

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Conference Call Minutes

January 8, 2015

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22323/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

DECISION: AgWG members approved the November 21st and December 11th meeting minutes.

ACTION: AgWG leadership will work with WQGIT to get on their January 12th agenda for approval of 1) the [proposed process for Phase 6.0 expert panels](#) and 2) the sun-setting of the Phase 5.3.2 Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management (once their recommendations are complete in 2015) Expert Panels.

ACTION: Workgroup members will be asked to help identify relevant points of contact or research projects to assist the VT literature search for non-published agricultural loading rate data

ACTION: Contact egiese@chesapeakebay.net if any major conflicts with the proposed [2015 workgroup meeting schedule](#)

ACTION: Send any ideas on potential STAC workshop proposals by January 21st to egiese@chesapeakebay.net

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions, Review Meeting Minutes

- The Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs introduced the draft minutes from the November 21st and December 11th workgroup meetings for review and approval.
 - VA motion, NGO second to approve the 11/21 meeting minutes.
 - There were no objections.
 - DE motion, MDA second to approve the 12/11 meeting minutes.
 - There were no objections

DECISION: AgWG members approved the November 21st and December 11th meeting minutes.

Expert Panels Phase 6.0

- On December 11th, Agriculture Workgroup members approved a [strawman approach](#) to the phase 6.0 Expert Panels. Kristen reviewed a more detailed proposal based on AgWG feedback.
- Chair clarified that the purpose of establishing subgroup is to narrow down the scope for the expert panel.
- NGO: Recommend that the experts on the panel should be given flexibility to define the BMP based on their expertise, and not be limited by the AgWG's definition.
- USDA-ARS: Note that the WTWG and modeling rep should be listed as non-voting members.
 - Jeremy Hanson: When the WQGIT next refines the BMP protocol, we expect they will clarify which members are voting members.
- USDA-ARS: How will verification be incorporated?

- Chair: The proposal currently states that the contractor (VT or TetraTech) is responsible for including requirements for defining verification. As other expertise is needed, expert panels can bring in outside experts, such as jurisdictional representatives in the case of verification.
- Hanson: The VT agreement scope includes helping the expert panels with verification in its scope.
- TetraTech noted that in past reports the verification section has highlighted the options that are possible, but not the requirements.
- Jeremy Hanson noted that under step 3 in the process, the VT supported panels would select their panel chair through the RFP process.
- Chair asked for any objections to the overall process presented, given that several of the issues raised today will be clarified in the near future.
 - VA: Has this process been reviewed by the WQGIT?
 - Chairs: Yes. This proposal does not contradict anything in the WQGIT BMP protocol, it builds upon the BMP protocol.
- VA: The AgWG needs to ask the WQGIT to review the panel process proposal and the sun-setting of the Cover Crop and Conservation Tillage 5.3.2 Expert Panels.
 - If WQGIT approves the process and the sun-setting of 5.3.2 panels at their meeting on 1/12, does the AgWG approve moving forward with the proposed process?
 - There were no objections

ACTION: AgWG leadership will work with WQGIT to get on their January 12th agenda for approval of 1) the proposed process for Phase 6.0 expert panels and 2) the sun-setting of the Phase 5.3.2 Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management (once their recommendations are complete in 2015) Expert Panels.

Workgroup Updates

- Members of the Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee are working on the equations to estimate poultry litter nutrients from broilers, turkeys, layers and pullets in the Phase 6 Model to share with the Poultry Litter Subcommittee. The two groups will hold a joint meeting at the end of January to discuss the recommendations.
- The Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee is currently working on:
 - Nutrient spread processes
 - Degraded riparian pasture representation
 - Poultry litter estimates
 - Double crop procedures
- The Nutrient Management Panel has been charged with conducting a short term re-evaluation that will separate the N and P benefits for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Nutrient Management, and will be providing revised recommendations in March 2015.

Virginia Tech Project Updates

- Virginia Tech received a strong proposal in response to an RFP for performing a literature search for non-published agricultural loading rate data and research reports. The effort will assist Tetra Tech in identifying references for the development of Phase 6.0 land use loading values.
 - Workgroup members will be asked to help identify relevant points of contact or research projects to assist this process in the near future.

- The literature review is focused on the land grant universities within the watershed, however literature from outside the watershed will also be useful.
- The Manure Treatment Technologies Panel’s public stakeholder meeting was held on December 15th. The presentations and other materials from the meeting can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22245/>.

ACTION: Workgroup members will be asked to help identify relevant points of contact or research projects to assist the VT literature search for non-published agricultural loading rate data

2015 Agriculture Workgroup Meetings

- Based on the December 11 AgWG decision to hold quarterly face-to-face meetings in 2015 with conference calls scheduled for the months in between, the [posted schedule](#) is being proposed for 2015. Face-to-face meetings would be held on the third Wednesday-Thursday of March, June, September, and December, and conference calls would be held on the third Thursday of the months in between. Workgroup members are asked to help identify any major conflicts with the proposed meeting dates.

ACTION: Contact egiese@chesapeakebay.net if any major conflicts with the proposed 2015 workgroup meeting schedule.

STAC Request for Workshop Proposals

- STAC has released a call for workshop proposals to gather critically needed scientific or technical information related to the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. All proposals are due to STAC by **Wednesday, February 11, 2015**. Visit STAC’s “Apply for Assistance” page at: <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/assistance.php> to find more information and/or submit a proposal.
- Workgroup members raised the following potential workshop topics
 - Dissolved phosphorus
 - Funding for expert panels through STAC
 - Agriculture sector-specific discussions based on initial topics raised during the Building a Better Bay Model Workshop in 2013.

ACTION: Send any ideas on potential STAC workshop proposals by January 21st to egiese@chesapeakebay.net

Adjourned

Participants

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)	Headwaters LLC
John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Larry Towle	Delaware Department of Agriculture
Lauren Torres	Delaware Department of Agriculture
Rachel Rhodes	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Greg Albrecht	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Steve Taglang	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Tim Sexton	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bill Keeling	Virginia DEQ

Chris Brosch
Andy Yost
Curtis Dell
Jack Meisinger
Emma Giese, Staff
Kelly Shenk
Matt Johnston
Jeremy Hanson
Beth McGee
Kim Snell-Zarcone
Bill Angstadt
Dana York
Jim Cropper
Paul Bredwell
Sally Szydlowski
Chris Thompson
Steve Dressing
Peter Thomas

Virginia Tech/VADCR
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
USDA Agricultural Research Service
USDA Agricultural Research Service
Chesapeake Research Consortium
U.S. EPA
UMD
Virginia Tech
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Conservation Pennsylvania
Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
Green Earth Connection
Northeast Pasture Consortium
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
Water Stewardship
Lancaster County Cons. District
TetraTech
Manuregy