

Process for Establishing BMP Reduction Efficiencies in Phase 5.3.2

Purpose: Identify BMP reduction efficiencies for Tier 2 Nutrient Management efficiency reductions, cover crop phosphorus and sediment reductions and Continuous High Residue, Minimum Soil Disturbance nutrient efficiency reductions, respectively. Recommendations for Tier 1 Nutrient Management and cover crop nitrogen efficiency reductions for the Phase 5.3.2 Watershed Model (WSM) have already been reviewed and approved through the BMP Protocol¹ process.

Background & Rationale:

- Definitions and some reduction efficiencies have been established for Nutrient Management, Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage under the BMP protocol for WSM Phase 5.3.2 and approved by the WQGIT in October 2013.
- The Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management Expert Panels have been developing their recommendations since 2011; have published incremental recommendations in fall 2013; and have made progress toward finalizing the recommendations for these BMPs in Phase 5.3.2.
- The useful life of BMP recommendations for Phase 5.3.2 is limited to development of Phase 6.0.
- The development of Phase 6.0 recommendations needs to be addressed by these BMP panels before the October 2015 calibration date. Focusing on Phase 5.3.2 recommendations detracts from this necessary focus.
- The BMP protocol affords expert panels the latitude to utilize best professional judgment in cases of thin peer reviewed and gray literature.

Action:

Schedule meetings of the Nutrient Management, Cover Crop and Conservation Tillage expert panels to specifically answer Tier 2 Nutrient Management efficiency reductions, cover crop phosphorus and sediment reductions and Continuous High Residue, Minimum Soil Disturbance nutrient efficiency reductions, respectively.

These in-person meetings would result in one of several outcomes:

1. The expert panel can answer with unanimity or super majority vote efficiencies for these BMPs using best professional judgment based on their discussions and all information collected to date and agree to also approve the Phase 5.3.2 BMP report amendments with these efficiencies for the workgroups and WQGIT to approve before December 2014.
2. The expert panel cannot come to any consensus conclusion and decides no efficiency is possible to approve in the timeframe imposed by the WQGIT and the Agriculture Workgroup for Phase 5.3.2.
3. Alternatively, the expert panel could also decide before the in-person meeting that outcome 2 is best.

¹ http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/Nutrient-Sediment_Control_Review_Protocol_v7.14.2014.pdf