

Draft Meeting Notes

Agriculture and Watershed Technical Workgroups

Joint Meeting

November 11, 2013

Log Lodge Conference Center

Beltsville, MD

AgWG/WTWG Action Items and Decisions

DECISION: AgWG Approved the October AgWG minutes.

ACTION: AgWG will request that the Conservation Tillage Panel clarify whether Pennsylvania's 50% residue data will be counted under the new 60% high residue BMP.

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

ACTION: WTWG will discuss whether a new protocol for input data type submissions is needed.

ACTION: WTWG members will be provided with a copy of the poultry data template presented today

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

ACTION: Jim Glancey will send a PLS data request to jurisdictions on Monday.

ACTION: AgWG requests that each jurisdiction respond with their Poultry Litter data and narratives by the end of November.

ACTION: Jim Glancey will compile all PLS information in December.

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

ACTION: The Poultry Litter Subcommittee will present their draft report at the December 12th AgWG meeting.

ACTION: The poultry litter discussion will be continued at the December meeting, when the final report will be available for discussion.

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

DECISION: AgWG members decided to form a technical review panel to make a recommendation on MDA's Functional Equivalence Report to the AgWG.

DECISION: A proposed list of members, scope and timeline for the FE Technical Review Panel will be available on December 5th in preparation for the Dec. 12th meeting.

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

ACTION: The draft forestry buffer status report will be distributed for comment in the coming weeks.

ACTION: MTT will send a survey to the AgWG membership to collect additional suggestions of Manure Treatment Technologies

AgWG Notes

- Meeting convened at 9:30
- Welcome and introductions
- NGO requested the verification matrix supporting documentation be made available to the AgWG as soon as possible.
 - Coordinator: Documentation will be distributed to AgWG as soon as it is available.
- NGO: Note the challenge of reviewing extensive documents for today's agenda. Recommend that future agendas be simplified so that workgroup members are able to review all materials and participate fully.
 - NGO: Request that materials be available a week before the meeting.
 - Chair: Will strive to have all materials available. If not enough review time, any decision can be postponed to allow more time

AgWG Notes

- Meeting Notes
 - UD Motion, PA Second, all in favor of approving the October meeting summary with several abstentions.
 - **DECISION: Approve October AgWG minutes**

AgWG Notes

Meeting Management

- Frank discussed the management and purpose of the meeting, and recognize the members of the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) invited to the meeting.

AgWG Notes

Expert Review Panel Report Review Process

- Mark Dubin, Agriculture Workgroup Coordinator, provided an overview of the results of the partnership review process for the initial Phase 5.3.2 panel report recommendations for the Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management panels.
- All three reports were approved by AgWG on 10/3, by the WTWG on 10/7 and by the WQGIT on 10/15.

AgWG Notes

Expert Review Panel Report Review Process

- NGO: Will PA's 50% residue data collected be allowed for use with the new 60% High Residue requirement?
 - Coordinator: The expert panel will need to recommend an approach.

ACTION: AgWG will request the CT Panel clarify whether Pennsylvania's 50% data will be counted.

AgWG Notes

Expert Review Panel Report Review Process

- NGO: Note the discrepancy between agricultural nutrient management and urban nutrient management.
 - Coordinator: The Nutrient Management panel has not yet defined the higher level efficiencies of Nutrient Management.
- NGO: Note the importance of communicating these higher levels of nutrient management.
 - Coordinator will be giving presentations about these reports throughout the community.

AgWG Notes

Expert Review Panel Process

- NGO: Will the recently approved panel reports prevent acres from being cut off?
 - Acres which are credited with BMPs are still dependant on the amount of cropland counted in the Census of Agriculture.
- EPA: An RFP has been awarded by EPA to Virginia Tech, who will using the funds to convene and coordinate future expert panels.

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee Update

- Jim Glancey, subcommittee chair, provided an update on the development of poultry production data recommendations for future consideration by the workgroup.
 - Write-ups will be provided by each of the 5 states
 - TetraTech will be editing and formatting the report
 - The AgWG and a committee outside the watershed will be asked to review the report

ACTION: AgWG requests that each jurisdiction respond with their Poultry Litter data and narratives by the end of November. Jim Glancey will compile all this information in December.

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee Update

- NGO: Suggest that the WQGIT approve this protocol for input data submissions, particularly if it will be applicable for other proposed data sources.

ACTION: WTWG will determine whether a new protocol for input data submissions is needed.

ACTION: WTWG members will be provided with a copy of the poultry data template.

AgWG notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee

- Dana York(Verification Panel Chair): Note that the verification committee may be recommending that data inputs be validated (rather than verified).
 - EPA: Concern about whether this will delay the inclusion of data in time for the Midpoint Assessment.
 - EPA: Recommend that the workgroup come up with the protocol for validating data
- MD: Recommend that this year's progress run be completed with and without the new poultry data for informational purposes.
 - NGO: Note that an information only model run may lead to miscommunication.

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee

- MD: Motion to complete the progress run for informational purposes only using the new poultry litter data. If not possible, motion that EPA not evaluate the jurisdictions based on 2013 progress runs.
 - UD: Second.
 - Without partnership access to a final report, the partnership can not agree to using the data even for informational purposes only.
 - MD and UD withdrew their motion and second.

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee

- U.S. Poultry and Egg: Is there time for the PLS data to be included in 2013 Progress Runs?
 - Final draft PLS report needed in order to determine.
 - Chair: The discussion will be continued at the December meeting, when a final report will be available for discussion.

