

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Conference Call Agenda

February 19, 2015

10:00 AM to 12:15 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22428/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

DECISION: Workgroup members approved the January 8th conference call minutes

ACTION: Comments on the draft AWMS charge due to egiese@chesapeakebay.net by COB 2/25

ACTION: Please provide any final suggested contacts or researchers for land use loading rates by COB February 27th. Send your suggested contacts or other suggested resources to Sally (sallyb@waterstewardshipinc.org).

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Meeting Minutes

- The Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs will introduce the draft minutes from the January 8th Conference Call.
 - VA motion to approve the minutes, NGO second. There were no objections.

DECISION: Workgroup members approved the January 8th conference call minutes

2. Update on Expert Panel Establishment Groups

- Representatives from the BMP Expert Panel Establishment Groups (formerly known as subgroups) updated the Agriculture Workgroup on their initial meetings and next steps as they develop charge and scope of work for each of the Phase 6.0 BMP Expert Panels.

3. Animal Waste Storage Facilities/Poultry Pads Charge

- The AWMS EPEG presented their recommended draft charge to the future Expert Panel for Agriculture Workgroup review. Following AgWG approval, Virginia Tech will release an RFP based on this charge to launch an Expert Panel in the spring 2015 timeframe.
- Jack Meisinger will send reference to a STAC review from 3-4 years ago that may help the subgroup and expert panel.

ACTION: Comments on the draft AWMS charge due to egiese@chesapeakebay.net by COB 2/25

4. Land Use Loading Rate Targets

- Olivia Devereux updated the Agriculture Workgroup on the status of development of the land use loading rate targets for the Phase 6 Watershed Model.
- Kristen noted that the language around regulated and unregulated may be misleading, because it is really representing different levels of regulation.
 - Suggest using wasteload allocation, and load allocation instead.
- Jack noted that AMS may have some changes to list of land uses.
- Recommend that North Carolina be in the CBWS or similar category rather than in subtropical.
- VA noted that measurement has improved and may account for higher loads post 1995.
 - TetraTech was unable to identify one single reason for the higher loads.
- Jack noted it would be good to know the magnitude of the increase in loads. May be due to improved sampling methods.
- Olivia will present to the AgWG in March. If the VT land use loading data requires a revision to the overall loading rate information, the decisions can be re-visited.

5. Virginia Tech Land Use Loading

- Jeremy Hanson, Virginia Tech Project Coordinator, briefly updated members on the literature search for non-published agricultural loading rate data and research reports.
- Olivia noted that research that showed no effect from a BMP or management system often doesn't get published. This unpublished literature review was to help supplement the TetraTech published literature review.
- VA suggested that older published literature (not available online) could help supplement the pasture literature.
 - There would also be fewer BMPs in these studies.

ACTION: Please provide any final suggested contacts or researchers for land use loading rates by COB February 27th. Send your suggested contacts or other suggested resources to Sally (sallyb@waterstewardshipinc.org).

6. Mapping Methods: Phase 6.0 Agricultural Land Uses

- Adam Ridley, USGS-CBPO, will present a method and draft results for mapping the location of commodity crops, specialty crops, hay/pasture forage, and farmsteads throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed using the Cropland Data Layer (2008-2013) and the county-level acreages reported in the 2012 Ag Census.
- Peter noted that the data would be used to proportion the data from the county to the land river segment. This method would be an improvement because CDL brings together 6 years of information with better groundtruthing than the NLCD. Pulling in local data, which we've never done before, will narrow the universe of

where agriculture is and is not. Then we can try to distinguish between cropland, pasture, specialty crops.

- Mark Dubin will help connect Peter with transect surveys as a method of groundtruthing.

7. BMP Credit Duration

- The workgroup has been asked to review the current draft credit durations and provide any recommended edits by March 31. The Agriculture Workgroup will charge a small ad-hoc team to develop recommended edits for review by the full workgroup at the March meeting.

8. Nutrient Management 5.3.2 Panel Update

- The Nutrient Management Panel has held several meetings in 2015. Panel has been trying to re-build their Tier 2 and Tier 3 recommendations since last fall. N and P will be considered separately. Many of the same components will match what was in the fall report, but they will be more specific to N or P credits that would be credited separately. Panel has a call later this afternoon to discuss responsibilities in the report writing. The panel is working on the technical appendix as well.
- Chair: A Nutrient Management Webinar will be provided this spring to the greater partnership audience to present the highlights of the report, as well as background and broader understanding of nutrient management and to help resolve some misunderstandings. The webinar will occur ahead of the nutrient management report release.
- Rachel Rhodes: The nutrient management phase 6 EPEG met yesterday and they have another call next week. On track to submit charge in March.

9. Workgroup Updates

- John Rhoderick: Poultry Litter Subcommittee met with the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee. Matt Johnston developed new charts, which addressed the major comments from both subcommittees. We will have another call soon, and are still on track to come to the AgWG in March.
- Curt Dell: Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee is working on the nutrient spread methodology and land uses.
- Mark Dubin: We will be posting information on the University of Maryland position job description as soon as it is posted.

Adjourned

Participants

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)

John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)

Headwaters LLC

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Mark Dubin (Coordinator)
Rachel Rhodes

Greg Albrecht

Ted Tesler
Tim Sexton
Gary Flory
Bill Keeling
Chris Brosch
Andy Yost
Marel King
Susan Marquart
Curtis Dell
Jack Meisinger
Emma Giese, Staff
Kelly Shenk
Jeremy Hanson
Jim Cropper
Sally Szydlowski
Robin Pellicano
Jack Frye
Steve Dressing
Robb Meinen
Olivia Devereux
Adam Ridley

UMD
Maryland Department of Agriculture
New York State Department of Agriculture and
Markets
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia DEQ
Virginia DEQ
Virginia Tech/VADCR
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Pennsylvania NRCS
USDA Agricultural Research Service
USDA Agricultural Research Service
Chesapeake Research Consortium
U.S. EPA
Virginia Tech
Northeast Pasture Consortium
Water Stewardship
MDE
CBC
TetraTech
PSU
DEC
USGS