

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

June 17th-18th

Meeting Summary

**VSU Randolph Farm- Pavilion
4414 River Rd. Petersburg, VA**

Meeting materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22591/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS:

ACTION: The future BMP panel prioritization discussion will take place at the September meeting.

ACTION: Emma will post abbreviated versions of the Phase 6 panel charges including just the charge and scope portions to the AgWG website.

ACTION: Announcements about the Phase 6 Panel stakeholder meetings will be sent out together if possible, to the CBP distribution list, university extension, farm bureau, and DMAA list-serve.

ACTION: John and Kristen will share the Workgroup's suggestions on the BMP protocol recorded during the meeting with the WQGIT.

ACTION: Provide additional comments on the BMP protocol to Lucinda Power by June 30th.

ACTION: John and Kristen will share the Workgroup's comments on governance recorded during the meeting with the WQGIT.

ACTION: Provide additional comments on the CBP governance by COB Friday (6/19). Members are encouraged to participate in the WQGIT call on 6/22.

ACTION: Template for additional poultry data submission will go to the PLS before that group can close.

MINUTES:

June 17th 9:30AM-5:00PM

Agriculture Workgroup Special Session

Virginia Resource Management Plan and Maryland Certainty Programs

Barbara McGarry and Scott Ambler (VA-DCR) and Jason Keppler (MDA) presented highlights and lessons learned from each of their certainty programs. Link to VA-DCR presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22591/chesapeake_bay_ag_workgroup_june_17_2015.pdf. Link to MDA presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22591/maryland_certainty_program.pdf.

Agriculture Workgroup Main Session

Approve Meeting Minutes

Workgroup chairs presented the May conference call minutes for workgroup approval.

- There were no corrections to the May 21 conference call minutes.

Chesapeake Bay Commission Livestock Exclusion Report

Marel King (CBC) presented recommendations from the [recent report](#) on livestock exclusion opportunities to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals. Link to CBC's presentation:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22591/ag_workgroup_6-17-15_cbc_presentation.pdf

Break for Lunch

Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee Recent Discussions

Curt Dell presented [some of the AMS' recent discussions and recommendations](#) for riparian pasture and exclusion fencing, as well as an approach for barnyard loading rates. AMS is preparing to review preliminary Phase 6 model output based on new ag land uses, nutrient spread, input data, and other subcommittee recommendations.

- The recommendation is to eliminate TRP as a land use, and instead provide credit for livestock exclusion based on moving direct deposition for stream to upland pasture.
- Curt noted that the AMS is looking for any major questions or objections to this approach from the Agriculture Workgroup members. Once the methods for Scenario Builder are written up, the Workgroup members will be invited to review the full package and provide feedback.
- Emma will post the AMS' livestock exclusion report.

Nutrient Management Phase 5 Expert Panel Report Preview and Discussion

Chris Brosch, panel chair, [presented panel recommendations](#) from the Phase 5 Expert Panel report, which is scheduled for release on June 25.

- Note that we don't want to send the message that a P-Index will solve the P loss problems on its own.
- Note that a 0% efficiency for ridge and valley is surprising given high efficiency value for piedmont, coastal plain.
- The Panel did not re-consider the Tier 1 recommendations, as that was not part of their most recent charge.

Nutrient Management Phase 5 Expert Panel Partnership Review: Next Steps

Chris and the workgroup chairs discussed the next steps for the Nutrient Management Phase 5 panel and Partnership review of the report.

- June 25: Report posted – 20 day Partnership review and comment period begins
- July 1: [Webinar briefing on report content](#)

- July 16 AgWG call: AgWG discusses report – comment period closes
- Late July: Panel responds to comments
- August 10: Revised report and response to comments posted 10 days in advance of 8/20 AgWG call
- Early August: Tentative 3rd webinar to review 1) panel response to comments, and 2) any changes made to the report
- August 20 AgWG call: Tentative date for AgWG approval

Partnership Comment and Review period:

- **June 25 - July 16, 2015**
- Opportunity for Advisory Committees and other interested groups to comment
- Submit comments to broschc@vt.edu with CC to mdubin@chesapeakebay.net and egiese@chesapeakebay.net.
- Comments should be provided in track changes format to the extent possible, other written comments should reference the applicable section(s) of the report

Future BMP Panels Discussion

Workgroup members reviewed and discussed the [current queue](#) of BMP Panel requests, which will serve as the to-do list for convening future BMP Expert Panels in 2016 and beyond.

- AgWG members developed a list of [future BMPs to review](#), and decided to return to this discussion at the September meeting, so that more jurisdictional representatives could participate in prioritizing this list.

Day 1 Adjourned

June 18th 8:30AM-12:30PM

Phase 6.0 Expert Panel Updates

- Newly convened Expert Panels are in the process of scheduling their first calls and open session meetings. The Panel membership and scopes of work went out for comment in the spring. Emma received some clarifying comments and plans to make those clarifications, as well as post abbreviated version of the Phase 6 panel charges including just the charge and scope portions to the AgWG website.
- There is now a “BMP Panels” page on the CBP website, which is where information about past and future stakeholder meetings, and other panel related documents will be posted.
- Recommend packaging the announcements of all 4 open session meetings together. Who else needs to receive the announcement?
 - Lindsay Thompson offered to distribute the announcement to her list-serve.
 - Farm Bureaus, university extension, CBP list-serve.
- Emma will include a short description of each panel in the announcement as well.
- For the cropland irrigation and nursery/ag stormwater panels there is still a need to fill some membership slots.