ACTION: The poultry litter discussion will be continued at the December meeting, when a final report will be available for discussion.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural Functional Equivalent Recommendation Report

- Dana York, representing MDA, presented a draft recommendation report to define and implement a tracking and reporting protocol for agricultural functional equivalent (FE) BMPs. The draft report represents the culmination of several years of work by Dana and other collaborators to address the original Chesapeake Bay Executive Order USDA goal for enabling the partnership to track and report non-cost shared agricultural BMPs to the Chesapeake Bay Program models for credit.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE Recommendation Report

- Some of the recommended FE BMPs will require an expert panel discussion before they can be approved.
- Why is lifespan included?
 - MD: Lifespan is expected to be verification requirement in the future. May be a future AgWG decision along with their verification recommendations.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE Recommendation Report

- How far back in time would FE practices be reported?
 - MD: Post 2006
- PA: When is MD going to start implementation?
 - MD: As soon as comfortable with the design criteria, records will begin at that point.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE Recommendation Report

- Recommend that voluntary practices meeting the partnership approved BMPs should be given equal credit. However, when voluntary practices at a lower level, will need further definition.
- EPA: Note that manure storage may be difficult to give functional equivalence, because of the high risks involved.
 - MD: Much of the design requirements for manure storage are subject to state laws. The inspectors do have the authority to inspect these type of storage systems.

AgWG Notes

LUNCH

AgWVG Notes

Agricultural FE NEIEN Appendix

- Matt Johnston, WTWG Coordinator, presented a recommendation for developing the capacity within the NEIEN Appendix for allowing jurisdictional reporting of the agricultural FE BMPs identified in the recommendation report.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE - partnership review

- Mark Dubin presented a proposal to move forward with the FE recommendation for partnership approval.
- A temporary panel could be formed with state agency and NRCS technical experts.
- Nominations for technical experts from the AgWG would be submitted to Emma by November 21st.
- Review panel would then provide recommendations to AgWG

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE - Partnership Review

- NGO: Request to include ARS and land grant extension panel members
 - Chair: Clarified that because the standards would be based on state NRCS standards, NRCS representatives should be on the panel
- ARS: Recommend setting a realistic timeline for the review panel members, along with a clear charge.
 - CBPO clarified that the review panel would recommend which BMPs get equal credit, and which would require additional information

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE - partnership review

- Chair clarified that there would be a proposed list of members, proposed scope and timeline at the Dec. 12th meeting
- VA: Request for coordination with the Technical Workgroup
- NGO: Recommend detailed charge to the panel

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE - partnership review

- After the technical review panel makes recommendations to the AgWG, will the verification panel review it?
 - AgWG will send it to the WQGIT, which can make the determination about verification needs
- EPA: Note importance of lifespan and spot checking being a part of the technical review
- NGO: Request that the information be available by Dec 5th

AgWG Notes

Agricultural FE - partnership review

DECISION: AgWG members decided to form a technical review panel to make a recommendation to the AgWG on MDA's Functional Equivalence Report

AgWG Notes

Riparian Forest Buffer Status Report

- Sally Claggett, Forestry Workgroup Coordinator, described the upcoming buffer status report paper. The recent decline of landowner enrollments in federal agricultural easement programs in the region is slowing implementation progress towards meeting the states' Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) targets.

ACTION: The draft forestry buffer status report will be distributed for comment in the coming weeks.

AgWG Notes

Modeling Subcommittee Report

- Curtis Dell, Chair of the AMS, provided a report on the activities of the AMS subcommittee, including a new tracking template of the full recommendations received from the Building a Better Bay Model workshop, and the prioritized activities of the subcommittee based on the workshop recommendations.
- The subcommittee meets in person tomorrow to begin discussing these top priorities.

AgWG Notes

Modeling Subcommittee Report

- NGO: How will these recommendations be communicated back to participants of the Building a Better Bay Model workshop?
 - Coordinator: They are publicly posted, and can be distributed to participants by email.
 - AMS will take direction from the larger group, if there are additional recommendations
 - ARS: Note that these are a work in progress

AgWG Notes

Modeling Subcommittee Report

- Sensitivity analyses are being conducted to assess how changes to inputs affect scenario builder applications.
 - Recommend that volumes be included in the sensitivity analyses

AgWG Notes

Assessment Timeline for Phase 6.0 Models

- Matt and Mark discussed the current timeline for developing the Phase 6.0 modeling tools for the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's Mid-Point Assessment, and its implications to the workgroup and subcommittee in providing new modeling input data.
- Recommend that the AMS present their ideas to the Modeling and Technical Workgroups

AgWG Notes

Agricultural Management Plans Subgroup Update

- Mark provided an update on the activity of the new subgroup in developing a verification protocol recommendation for agricultural management plans.

AgWG Notes

Manure Treatment Technology Subgroup Update

- Mark provided an update on the activity of the new subgroup in developing a plan of work for the future BMP expert panel.

ACTION: MTT will send a survey to the AgWG membership to collect additional suggestions of Manure Treatment Technologies

AgWG Notes

- AgWG adjourned at 3:00PM
- Next AgWG meeting: Thursday December 12, 9:30-3:30 at the Log Lodge

AgWG Notes

WTWG Approval of NEIEN Appendix

- Matt reviewed the current version of the NEIEN Appendix for Annual Progress reporting by the jurisdictions for workgroup approval.
- Review of the documentation is requested by Dec 1st, which is when it must be finalized

DECISION: WTWG Approved the NEIEN Appendix

AgWG Notes

WTWG Update on 2013 Progress and Timeline

- Deadline for progress submission is December 1st
- February 5th will be the final approval of Progress
- WTWG adjourned at 3:30PM