

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

March 13, 2014
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

DECISION: Workgroup approved the January 30th meeting minutes

DECISION: Workgroup nominated Kristen Saacke-Blunk and John Rhoderick as Agriculture Workgroup co-chairs. WQGIT will confirm their nomination during the April 14th conference call.

DECISION: Mark will revise the list of CEAP questions based on recommendations today and send to Lee Norfleet.

DECISION: The Agriculture Workgroup recommended that buffers on cropland less than 35 ft be reported as a land use change.

DECISION: The Agriculture Workgroup recommended that the Riparian Buffer Expert Panel Report be moved forward for WQGIT approval.

DECISION: The workgroup decided to send Virginia Tech and TetraTech the full list of Phase 5.3.2 list of BMPs, (removing multiple width grass buffers, adding manure injection and manure technologies) to represent the priorities in total (not in order). The list will be annotated with each priority's availability for Phase 5 or 6. VT and TetraTech will be asked which BMPs can be completed the most quickly vs. which will take the longest. Based on their feedback, AgWG will re-assess the priorities.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. AgWG Meeting Minutes

- Frank Coale, Agriculture Workgroup Chair, introduced the draft minutes from the January 30, 2014 workgroup meeting held at the USDA BARC Log Lodge for review and approval.
- VA motion, DMAA second, all in favor of approving January minutes

DECISION: Workgroup approved the January 30th meeting minutes

3. Interim Governance Protocols

- Frank and Mark Dubin, Agriculture Workgroup Coordinator, presented an interim workgroup governance protocol for use until the partnership approved policy is provided by the PSC and the WQGIT at a future date. Several membership requests have been received concerning the establishment of interim governance, especially in preparation for the selection of a new

workgroup Chair. The draft interim governance has been developed based on the draft WQGIT governance under partnership review.

- AgWG is a recommendation body, and will therefore participate in polls rather than votes.
- Recommend a process for member renewal to prevent the membership list from being out of date.
- AgWG members can discuss on a future agenda how to determine membership vs. interested party.
- What if members do not reach a 2/3 majority? What is the next step?
 - WQGIT elevation if AgWG is not able to reach a recommendation.

4. Agriculture Workgroup Chair Recommendation

- Mark Dubin reviewed the nominees who accepted the invitation for consideration, including background information on each applicant. Confirmation of the new chair will be made by the WQGIT during their April 14th meeting.
- Recommend that AGWG elect both a chair and a vice chair for purposes of workload and of succession.
- Through the poll, workgroup members selected Rhoderick and Kristen Saacke-Blunk as the top two candidates.
- A second poll did not lead to a 2/3 majority for either candidate.
- After a brief discussion, the workgroup decided to nominate both Kristen and John as co-chairs

DECISION: Workgroup nominated Kristen Saacke-Blunk and John Rhoderick as Agriculture Workgroup co-chairs.

5. Poultry Litter Subcommittee Recommendation Report

- Jim Glancey, Chair of the Poultry Litter Subcommittee, provided a status update on the development of an initial draft recommendation report being developed by the subcommittee.
- PLS held a face to face meeting yesterday, the group will meet face to face in a few weeks to evaluate NASS population data and to agree upon the report.
- The independent review panel would be receiving the report at the same time as the AgWG.
- Recommend a joint meeting with the Watershed Technical workgroup to speed up the review process.

6. USDA CEAP Report Update

- Dr. Curt Dell and Mark provided an update on plans to schedule a special partnership meeting with Dr. Lee Norfleet, USDA-NRCS Model Team Leader, on the latest Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) report. Dr. Dell and

Mark reviewed a draft set of preliminary questions that will be provided to Dr. Norfleet in preparation for the requested discussion.

- Recommend comparing to MD's APEX work which is calibrated to CBP model, because the CEAP models have a different calibration.
- Note the communication challenge of having differing messages from models
- Need for a method to communicate the differences.
- STAC reviewed both models explaining that the outputs should not be compared, however recommended that the inputs could be more similar.
- Rate of change of implementation is similar in both models.
- Workgroup recommended additional questions for CEAP:
 - Acres that are well managed for both tillage and nutrients, and acres that are poorly managed (and those in-between).
 - How their multiple data sources are combined for use
 - Crop acres
 - Biosolids or other nutrient applications
 - Irrigated vs. non irrigated
 - Highlight areas for greatest opportunity for improvement

DECISION: Mark will revise the list of CEAP questions based on recommendations today and send to Lee Norfleet.

Lunch

7. Ag Functional Equivalent Technical Review Update

- Bob Ensor, FE Technical Review Panel Chair, provided an update on the technical review of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's draft recommendation report to define and implement a tracking and reporting protocol for agricultural functional equivalent (FE) BMPs.
- FE Panel will meet face to face on March 21st.

