

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Summary

October 9, 2014

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21227/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

DECISION: AgWG members approved the September 29 conference call minutes.

ACTION: The Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee will share their schedule for the coming months with the AgWG at the November meeting.

ACTION: TetraTech will share the list of loading rate literature compiled so far with the AgWG members.

ACTION: Send recommendations for additional land use loading rate literature and other information to olivia@devereuxconsulting.com and steven.dressing@tetrattech.com.

ACTION: AgWG and DDA will organize an informational meeting for farmers in DE in 2014.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Meeting Minutes

- VA: Motion to approve the September 29 2014 conference call minutes.
 - MD second.
 - There were no objections.

DECISION: AgWG members approved the September 29 conference call minutes.

3. WQGIT Face-to-Face Meeting

- Kristen Saacke Blunk, Co-Chair, presented highlights from the WQGIT's face-to-face meeting, which was held on October 7th - 8th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress toward the 2017 Midpoint Assessment and next steps for the WQGIT and associated workgroups.
- Ag Modeling Subcommittee Chair and Coordinator will be talking with Rich Batiuk about how to take advantage of additional resources offered to help AMS complete their assignments in the next few months.
 - VA recommended that Curt contact the rest of the AMS members for additional suggestions.
- Co-Chair: AMS has a tight schedule over the next few months. We need to make sure the group has the capacity and support needed.
- AMS will share a schedule with the AgWG in November.

ACTION: The Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee will share their schedule for the coming months with the AgWG at the November meeting.

4. Ag BMP Verification Guidance Comments

- John and Kristen reviewed comments received from select members of the BMP Verification Review Committee on the workgroup's final approved BMP verification guidance documents, and the follow-up responses provided.

5. Land Use Loading Rates

- Olivia Devereux reviewed how the land use loading rates are used in the Phase 6 Watershed Model calibration, sources of data used to inform the loading rates, synthesis process, and timeline.
- Data sources from the Chesapeake Bay region are weighted more heavily than data collected from other regions.
- Workgroup members were asked if they have any critical pieces of information to provide in addition to the full literature review that is already underway.
 - TetraTech noted that they are able to collect any information in published journals; however information in state agency reports is not easily available and would be helpful.
 - CIG reports could also be helpful.
 - Mark Dubin: AgWG members can also help provide unpublished academic reports that TetraTech would not be able to access.
- TetraTech: We can share the information that has already been compiled.
- DMAA: Concern about developing targets for the comprehensive list of land uses.
- Olivia will return to update the AgWG on progress in the coming months.
- Mark recommended adding more detail to the timeline for this project.
- DMAA: Note the hydrology differences in data from the Midwest. Also concern about literature pre 2000s not representing nutrient management.
 - Devereux: We have asked TetraTech to focus on the more recent literature.
 - TetraTech: We are categorizing by location and dates to help determine how useful each data source is.

ACTION: TetraTech will share the list of loading rate literature compiled so far with the AgWG members.

ACTION: Send recommendations for additional land use loading rate literature and other information to olivia@devereuxconsulting.com and steven.dressing@tetrattech.com.

6. DDA expressed interest in organizing an informational meeting for farmers in DE.

- Agriculture Workgroup members agreed that outreach to the farm community should be a priority for the workgroup.
- This type of outreach can occur in other states as well.

ACTION: AgWG and DDA will organize an informational meeting for farmers in DE in 2014.

7. Poultry Litter Subcommittee

- John Rhoderick, PLS Chair, discussed the Poultry Litter Subcommittee's recent work and progress to date in developing the Phase 6.0 recommendations report.
- PLS has finalized a report to move over to the AMS. The two subcommittees will work collaboratively over the coming months to incorporate the recommendations in to the model.
- NGO: Recommend working with ERS survey data on poultry litter.

