

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Conference Call Summary

July 16, 2015

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/22596/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

ACTION: The open session meetings for the Phase 6 Expert Panels announcement will be distributed today. Please share with others who may be interested in attending. Presenters need to RSVP with Emma (egiese@chesapeakebay.net) to schedule their presentation at least 2 weeks ahead of each open session.

ACTION: Comments on the [poultry litter data reporting template](#) are due to mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net by 7/30.

DECISION: Workgroup members approved Tom Fisher (UMCES) as the final member of the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Panel.

MINUTES

Joint Agriculture Workgroup and Watershed Technical Workgroup Session

Welcome and Introductions

Nutrient Management Panel Report

- Kristen Saacke Blunk and John Rhoderick provided an update on the July 1 webinar ([the recording is now posted](#)). John reviewed the revised schedule for Partnership review ([Attach B](#)). Strongly encourage Workgroup members to attend the [August 20th webinar](#).
- Chris presented an overview of the draft panel report, which was released from the Panel on June 25, 2015.

Discussion:

- Bill Keeling (VA DEQ): If we are planning on the early September approval, then all revisions to NEIEN will be in place already and we basically will just approve it on September 3rd?
 - Matt Johnston (UMD, CBPO): In August, 2015, I will put draft statuses in the codes list of the NEIEN appendix. Once the report is approved, I will switch the draft status over to release.
- Johnston: Just because you see Tier 1, 2 and 3 going into place in a particular year doesn't mean all of the acres were covered in those years, correct?
 - Chris Brosch (VT, VADCR): Correct. This is just the beginning of the periods for which the states can begin to take credit.

- Keeling: If we do field level planning on pasture, why can't we receive credit for Tier 2 nitrogen?
 - Brosch: The panel couldn't identify any clear benefit to pasture from the literature.
 - Keeling: Some acres receive commercial fertilizer and some have manure applied.
 - Brosch: That is correct, but direct deposition confuses the matter and it made it imprudent for us to include that recommendation based on the literature available.
- Johnston: When a state is trying to decide what acres to submit in NEIEN, how many options would there be?
 - Brosch: There are five BMPs that can submit acres on: Tier 1, Tier 2 N, Tier 2 P, Tier 2 N and P, and Tier 3 N.
 - Johnston: We will have to include five separate definitions in the technical appendix then, even though there are only 3 Tiers.
- Ted Tesler (PA DEP): Do we really know whether or not the plans are being carried out on some of those land uses? Would we have the land use information to know the application differential between alfalfa and hay with nutrients for instance?
 - Brosch: Virginia collects land use information.
 - Johnston: This is a problem across all BMPs. In the NEIEN appendix, we list a default land use for if you don't provide land use data.
- Keeling: We don't always see all of the information that would need to be reported to qualify for Tier 2 P. What defaults would we have?
 - Brosch: The Virginia plans would qualify for Tier 2 P.
 - Keeling: The soil test P is not a reportable element.
 - Brosch: But every plan written would have a soil test and rating.
 - Keeling: If that isn't passed on to me, how do I code the NEIEN submittal?
 - John Rhoderick (AgWG Co-Chair): That is a good question. At the time the data was collected, the states didn't know about this hierarchical system. How are states going to flip this data over?
- Keeling: Can we have the Modeling team make any comments they have by July 29th?
 - Kristen Saacke Blunk (AgWG Co-Chair): Rich Batiuk (EPA) has been encouraging that communication with the modeling team from the beginning of this process, but we will be sure to circle back on that.

Agriculture Workgroup

Review Meeting Minutes

The Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs introduced the draft minutes from the June quarterly Meeting for workgroup approval.

- There were no corrections to the June quarterly meeting minutes.

Announcements

- Emma Giese: The Phase 6.0 Expert Panel open stakeholder meetings have been scheduled. The email announcement will go out later today. Please share with anyone who may be interested in these meetings. We'll be inviting participation and presentations. Presenters should RSVP with Emma to schedule a presentation time.
 - [Conservation Tillage Phase 6.0 Expert Panel Open Session](#) – August 10th 10:30AM-12:00PM
 - [Manure Injection & Incorporation Phase 6.0 Expert Panel Open Session](#) – August 11th 1:00PM-2:00PM
 - [Cover Crops Phase 6.0 Expert Panel Open Session](#) – August 19th 1:00PM-2:00PM
 - [Nutrient Management Phase 6.0 Expert Panel Open Session](#) – September 10th 9:30AM-11:30AM

ACTION: The open session meetings for the Phase 6 Expert Panels announcement will be distributed today. Please share with others who may be interested in attending. Presenters need to RSVP with Emma (egiese@chesapeakebay.net) to schedule their presentation at least 2 weeks ahead of each open session.

- Jeremy Hanson: The Manure Tech panel held a face-to-face meeting earlier this month. Panel members are now writing individual chapters for the final report. Goal is for the Panel Chair to bring substantial update to the September AgWG meeting.
- Giese: The WQGIT approved their [BMP Protocol](#) on 7/13/15, the version posted on today's meeting page is final. The WQGIT has nearly finalized their [governance document](#), pending definition of their membership. They decided that Workgroups would each define their own membership, which would be presented to the WQGIT for final approval. This approach is consistent with the AgWG's plan to discuss workgroup membership in August and September of this year.
- Giese: The Poultry Litter [data reporting template](#) was sent out to PLS and AgWG for comments by 7/30. Some discussion has already occurred over email. Send any additional comments to mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net by 7/30.

ACTION: Comments on the poultry litter data reporting template are due to mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net by 7/30.

- Saacke Blunk: Tom Fisher (UMCES) has agreed to fill the final slot on the [Phase 6 Nutrient Management Panel](#).

- DMAA: Motion to accept Tom Fisher as a member of this Panel.
MASCD second.
 - There were no objections.

DECISION: Workgroup members approved Tom Fisher (UMCES) as the final member of the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Panel.

Land Use Loading Targets Project

Tom Jordan and Gene Yagow provided an [update on the land use loading targets project](#).

September Quarterly Meeting Planning

- Dates: September 16-17
- Tentative location: Hagerstown, MD
- Agenda topics will include: review of data going in to Phase 6.0 beta model, discussion of workgroup membership, report out from Manure Tech Panel chair.

Adjourned

Next Conference Call: **Monday, August 24th 10:00-12:00**

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	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Alisha Mulkey	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Greg Albrecht	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Steve Taglang	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Ted Tesler	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Bill Keeling	Virginia DEQ
Chris Brosch	Virginia Tech/VADCR
Alana Hartman	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Emma Giese, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Matt Johnston	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	Virginia Tech
Kim Snell-Zarcone	Conservation Pennsylvania
Bill Angstadt	Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
Fred Samadani	Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Lindsay Thompson	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Jim Cropper	Northeast Pasture Consortium
Sarah Lane	UMCES
Karl Brown	SCC
Robin Pellicano	MDE
Olivia Devereux	Devereux Environmental Consulting
Karl Blankenship	Bay Journal

Seung Ag Byun
Steve Gladding
Lara Kling
Steve Dressing
Marty Hurd

Brandywine Conservancy
NYSDEC
VADEQ
TetraTech
DDOE

DRAFT