

Federal Facilities Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



Agenda Item, (Discussion Lead), and Desired Outcome	Time	Materials, Notes, and Action Items
Introductions (Greg Allen)	10:00-10:10	<p><u>Summary of Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to WQGIT leadership about additional climate allocations, expectations of federal agencies, and how it may change FPGs. • Contact GIS team regarding data layer update. • Jeff- looking for presentation/documentation on MB decision to exclude ag land use for federal lands • Katie Brownson, with other USFS support to write a position paper supporting the inclusion of timber harvest as an eligible BMP on federal lands.
Federal Two-Year Milestones (Greg Allen)	10:10- 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Edwards has retired; Bill Jenkins is the acting interim director for the CBP and will fill Jim's role in FFWG. Greg walked through the Federal Programmatic WQ Milestones Progress document and provided an overview of the current status. We are in the middle of the two-year milestone process, a midpoint to revisit the milestones and assess progress. Three different kinds of milestones; federal numeric; programmatic; and BMP specific. Programmatic mostly handled by the FOD. Asked the federal agencies to provide either a full input deck or a few key BMPs. Some submissions of both types, DoD has the most complete data to use in a CAST progress scenario run. <p>Questions and Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin- What was the proper format to submit the programmatic assessment in? DoD submission added a column to the existing table, next to each milestone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes that is correct, there isn't a structured format. Recommend other agencies do the same, just some form of response on progress. • Greg- EPA will not be writing interim evaluation reports. We'll compile the information and bring it to the joint meeting with FOD.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin- In preparation for 2022-2023 milestones that address additional climate allocations, it would be great to know how the jurisdictions were looking for the federal agencies to participate in those additional reductions. We need the information for the data call, set a timetable to get that information from the jurisdictions. What does the additional load mean for federal agencies and FPGs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg- Bring this to WQGIT leadership Ed Dunne and James Martin, invite them a FFWG meeting, keep visible as a priority need. Kevin- For example, we send out data calls August 1, so we would need to know by mid-June if we need to modify the data call. We need some metric to be able to forecast what we can achieve in the future. Continue this work with the FPGs and keep on list of agenda topics.
Brown and Caldwell Updates (Greg Allen)	10:30- 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to the agencies and jurisdictions who provided input and comments on the BC draft report. BC is working through a revision and a registry of comments and responses, to help guide what other discussion is needed. Greg provided a short summary and background on the BC work. Still working on agreement between agencies and jurisdictions on the FPGs. Use modeling tools to see what goals are being met, just preliminary numbers because of the limited data. EPA reserved funds to keep BC working. Write up a task order, input of workgroup on how they can be helpful to us again. Just under 50k. We'll share a draft with the workgroup as its developed. <p>Questions and Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin- Credit reports, specifically identifying why certain BMPs don't get any credit, and actions the agency or the jurisdiction can take to ensure credit. A similar analysis for the other agencies could be beneficial. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no vehicle for BC to work directly with the agencies like they have with DoD. They can help in a more thematic way across the agencies, that would be an appropriate use of the funds. Looking for ways they can help to get a complete BMP record and final FPGs.
Workplan Review and Call for Work Theme Champions (Greg Allen)	11:00-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft workplan Greg reviewed each work theme and asked for volunteers to participate if interested in a specific topic, a "champion" of the work theme that can take an active lead in completing the actions identified and report progress to the workgroup. Federal lands shapefile is due for data layer update, need to reach out to GIS team.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top level work theme, BMP inventory and load estimates. Another is Federal planning goals, BMP planning and milestones, continue CAST trainings. Reporting progress, end of two-year milestone progress, Evaluation of progress towards goals, Education and awareness theme, continuing relationship with FOD. Need to help workgroup members understand this work. <p>Questions and Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie Brownson- Last July, the workgroup decided to investigate harvested forest being credited in CAST, make it an eligible land use. There is a need to look over historical land use data. Not sure where it fits under these work themes. Volunteer as a co-champion for this effort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg- yes this is a tough issue. It could be added to the workplan under the FPGs. Since we don't track federal BMPs on agricultural land use. We still have challenges on the ag land use, and the other land use- timber harvest, we're not currently capturing. Is it worth the effort when it's such a small portion of the load? If they are there, we want them in the system. It is mentioned in the BC report, but need a focused effort. Katie- The decision point then is if it is worth the level of effort, what sort of load reductions could they get if they were tracked in CAST. Greg- We need a summary of the issue, what's the conflict here? We know what we want, and that there are limiting factors. How big of a load is missing? Then can make a recommendation from this group to the WQGIT. Katie- welcome support from ag folks. Kevin- Underscore some of the challenges associated with ag leases and contracts. It's not simple, and it's such a small amount of the load. Liz – FWS has some ag BMPs, converted lands for habitat, also voices same concern about the level of effort. Katie- Some differences in terms of the value you get from the practices, timber harvest BMPs are the only way the USFS is getting reductions. It's an issue of not getting credit for work that's being done. Greg- a paper could help us all document a decision to go after that information or not. We don't have the documented anywhere now, so it comes up on a regular basis and we don't have a response for it. Kevin- DoD's position has been consistent, thought EPA agreed that the benefit to be achieved would be so small, that the challenges to collect and

