



Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Forest Hydrology Working Group

Charter

Purpose:

The LMV Joint Venture Forest Hydrology Working Group (hereafter “Working Group”) will serve as the technical forum for coordination among Joint Venture partners on the science and management of surface and subsurface hydrological processes that impact forest health and conservation. The Working Group will strive to assemble a diversity of members to ensure that Joint Venture partners have access to the most relevant forest hydrology information. The Working Group will also seek to ensure that the conservation actions and programs of Joint Venture partners are informed by the best possible understanding of the forest health and conservation nexus, considering both contemporary and future hydrology.

The Working Group is empowered to:

- 1) Assemble and synthesize relevant hydrological information towards a comprehensive understanding of the interrelationships among forest health, forest management, reforestation & afforestation efficacy, and hydrological processes.
- 2) Translate this understanding into products that provide guidance to the management goals and objectives of Joint Venture partners.
- 3) Develop and ensure maintenance of a system of surface and subsurface monitoring sites contributing directly to a central model framework focused on increasing understanding of hydrological processes and how these impact forest function. It is anticipated that this framework will lend itself to incorporation of models that predict climate and anthropogenic drivers of hydrological change.
- 4) Identify research issues and needs pertinent to building the LMVJV forest hydrology base of knowledge, and facilitate the development and implementation of associated research projects.
- 5) Reach beyond traditional LMVJV partner Organizations (e.g., Agriculture, Engineering, etc.) and Divisions (e.g., Fisheries, Aquatics, etc.) for WG membership and participation.
- 6) Organize such *ad hoc* or standing sub-committees or working groups as deemed necessary in accomplishing its purpose.

Membership:

Management Board Members will appoint at their discretion one to two Standing Working Group Members. Such members should have a strong

background in conservation-based forestry and/or hydrological management and science. Additionally, the LMVJV Senior Science Coordinator will serve as a Standing Member. Standing Members of the Working Group so appointed, are empowered and encouraged to enlist other such members to the Working Group, and as deemed appropriate to the creation and operation of *ad hoc* or standing subcommittees.

Process:

The Working Group will operate under the broad guidance and direction of the Management Board and with operational oversight provided on behalf of the Board from the Joint Venture Coordinator. The Working Group should operate with an annual work plan that identifies priorities consistent with the purpose of the Joint Venture, and the mission, authorities, and responsibilities of its member agencies and organizations.

The Working Group is expected to select a Chairperson who will, in tandem with the Senior Science Coordinator or other designated Joint Venture Office staff, provide leadership to the Working Group. Leadership activities will include but are not limited to organizing Working Group calls & in-person meetings, communicating activities and needs to the Working Group, drafting meeting agendas, and drafting annual reports.

***Reporting
Responsibilities
And Relationships:***

The Working Group will submit an annual report through the Joint Venture Coordinator to the Management Board at least 15 working days prior to the Board's Fall Meeting. Report topics should include progress and activities associated with the current year's work plan and priorities, issues, findings or recommendations, and a proposed work plan for the ensuing 12 months.