

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Summary

November 13, 2014

10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21228/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved the October 22nd conference call minutes.

DECISION: AgWG members approved Lauren Torres, DDA, to be appointed as an Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee member.

ACTION: A finalized timeline for VT RFP to identify land use loading rate literature will be shared with the Agriculture Workgroup members.

DECISION: AgWG members approved the Manure Treatment Technology panel membership and scope of work.

ACTION: Frank Coale, John Rhoderick, Kristen Saacke Blunk and Lucinda Power will discuss how best to re-organize the existing BMP expert panels for the Phase 6.0 recommendations. The subgroup will bring a recommendation to the AgWG December meeting.

ACTION: The Nutrient Management Panel's revised report with response to comments will be distributed to the AgWG, WTWG, and WQGIT on Friday 11/14/14.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions/ Review Meeting Minutes

- VA: Motion to approve the 10/22/14 minutes, MDA: Second.
- AgWG Chair: Any objections to approving the minutes?
 - There were no objections.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved the October 22nd conference call minutes.

2. Agriculture Workgroup Updates

- Both the Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage panel reports were discussed and approved by the WQGIT on 11/10.
- Following the 11/6 meeting, the comments provided to the Nutrient Management panel were compiled. The panel has begun responding to comments in preparation for a joint meeting on 11/21.
- The Toxic Contaminants Workgroup kickoff meeting was held on 11/5. The meeting included breakout discussions for research and policy. The Workgroup

will be developing scope of work and developing Management Strategies for the Bay Watershed Agreement.

- Robert Baldwin, DE, requested that Lauren Torres be an additional member of the AMS. Lauren can be available to help Jenn Volk represent DE.
- Chair asked for any concerns with appointing Lauren Torres to the AMS.
 - There were no objections.
- The Wetlands Expert Panel stakeholder meeting is on 11/21/14. Kristen Saacke Blunk will be participating on the Expert Panel.
 - Dana York: Recommend connecting with the CEAP Wetland group, they may have relevant research for the panel.

DECISION: AgWG members approved Lauren Torres, DDA, to be appointed as an Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee member.

3. Agricultural Land Use Reference Search Update

- Mark Dubin, Agricultural Coordinator, provided an update on providing additional assistance to Tetra Tech for identifying literature sources for the Phase 6.0 agricultural land use base loading rates.
- Jeremy Hanson (VT): CBWROC will build on Mark's draft to develop an RFP and timeline to be consistent with the TetraTech timeline.
- Olivia Devereux requested that if anyone has additional land use loading information, please include it soon. If it is not available yet it may be included with Jeremy's compilation. However, recommend submitting information as soon as possible.
- Hanson: What is the deadline for the first compilation?
 - Devereux: Within the next week. TetraTech will be wrapping up the analysis in early December.
- If anyone has data not available by the TetraTech deadline, submit to Jeremy Hanson for the second compilation. Deadline to be finalized with the RFP.
- When will the new permanent NRCS Bay Coordinator start?
 - NRCS: Have not posted the position yet.
- How to access the CIG grants locally and nationally?
 - Mark will contact NRCS to ask for past CIG grant information.
 - Glenn Carpenter noted that there is a search option with NRCS website to locate past projects. Glenn will provide the search link.
 - NGO: SARE also has a good search engine to locate old projects.

ACTION: The finalized timeline for VT RFP to identify land use loading rate literature will be shared with the Agriculture Workgroup.

- 4.** Mark announced that there will be a new position funded by an EPA grant that was awarded to UMD. That position will be helping with the Agriculture Workgroup and Expert Panels.

- Frank Coale noted that the position will likely start in January 2015, and that feedback on the division of responsibilities will be solicited from the Workgroup.

5. Review of Manure Tech Proposal

- Jeremy Hanson, Virginia Tech, Brian Benham, VT, and Doug Hamilton, Oklahoma State, presented the proposed panel membership and scope of work for the Manure Treatment Technologies Expert Panel for workgroup feedback.
- Hamilton: Recommend that Jeff Porter be added to the list of original panelists, to provide the NRCS implementation perspective.
- Hanson: The proposed membership now includes the original panelists, a WTWG representative, a modeling representative, and Jeff Porter, NRCS.
 - Mark Dubin or the new agricultural position may also sit in on the panel meetings (not as a member) to be a liaison.
- Saacke Blunck: With future VT panels, how will volunteers be invited? Is there an expectation that the panel chair will submit the full panel and then come to the AgWG for approval?
 - Benham: To be determined as we work through the new process. We will make the WG oversight and approval clear in future RFPs.
- NGO: Motion to approve the panel membership and scope of work
 - MDA second.
- Chair: Any objection to moving forward with the MTT panel scope of work and membership?
 - Taglang: Why were the additional member recommendations not included in the membership?
 - Benham: It is up to the RFP recipient to put together a team. They were seeking an NRCS member, and Jeff Porter brought that perspective to the table. Panel chair wished to keep the group small.
 - Hamilton: although this will be the core group, we will certainly be seeking additional information from outside sources. In order to finish the panel recommendations by October 2015, intent is to keep the panel small and focused.
 - There were no objections.
- Hanson: The stakeholder meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible in the Mid December timeframe. The meeting information will be shared as soon as possible.

DECISION: AgWG members approved the Manure Treatment Technology panel membership and scope of work.

6. Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee Schedule

- Matt Johnston, Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee chair, presented the AMS' proposed schedule of work in preparation for Phase 6.0 for the coming months.

7. Expert Panels Phase 6.0

- Jack Meisinger discussed the state of current Expert Panels, Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management, and introduced options for the workgroup to consider.
 - Current Expert Panels have high membership: 18-20 per panel. Some members are inactive.
 - Current panels need charge and realignment.
 - Options include:
 - Disband panels and reform under VT framework
 - Trim to science core
 - Trim to science core and refocus with new timeline
 - Recognize that some BMPs need long term panel (I.e. Nutrient Management)
 - Establish core of 4 members with authority to bring in new panel members as issues evolve
- Workgroup comments
 - AgWG members noted the importance of funding and deadlines in the panel process.
 - EPA: Support keeping the panels science based. Recommendation close coordination with the AgWG for feedback on implementation.
 - Chair: Recommend instituting similar schedules with the panels that the AMS has developed.
 - VADEQ: With a large past panel we had the resources to bring them together for face to face meeting. The resources to cover travel are key.
 - NGO: The groups need to develop specific definition for practice. If it doesn't match an NRCS definition will need an even more specific definition. Specify how the practice data will be collected and verified.

Lunch

8. Expert Panels continued

- Jack Meisinger: Suggest that a subgroup of the AgWG, 3 people, deliberate and develop a re-organization plan for the existing expert panels. They should address 1) How to include modelers and verifiers, 2) More clear charge and clear timeline, 3) Resources for in person meetings, 4) How to manage the transition to p6, and 5) Support for the report writing. Recommend Frank Coale, John Rhoderick and Kristen Saacke Blunk.
- Chair: Any objections to forming a subgroup to develop a plan for the existing expert panels?
 - There were no objections.

ACTION: Frank Coale, John Rhoderick, Kristen Saacke Blunk and Lucinda Power will discuss how best to re-organize the existing BMP expert panels for the Phase 6.0

recommendations. The subgroup will bring a recommendation to the AgWG December meeting.

9. EPA Analysis of Programmatic Milestones

- Kelly Shenk, EPA Region 3 Agricultural Advisor, presented an overview of EPA's analysis of jurisdictions' programmatic milestones for the agricultural sector. The analysis identified goals that showed constructive progress, as well as ones that may need additional effort to garner proposed nutrient and sediment reductions. The results of the analysis could be useful in identifying what topics the workgroup could address to assist the jurisdictions in meeting future implementation goals in the agricultural sector.
- DE: With the definition of Tier 2 Nutrient Management, DE will move closer to meeting their goal.
- DNREC: Many animal waste storage systems are on the ground but expired, and are no longer being reported. Resource Improvement type practices will be reported in the future. DE started a Conservation Tillage transect survey this year.
 - EPA: If there is a way to determine maintenance and operation of expired storage systems, it will be important to get them counted.
- MASCD: Note that MD met their phosphorus goal without the phosphorus management tool.
- PA: Tier 2 Nutrient Management credit will be very important to PA. PA needs to improve tracking and reporting. Hoping to make use of the DE transect survey for cover crops.
- EPA Recommend sharing success stories about leveraging funding, innovative reductions, capacity building between the states in the AgWG.
 - PA: Issues of scale may be difficult to translate between states.

10. Nutrient Management Phase 5.3.2 Panel Report Update

- Chris Brosch, panel chair, provided an update on the Expert Panel's response to comments from the Agriculture and Watershed Technical Workgroups. The overarching comments were consolidated and responded to. The expert panel reviewed the compiled comments and responses, and provided their feedback by 11/12. The panel answers will be posted for the Workgroup following today's meeting. Chris shared the comprehensive list of literature reviewed by the panel.
- Mark recommended noting in the report where it was in the approval process.
 - Chris will frame this in an email to the members.
- Chair recommended making it as easy as possible for people to review by directing them to the new sections.
- EPA recommended making it as easy as possible by distributing the comment and response document.

- Recommend the comments and responses can be provided during the November 21 meeting.

ACTION: The Nutrient Management Panel's revised report with response to comments will be distributed to the AgWG, WTWG, and WQGIT on Friday 11/14/14.

Adjourn

Participants

John Rhoderick, AgWG Co-Chair
Jason Keppler, MDA
Rachel Melvin, MDA
Dana York, Green Earth Connection
Mark Dubin, UMD
Emma Giese, CRC
Frank Coale, UMD
Chris Brosch, VT/VADCR
Lindsay Dodd, MASCD
Kristen Saacke Blunk, Headwaters LLC
Steve Dressing, TetraTech
Steve Taglang, PADEP
Tim Sexton, VADCR
Susan Marquart, NRCS
Kim Snell Zarcone, Conservation PA
Marel King, CBC
Robert Baldwin, DNREC
Robin Pellicano, MDE
Jack Meisinger, USDA ARS
Glenn Carpenter, NRCS
Bill Keeling, VADEQ
Marcia Fox, DNREC
Olivia Devereux, DEC
Jeff Sweeney, EPA
Jeremy Hanson, VT
Kelly Shenk, EPA
Jen Nelson, Resource Smart LLC
Kelly O'Neill (sp?)
Andy Yost, WVDA
Larry Towle, DDA
Sarah Lane, DNR