been working for past couple of years on **Changing Landscapes Initiative** out of Front Royal office; increasingly tasked with being stewards within region not only global-facing. Developed 2 initiatives: 1) Virginia Working Landscapes and 2) Changing Landscapes Initiative to inform regional landscape conservation. We are interested in this partnership in the intent of being good stewards in this region.

**Smithsonian – Changing Landscape Initiative**

* Program Scientist within work area to integrate science across groups within Smithsonian (pan-Smithsonian initiative called “conservation commons” to bring together science centers for leveraging info for conservation).
* Interested in this partnership in the intent of being good stewards in this region.

**Smithsonian – Virginia Working Landscapes:** **Iara Lacher** – 15 county area around Shenandoah Park, draining to Chesapeake Bay; scenario planning to collect stakeholder input into landscape future condition model for condition and ecosystem services; multiple land use types. Looking at what is the underpinning of the ecosystem services.

**Smithsonian – VA Working Landscapes**

* 15 county area around Shenandoah Park, draining to Chesapeake Bay;
* Stakeholder input into landscape future condition model for condition and ecosystem services; looking at what is the underpinning of the ecosystem services

**Amanda Bassow, NFWF** – New program for forests and freshwater habitats; species targets are part of this; primarily funded by RK Mellon and NRCS. Science-based investment strategy under development to guide investments over next 5-10 years. Working with JVs and looking forward to participating in reshaping of LCC partnerships.

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – Central Apps Program**

* New program for forests and freshwater habitats; species targets are part of this; working with JVs and FHPs (EBT)
* RK Mellon and NRCS. Science-based investment strategy under development to guide investments over next 5-10 years

**Bridgett Costanzo, NRCS** – we have excellent support for work under new administration, on “Landscape Conservation Initiatives Team”, had meeting with new headquarters people, went over their individual work, and one of comment he made was restructuring the group. but one of the last comments is within a “landscape conservation team” and a “programs team”, so this is great and takes pressure off them from having to justify continued involvement in LCCs. Thinking about species, ecosystems, and economics of the region. They(named species?) are in the same farmbill now, so couldn’t update funding, but thinking ahead about the future conservation work for the next farm bill. Species targets are based on Endangered Species link. They have bipartisan support for these programs. Politicians like the “regulatory predictability” of NRCS. So: she’s still in, staying involved, doing good work.

**NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife – Landscape Conservation Initiatives Team**

* Have excellent support for (Landscape) work under new administration; have bipartisan support for these programs. Politicians like the “regulatory predictability”.
* Program thinking about species, ecosystems, and economics of the region. (Farm Bill language) species targets are based on Endangered Species link.