

Meeting Minutes
December 19th, 2019
10:00 AM-11:45 PM
Conference Call

Summary of Actions and Decisions

- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the Nov 21st Conference Call.
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation report of the Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel. It will move forward to the WTWG and WQGIT for approval.
- **Action:** Request that a representative on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup attend upcoming AgWG meeting to discuss the technical memos related to stream restoration.
- **Action:** Nominations for AgWG Chair, Vice-Chair, and 6 at-large members are open. Please send nominations to Allie Wagner (wagner.alexandra@epa.gov) and Loretta Collins (lcollins@chesapeakebay.net) by January 17th, 2020.

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation
Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes

Workgroup Chairs

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the Nov 21st Conference Call.

Data & Modeling

Ag Ditch Management (30 min)

Jeremy Hanson

The Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel released its recommendations report for CBP partnership review on September 4th, 2019. On September 18th, a public webinar discussing the panel's recommendations was held. The recording and associated materials can be found [here](#). The 30-day feedback window closed on October 7th and the panel's response to feedback was discussed on the Nov 21st AgWG call. Jeremy Hanson, VT and panel coordinator, presented the recommendation report to the AgWG for approval.

Decision: The AgWG will be asked to approve the recommendation report of the Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel.

- Jason Keppler: Is anyone uncomfortable with the expert panel report?
 - Ken Staver: For clarification, in the report, there is no credit given for water control structures?
 - Jeremy Hanson: The panel looked at the existing practice called "water control structures," and found the historical definition is based on water management in addition to the structure they are managing. They recommended "drainage water management" as the credited practice, instead of water control structures alone. None of these changes take effect until the next milestone period.
 - Ken Staver: Thinking about verification, installations and cost share associated with structures are easy to verify compared to management.

- Jeremy Hanson: Yes, and the panel discusses that in the report using management reporting.
- Denise Coleman and Barry Frantz: At NRCS, we use water control structures to keep clean water clean. There is certainly an avoidance of water getting dirty due to these structures and we believe it should not be taken out of the model. I understand the importance of management that the panel is discussing, but there is also a value and a lot of work done for water control structures.
 - Jeremy Hanson: In the case you're mentioning such as roof runoff capture, we have a separate BMP. In most, but not all cases, we already have an existing practice that can be credited in place of water control structures.
 - Marel King: I think it's an indicator practice of what we are doing in part of the entire system.
- Jason Keppler: Is there any dissent to approve the report?
 - No response.
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation report of the Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel. It will move forward to the WTWG and WQGIT for approval.

Stream Restoration BMP Discussion (35 min)

Chair, Coordinator

[Recommendations for Improving the Application of the Stream Restoration Prevented Sediment Protocol](#) from the Urban Stormwater Workgroup (USWG) was tentatively approved at the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) on December 9th. The memo presented is part of a series of memos from the USWG dedicated to improving the Stream Restoration BMP Protocols defined in the 2013 [Stream Restoration Expert Panel](#) report sponsored by the USWG. The new memo clarifies the definition of "bank armoring", emphasizes the need for site-specific data collection, and provides guidance for conducting bank erosion rate monitoring and *applies exclusively to urban settings*. As part of the approval process for this memo, the WQGIT has requested that the AgWG revisit the use of default load reduction values assigned to stream restoration practices and applied to agricultural settings, originally defined in the 2013 report.

- Jason Keppler: Is Urban Stormwater Workgroup forming their own expert panel?
 - Loretta Collins: The memos are extensions of the original BMP expert panels, so they are not forming new BMP expert panels.
 - Jason Keppler: It sounds like USWG wants us to review the memo on stream restoration on agricultural land.
 - Loretta Collins: The USWG is speaking from the urban side, not anything else. The panel was willing to allow research on application to agricultural land but was uncomfortable with the same values being applied to agricultural land.
 - Jason Keppler: The bottom line is by **July 2021**, we have to have recommendations approved from the AgWG or stream restoration will be taken out of the model as an agricultural BMP if we don't have an updated number by July 2021.
 - Loretta Collins: My understanding is there is a heavy jurisdictional reliance on the default values. The AgWG is being asked to justify the default values that have been used in the past or present a scientifically defensible alternative method.
- Barry Frantz: Are there thoughts about setting up a group under the AgWG to work through this?
 - Denise Coleman: We have a large project being approved in Chiques Creek to remove millions of pounds of sediment. That's a long term project that we want to keep on the AgWG's radar since we'd like to get credit in the model.