8. NASS/Poultry Integrator Pilot Project

- Mark Dubin, Agriculture Workgroup Coordinator, updated workgroup members on the data collection pilot project being developed between the partnership, USDA-NASS, and the poultry industry.
- MDA: Will pullets be included?
 - The intent is to collect all bird types.
- MASCD: How will the data be incorporated in to the model?
 - Dubin: Data will not be available until 2016, so the existing data sources will continue to be used until then.
- NGO: What about horse data?
 - Dubin: That is part of a state survey; it is not collected regularly and not at a national level.

9. Panel Update

- Mark Dubin: The nutrient management, cover crops and conservation tillage panels will be meeting face to face next week.
- Jeremy Hanson, VT, updated workgroup members on the status of the MTT panel. The deadline for proposals was October 3rd. CBWROC will be making a final decision, and the kickoff meeting will be scheduled soon. The WTWG will appoint a representative to serve on the panel.
- The WQGIT will discuss allocation of resources to BMP panels at their November meeting.

Lunch

10. Innovative Agricultural Practices

- To help mitigate the impacts of agricultural nutrient and sediment loading to local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, the identification of innovative agricultural best management strategies are vital to addressing agricultural nutrient loss issues. Rachel Rhodes with the Maryland Department of Agriculture presented collaborative efforts with agricultural land owners to install Water Control Structures, Woodchip Bioreactors, Phosphorus Sorbing Materials (PSMs), and tax ditch restoration projects for potential wide-scale adoption throughout the agricultural community.
- NY has seen similar results from a few bioreactor projects in NY.
- Discovery Farms in Minnesota has 5 years of bioreactor data.
- Mark recommended discussions between the NY and MD collaborators on these projects.

- How often do the materials need to be changed?
 - MDA: P sorbing materials need to be replaced once vegetation starts growing in them, or after about 4 years.

11. Report on Agricultural P-dynamics in the CBWM Model

- Ken Staver with the University of Maryland provided an overview of the findings from a recently released CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) report entitled "A Review of Agricultural P-dynamics in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model". The report is the product of an *ad hoc* workgroup of scientists formed in September of 2011 to work with CBP modelers to investigate how phosphorus (P) transport from cropland was simulated in the CBP Watershed Model (CBWM).
- Ken clarified that the recommendations are for the full watershed.
- DDA: Will changes in yield make a significant difference in nutrient loads?
 - Staver: They are headed in the right direction.
- MASCD: How do we get these recommendations in to the model?
 - Staver: Reported data is necessary to change the model. The model will be more accurate if there is better information.

Adjourned

Participants

| Member | Affiliation |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair) | Headwaters LLC |
| John Rhoderick (Co-Chair) | Maryland Department of Agriculture |
| Mark Dubin (Coordinator) | UMD |
| Ed Kee | Delaware Department of Agriculture |
| Robert Baldwin | DNREC |
| Rachel Rhodes | Maryland Department of Agriculture |
| Steve Taglang | Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection |
| Tim Sexton | Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation |
| Bill Keeling | Virginia DEQ |
| Chris Brosch | Virginia Tech/Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation |
| Andy Yost | West Virginia Department of Agriculture |
| Marel King | Chesapeake Bay Commission |
| Curtis Dell | USDA Agricultural Research Service |
| Susan Marquart | Pennsylvania NRCS |
| Emma Giese, Staff | Chesapeake Research Consortium |
| Bill Angstadt | Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association |
| Dana York | Green Earth Connection |
| Lindsay Dodd | Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts |
| Jim Cropper | Northeast Pasture Consortium |
| Paul Bredwell | U.S. Poultry & Egg Association |
| Ken Staver | UMD |
| Les Vough | UMD |
| Connie Musgrove | UMCES |

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| Sally Szydlowski | Water Stewardship |
| Olivia Devereux | DEC |
| Larry Towle | DDA |
| Jeremy Hanson | VT |
| Greg Sandi | MDE |
| Steve Dressing | TetraTech |
| Peter Hughes | |
| Aaron Ristow | Upper Susquehanna Coalition |
| Alisha Mulkey | MDA |
| Frank Coale | UMD |

DRAFT