- For cropland irrigation members suggested: Bob Rubin, NC State, and Mark Painter VT (Tim will contact), Elsa Sanchez, Bill Lamonte at PSU.
- For nursery/ag stormwater members suggested: ask UMES, DE, David Sample.
- [VT panel updates](#)

ACTION: Emma will post abbreviated versions of the Phase 6 panel charges including just the charge and scope portions to the AgWG website.

ACTION: Announcements about the Phase 6 Panel stakeholder meetings will be sent out together if possible, to the CBP distribution list, university extension, farm bureau, and DMAA list-serve.

AgWG Announcements

- Comments on the [WQGIT BMP panel protocol](#) have been requested by 7/2/15.
- Workgroup members discussed the “conflict of interest” portion of the revised protocol.
 - Recommend re-framing the “conflict of interest” form as a “disclosure form”.
 - Forms should not include any addresses, phone numbers, or other personally identifying data.
- For the existing Nutrient Management panel:
 - Recommend providing CVs only to WQGIT.
- For future panels:
 - Recommend that the WQGIT maintain a checklist of whether the conflict of interest form was signed for each panelist instead of emailing the actual forms to the WQGIT and advisory committee distribution lists.

ACTION: John and Kristen will share the Workgroup’s suggestions on the BMP protocol recorded during the meeting with the WQGIT.

ACTION: Provide additional comments on the BMP protocol to Lucinda Power by June 30th.

WQGIT and Workgroup Governance

- As a result of the recent Management Board decision to replace supermajority voting with a consensus only approach, the WQGIT will be discussing [revised governance](#) at their upcoming meeting on 6/22. Comments to the WQGIT are requested by 6/19/15.
- Recommend clarifying that consensus building involves all members who are present at the meeting. Recommend the second bullet on page 2 be revised to: “Participatory, actively soliciting the input and participation of all **meeting participants**.”
- Recommend that each workgroup have flexibility to determine their own number of at-large members.
- Recommend staying committed to 10 day posting in advance of meetings.
- Workgroup members suggested establishing more subcommittees and advisory committees.
- The Ag Workgroup leadership will develop a strawman proposal for membership for the Workgroup to discuss at the September meeting.

ACTION: John and Kristen will share Workgroup's comments on governance recorded during the meeting with the WQGIT.

ACTION: Provide additional comments on the CBP governance by COB Friday (6/19). Members are encouraged to participate in the WQGIT call on 6/22.

UMD position update

- Interviews will be scheduled next month.

NASS Poultry Pilot Project

- Mark provided an update on the project and next steps.
- The final report will occur in 2017.

ACTION: Template for additional poultry data submission will go to the PLS before that group can close.

Poultry Mortality Freezer System

Victor Clark and Terry Baker of Greener Solutions provided a presentation on a developing new system on Delmarva for managing poultry mortality. The system utilizes self-contained freezers for on-farm storage in combination with off-farm transportation for processing. The system has been implemented on several farms and is recognized as an approved best management practice in Delaware, Virginia and Maryland.

- What are the N and P reductions from these systems?
 - Presenters will share the data on N and P reductions.
- Is there an NRCS standard for mortality freezers?
 - They are part of the national 316 standard.
- Note that there is already a reduction for mortality composting.
- Suggest developing an interim BMP first.
- This BMP will be re-visited with the prioritization discussion of Tier 3 BMPs in September.

Meeting Wrap up

- Emma will make clear that the 1st Nutrient Management webinar (4/6) recording is posted when sending communications regarding the upcoming 2nd webinar (7/1).
- The September meeting agenda will include discussion of Workgroup membership and future BMP Panel priorities.

Meeting Adjourned

Participants:

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)	Headwaters LLC
John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mark Dubin (Coordinator)	UMD
Rachel Rhodes	Maryland Department of Agriculture

Jason Keppler
Steve Taglang
Ted Tesler
David Kindig
Tim Sexton
Gary Flory
Bill Keeling
Chris Brosch
Marel King
Susan Marquart
Curtis Dell
Jack Meisinger
Glenn Carpenter
Emma Giese, Staff
Jeff Sweeney
Kelly Shenk
Fred Samadani
Lindsay Dodd
Jim Cropper
Paul Bredwell
Tom Simpson
Sally Szydlowski
Robin Pellicano
Barbara McGarry
Bobby Long
Scott Ambler
Marel King
Jack Frye
Victor Clark
Terry Baker

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia DEQ
Virginia DEQ
Virginia Tech/VADCR
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Pennsylvania NRCS
USDA Agricultural Research Service
USDA Agricultural Research Service
USDA NRCS
Chesapeake Research Consortium
U.S. EPA
U.S. EPA
Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Northeast Pasture Consortium
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
Water Stewardship
Water Stewardship
MDE
VADCR
VADCR
VADCR
CBC
CBC
Greener Solutions
Greener Solutions