- Jeremy Hanson: Group 4 is looking at protocols 2 and 3. Their work spills over into more sector neutral and rural agricultural land. There is a lot of overlap with that group's work trying to look at legacy sediment removal projects of the kind NRCS mentioned. We may want to see what comes out of that group, because it may inform what the AgWG may want to consider.
 - Denise Coleman: Within NRCS, we are doing extensive research on legacy sediment that I hope can inform the AgWG as well.
- Jason Kepler: There will be follow up discussions on this topic and we hope to have a representative from the USWG give us an in-depth presentation.
- **Action:** Request that a representative on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup attend upcoming AgWG meeting to discuss the technical memos related to stream restoration.

Nomination for 2020-2021 Term (10 min)

Chair

Time to review the governance protocols answer any questions regarding the nomination and voting process for the leadership and at-large positions open for the 2020-2021 term. **All nominations are due NO LATER than January 17th.**

- **At large membership, chair and vice-chair** positions are up for new or re-nominations.
- We strive for diversity in the membership to have a variety of perspectives.
- The voting for at-large members will be done over email and signatory members are able to cast votes.
- The voting for chair and vice-chair will be done live at the February meeting if there is competition.
- Time commitment: We have monthly meetings, a couple face-to-face meetings, and a monthly prep call. We try to alleviate the time burden for the leadership as best as we can.
- If an at-large member wants to run again, they must be renominated through self-re-nomination or nominated by another person.
- **Action:** Nominations for AgWG Chair, Vice-Chair, and 6 at-large members are open. Please send nominations to Allie Wagner (wagner.alexandra@epa.gov) and Loretta Collins (lcollins@chesapeakebay.net) by **January 17th, 2020.**

New Business & Announcements (15 min)

- Wetland Expert Panel Report
 - Jeremy Hanson: We did not have consensus on the report at the WQGIT this month. It will be brought back to the WQGIT in the new year. We are working with the Habitat GIT and WQGIT leadership to come up with a solution.
- Update on Cropland Irrigation Expert Panel recommendations:
 - **Sept 19 MB Decision:** The Management Board (MB) decided on an approach that would allow Delaware to petition the Agriculture Workgroup (with input from STAC and STAR) to open a new expert panel once it documented new relevant science. Note: A decision on whether to approve the Expert Panel's report will be raised during the October MB meeting.
 - **Dec 12 MB Meeting:** The Cropland Irrigation Expert Panel Report was approved by super majority vote.
- The public comment period for FSA [CRP/CREP program interim rules](#) is now open until February 4, 2020. On December 12, there was a webinar discussing the new rules and the recording is now available at [this link](#).
- EQUIP interim rule released. Barry Frantz sent the rule out to the listserv.

Next Meeting:

January 15: Conference Call → 10AM – 11AM

Pending Topics:

Accounting & Reporting: Resource Improvement BMPs- Are they being accounted for at full potential?
• BMP crosswalk updates

Implementation: Strategizing technical assistance • Addressing the gaps- What the Phase III WIPs can tell us • Technical Service Providers

Innovation: Hemp- What are nutrient & sediment implications? (**Early 2019**)• Furthering research to update nutrient fertility recommendation- Why the time is now and where is the support?; Soil Health Initiatives (**Early 2019**) NRCS, Soil Health Institute

Data & Modeling: Data input updates for animal • USGS- Latest information tying water quality trends to BMP implementation

CBP Assignments: Adapting to climate change in the ag sector (**Early 2019**)

Meeting Participants:

Jason Keppler	MDA
Loretta Collins	UMD
Allie Wagner	CRC
Greg Albrecht	NY State Dept. of Ag and Markets
Amanda Barber	NY State Dept. of Ag and Markets
Frank Schneider	PA State Conservation Commission
Jerry Ours	WV DA
Cindy Shreve	WV DA
Elizabeth Hoffman	MDA
Emily Dekar	USC
Jeremy Daubert	VT
Dr. Gurpal Toor	UMD
Paul Bredwell	U.S. Poultry and Egg
Gary Flory	VA DEQ
Jeff Hill	LCCD
Barry Frantz	NRCS
Joel Blanco	EPA
Ruth Cassilly	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	VT
Dave Graybill	PA Farm Bureau
Mark Dubin	UMD
Jeff Sweeney	EPA
Jim Cropper	Northeast Pasture Consortium
Michael Carlo	NRCS
Marel King	CBC
Ken Staver	UMD
Sarah Lane	MD DNR