8. Riparian Buffer Expert Panel Report

- Dr. Judy Okay, Forestry Workgroup representative, gave an overview of the recommendations on riparian buffer BMPs recently approved by the Forestry Workgroup.
- Recommend considering something that might be a functional equivalent (with less species required).
- Workgroup discussed crediting of buffer widths less than 35 feet. Workgroup can recommend that buffers less than 35 feet get a land use change with no upland benefit.
- VA motion to approve the Riparian Buffer Expert Panel Report, second NGO,
 - All in favor

DECISION: The Agriculture Workgroup recommends that buffers less than 35 ft be reported as a land use change.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup recommends that the Riparian Buffer Expert Panel Report be moved forward for WQGIT approval.

9. Virginia Tech Technical Assistance Priorities

- Frank provided a recap of the workgroup discussions held on January 30th regarding priorities for the new Virginia Tech project which will provide technical assistance to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, including the Agriculture Workgroup and its panels and subcommittees. The Virginia Tech assistance will supplement and enhance that already being provided by Tetra Tech to the partnership. The workgroup is asked form a recommendation based on jurisdictional Phase 2 WIP agricultural priorities.
- Recommend simply including the top 5 priorities from either list.
- Recommend considering data availability before deciding the priorities.
- Recommend sending the full list to VT to find out which can be done quickly
 - Recommend understanding which of the Phase 6.0 tasks will take longest to get started
- Recommend asking what of Phase 6.0 can be completed by October of next year.
- Some BMPs may not have enough data for an expert panel to make a recommendation.
 - Recommend keeping the full list as is for now to represent the priorities accurately.
- Recommend giving each state at least their top priority
- Multiple width grass buffers will be removed because of the Agriculture Workgroup decision earlier in this meeting (see decision item above).
- NGO move to submit to VT and Tt the total list (removing multiple width grass buffers, adding manure treatment technologies). Ask them what they can do short term and long term. VA second. Workgroup agreed.

DECISION: The workgroup decided to send Virginia Tech and TetraTech the full list of Phase 5.3.2 list of BMPs, (removing multiple width grass buffers, adding manure injection and manure technologies) to represent the priorities in total (not in order). The list will be annotated with each priority's availability for Phase 5 and 6, or only available for Phase 6.0. VT and TetraTech will be asked which BMPs can be completed the most quickly vs. which will take the longest.

10. Agricultural BMP Draft Verification Guidance

- Frank and Mark presented and reviewed the latest draft verification guidance matrix and supporting documentation based on the recommendations received from the partnership's independent BMP Verification Review Panel. The new draft verification guidance package incorporates the previous protocol elements formerly proposed by the workgroup with the panel review

modifications, and retains a to-be-determined section for addressing the management plan BMP category. The recommended guidance for this category is being developed separately by the Agricultural Management Plans Subgroup (AMPS).

- Verification review panel has recommended replacing the 80% rule with written direction. Recommended to focus on whether the BMP is present and functioning. The 80% may have been difficult to document, which is why the panel recommended against it.
- Marel and Roy have been working with Mark on this write up, focusing more on data validation that 80% of reported BMPs are present.

11. Review of AgWG Recommendations

- Emma Giese reviewed the draft notes from the meeting for comment.

Adjourned

Participants

Frank Coale, Chair	UMD
Mark Dubin, Coordinator	UMD/CBPO
Alana Hartman	WV DEP
Bill Angstadt	Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
Chris Brosch	Virginia Tech
Connie Musgrove	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)
Curtis Dell	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) USDA Agricultural Research Service
Dana York	Green Earth Connection
Emma Giese, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Fred Samadani	Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Glenn Carpenter	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Hank Zygmunt	Resource Dynamics
James Glancey	University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
Jennifer Nelson	Resource Smart LLC
John Rhoderick	MDA
Kelly Shenk	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Kim Snell-Zarcone	Conservation Pennsylvania
Lindsay Dodd	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Marel Raub	Chesapeake Bay Commission
Paul Bredwell	U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
Robert Ensor	Howard County MD
Roy Hoagland	Hope Impacts
Sarah Lane	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Steve Taglang	PA DEP

Susan Marquart	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Tim Sexton	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Tom Juengst	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Bobby Long	VA-DCR
Kristen Saacke-Blunk	Headwaters LLC
Connie Musgrove	UMCES
Mike Stanton	MDA (former)
Bob Ensor	Howard County Soil Conservation District
Olivia Devereux	Devereux Environmental Consulting
Alan Stall	NRCS
Steve Dressing	TetraTech
Robin Pellicano	MDE
Matt Johnston	UMD
James Davis-Martin	VA-DEQ

DRAFT