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		<p>report the data weren't worth it. Seems like we make the same comments over and over. What is EPA's consensus?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff- It was decided, since we have no data on individual farms. Need records of harvest for the past decade. By county, on average, how much is harvested. ○ Pauline- We don't track it by county, but we do have the data. This topic came up because we realized we haven't been getting credit, and it is focused on timber harvest not the ag lease lands. Agree that is too much to tackle but will support Katie getting timber harvest incorporated. ○ Jeff- Could put that land use for harvested forest in the model. ○ Greg- This is a difficult issue. Maybe not a category of work that runs completely through a quantitative system but could also report with text what work the federal agencies are doing. It's informal, but this issue keeps coming up. Still worthwhile to look at the whole issue and not just look at the timber harvest, support the information and the decisions to come to program consensus on why timber harvest is included and ag is excluded. ○ Jeff- This issue maybe already went to MB, will look for the record. ○ Kevin- Aren't all FPGs 3% of jurisdiction goals? forgetting the different subset of BMPs, if you take all the FPGs, isn't it 3% of the total load reduction? We're talking about percentages of percentages. ○ Greg- if we can't show meaningful work, our ability to lead the effort fails. Especially if we're doing work like converting ag lands to habitat. When others see feds doing it, it encourages others. It's a small portion of the load but have to show we're doing our share. ○ Kevin- Agencies are focusing their efforts on the 99.99% of the work and not looking at the remaining % is not a failing of the agency. Thought this decision was already made, the attitude as if we're cheating the system by not reporting the information, or that we're not doing our fair share. That's disingenuous, getting criticized for not doing the remaining .01% repeatedly from the jurisdictions. This is where we need EPA leadership, having thought this question already asked and addressed. ○ Greg- Jeff is looking back for documentation of the decision, Katie and others will help refresh on the issue, get our position statement together, and have something documented to resolve this issue.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sally- USFS will support Katie in focusing on the forest aspects but does not make sense to figure out ag lands, will need someone from ag. ○ Need FOD involvement and write up a position paper. Make sure to bring in some ag perspectives.
Update, Wrap-up, Next Meeting	11:30- 12:00	<p><u>Looking Ahead:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft final on BC report • Planning for joint meeting with FOD <p><u>Next Meeting:</u> March 9, 2021</p>

Attendees:

Greg Allen, EPA, Coordinator
Nora Jackson, CRC, Staffer
Jeff Sweeney, EPA
Kevin Du Bois, DoD
Jason Rinker, ACE
Jack Lady, DoD
Liz Dawson, USFWS
Ande Remington, NASA
Sarat Calamur, NASA
Pauline Adams, USFS

Katie Brownson, USFS
Rick Kumpon, USDA
Katie Chiang, USDA
Dan Collinge, USDA
Cathy Broad, USDA
Jennifer Melton, NOAA
Andy May, ACE
Mike McMahon, MDE
Ted Tesler, PA DEP