

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

January 18, 2018

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

AgWG Conference Call Minutes

Meeting materials: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/agriculture_workgroup

Action and Decision Items:

ACTION: The AgWG coordinator will edit the draft governance protocols to include a third option for voting in the event of a tie, and will re-post for review prior to the February workgroup meeting.

ACTION: Nominations for at-large, chair, and vice-chair positions are due to Loretta Collins and Lindsey Gordon by COB Friday January 19th.

ACTION: The AgWG coordinator will work to draft up potential recommendations to include that address the potential issue of lack of participation by at-large members.

Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes

Workgroup Chairs

- The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the November 16th Conference Call

Agricultural Stormwater EPEG Memo

Tom Schueler

Tom Schueler, Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Network, presented and discussed the memo drafted by the Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) regarding agricultural stormwater management practices. The AgWG will have the coming month to review the document and submit comments and will be asked to approve it at the February 15th Face-to-Face meeting. Should the memo be approved by the Workgroup, it will be presented to the Watershed Technical Workgroup for review.

Discussion:

- Greg Albrecht: Where would vegetated treatment areas fit under this proposal? And then there are farmstead BMPs implemented for manure or process waters.
 - Mark Dubin: Feeding space acres that would be used in this practice include the same land use footprint that's used for other BMPs (animal waste storage, etc.). This allows us to add another treatment system on top of those BMPs.
 - Greg Albrecht: Where would storm treatment runoff from a bunker silo fall?
 - Mark Dubin: Those nutrients would usually be collected as part of the animal waste treatment systems. If they were directed to stormwater treatment, I would be concerned about toxicity levels in the runoff.
 - Greg Albrecht: There's a NRCS 635 standard for vegetated treatment areas, so maybe we should continue discussions offline.

Review of 2025 Agricultural Forecasts

Matt Johnston

Matt reviewed the projected changes in animal populations and agricultural acres out to 2025 that are currently available in CAST.

Discussion:

- Chris Brosch: Does this process use double exponential smoothing methods?
 - Matt Johnston: Correct.
- Alisha Mulkey: Do we have access to these scenarios?
 - Matt Johnston: I will share this – it's 2016 Progress with the Current Zoning Base Condition.
- Alisha Mulkey: How does fertilization timing work when you bridge calendar years in the model?
 - Matt Johnston: If you have an acre of grain with manure, then the only crop application goal on that acre is the goal for the corn (or sorghum). If you have an acre of corn/soybean that also gets wheat on it at some point, then your crop goal is 2 crops. So you have an increase in crop goal, which means if you didn't have enough manure, the model pulls fertilizer to meet that increased need.
 - Alisha Mulkey: Is it possible that the combination of higher double cropped acres is creating a higher crop need? In years past, you used fertilizer sales data, and you're using crop need data in recent progress years – the high level of double cropped acres could potentially artificially inflate crop need, and therefore N loads? We've been looking at progress years data in post-calibration, where fertilizer sales data wasn't available. So the model takes the distribution in fertilizer sales from 2012-2013 based on crop need in those years, and holds that % constant in these progress years?
 - Matt Johnston: That understanding of the model is correct. I'd recommend looking at nutrients applied through time. That should answer your question.
- Chris Brosch: What is the application of the 2025 land use? Would this be a preview of how WIP base conditions would look if we choose 2025 as the ultimate scenario and the 2016 BMPs as a starting condition?
 - Matt Johnston: There's a lot of ways to look at how things change. My call on that is to hold BMPs constant and place them on two different landscapes.

2018 Leadership and At-large Nominations

Workgroup Chairs

Ed Kee, Chair, provided an *update* regarding nomination and election of new leadership for the 2018-2019 term. Several at-large membership slots are also open for nomination for the 2018-2019 term. Nominations are due by January 19th. Election protocol was reviewed, as well as a revised and updated AgWG Governance document.

Discussion:

- Frank Schneider: I would support the option for having co-chairs.
- Frank Coale: I don't think the co-chairing option worked very smoothly.
 - Bobby Long agreed.
- Jason Keppler: Are there other options available besides a coin toss that we could implement? I would suggest we could have a runoff election with only signatory membership voting for the chair position.
- The group also suggested including the provision that the currently serving chair may act as a tie-breaking vote in the event that a signatory run-off vote results in another tie.
- Ron Ohrel: It seems like there are a lot of at-large members that are consistently not participating in the meetings. Is there a stipulation that members must attend a certain number of meetings?

- Ed Kee: I suggest that we do some research and come up with some options to address this problem.

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Review of Action and Decision Items

Lindsey Gordon

Lindsey reviewed the action and decision items from the meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 15th at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack) in Annapolis 10 AM- 3PM

Participants:

Ed Kee	DDA Retired
Lindsay Thompson	DE-MD Agribusiness Assoc.
Loretta Collins	UMD
Mark Dubin	UMD
Lindsey Gordon	CRC
Chris Brosch	DDA
Clint Gill	DDA
Jason Keppler	MDA
Alisha Mulkey	MDA
Elizabeth Hoffman	MDA
Greg Albrecht	NYSDEC
Chris Yearick	NYS
Frank Schneider	PA SCC
Jill Whitcomb	PA DEP
Alana Hartman	WV DEP
Tim Sexton	VA DCR
Bobby Long	VA DCR
Gary Felton	UMD
Matt Johnston	UMD
Frank Coale	UMD
Ron Ohrel	ADANE
Bobby Grisso	VT
Tom Scheuler	CSN
Christian Richter	US Poultry & Egg Assoc.
Greg Sandi	MDE
Barry Frantz	USDA

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