

# Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

## Meeting Agenda

September 11, 2014

9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21226/>

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### ACTIONS & DECISIONS

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the August 14, 2014 meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** The Manure Treatment Technologies RFP will be distributed to the full AgWG distribution list when it is available.

**ACTION:** AgWG will invite NASS representatives to discuss sampling methodology with the AMS.

**ACTION:** Emma will post the re-prioritized BMP list developed today. AgWG members will approve the final list on 9/29.

**DECISION:** AgWG adopted the TetraTech sampling approach to be included in the AgWG verification document.

**ACTION:** AgWG members will provide comments on the agricultural land uses to Chris Brosch and the AMS by 9/15. AMS will share the Phase 6.0 land uses with the AgWG on September 29<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Minutes

- The Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs introduced the draft minutes from the August 14, 2014 workgroup meeting held at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis for review and approval.
- ARS motion, MDA second to accept the 8/14 minutes.
  - There were no objections.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the August 14, 2014 meeting minutes.

#### 2. Virginia Tech Support for BMP Panels

- Jeremy Hanson, VT Panel Coordinator, discussed the cooperative agreement with Virginia Tech to support coordination of expert panels, and their next steps toward kicking off a manure treatment technologies expert panel this year.
- John asked about reviewing technologies by the end of this year.
  - Jeremy Hanson: October 2015 is the deadline for final approval for Phase 6.0.
- John noted that the workgroup will be discussing the comprehensive list of BMPs to be reviewed today.

- VA: Will new BMPs have to be reviewed by October 2015?
  - Hanson: There will still be expert panels after next October 2015; however some reviews will have to be completed before the calibration.
- Brosch: Will VT be available to provide help for any existing panels?
  - Hanson: The intention was to coordinate the VT panels; there may be opportunity for involvement in other panels.
- Hanson noted that the RFP will be coming out soon, and encouraged AgWG members to distribute the RFP to their contacts to get a broader audience.

**ACTION:** The Manure Treatment Technologies RFP will be distributed to the full AgWG distribution list when it is available.

### 3. USDA-NASS Annual Survey

- Dale Hawks, Maryland State Statistician, and Amanda Dawson, Census Administrator, both with USDA-NASS, presented an overview of the agency's Agricultural Census and annual agricultural data products, methods of data collection, data reliability, and publication timing differences between the two.
- DE: Is the annual broiler number based on chick placement?
  - NASS: Yes.
- DE: What is the status of collecting broiler population data from the integrators?
  - Mark Dubin: We are working with NASS on a special survey. Expecting to launch the pilot survey project this fall. NASS will collect and compile the information from the integrators and the data will then be published by Penn State. The published data would be available to the Bay Program Partnership and the public. Expected to be available for use in the Phase 6.0 model development.
- NGO: Which NASS acreage is used in the bay model?
  - Acres harvested.
- NGO: Recommend the use of annual statistics in the future in the Bay Model to better capture weather changes and nutrient applications.
- DMAA: Does NASS have standards for statistical sampling methods?
  - NASS: Statistical methods vary by survey. NASS does have standard methods on sampling, and could have someone speak on sampling to this group in the future.
- Keeling: Is the census required by law for all farmers? What kind of follow up is done?
  - NASS: Filling out the census is mandatory. We follow up with personal interviews.
  - Mark Dubin recommended that VA flag the county in question with the regional NASS office to check on in the future.
- AgWG chair: What is the deadline for the input on the census?
  - NASS: The internet form will be live until end of this month; however email NASS at any time with recommendations.
  - Dubin: The ag secretaries could submit the recommendations to NASS.
- AgWG will invite representatives from NASS to the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee to discuss sampling methodology.

**ACTION:** AgWG will invite NASS representatives to discuss sampling methodology with the AMS.

#### **4. BMP Development Priorities for Phase 6.0**

- John and Kristen lead a workgroup discussion on updating the priority list for the evaluation of existing and new agricultural BMPs. The WQGIT has requested a prioritized list of BMP evaluations from each workgroup in preparation for their meeting on October 7-8, 2014. The Agriculture Workgroup discussed an initial list and approach during the August 14th meeting.
- DE, VA, NY and MD have confirmed that their priorities are up to date.
- Workgroup members discussed manure injection/incorporation and cropland irrigation management to be addressed as BMPs.
- Tim Sexton noted that animal waste storage facility efficiency would be difficult to define.
  - NY: This is a top priority for NY.
  - Animal waste storage facilities could be discussed along with the overall nutrient losses with the AMS.
- UMD suggested prioritizing based on BMP status, e.g. interim and new BMPs.
  - Dubin: Also note that the existing BMPs have an impact on model calibration.
- VA recommended Ag stormwater structures not be limited to only AFO areas.
  - Workgroup agreed and the change was made.
- Legacy sediment issue is important to PA.
  - May be able to calculate non urban stream restoration rather than addressing this as a BMP.

#### **Lunch**

- Chair: Is there any new data available for poultry heavy use area concrete pads?
  - VA: There may be some literature in other regions (Auburn, Arkansas).
- What data is available for Nursery and Greenhouse runoff capture and reuse?
  - U Georgia, Clemson and Florida have researched collecting water from greenhouses with about a 20% nutrient reduction.
  - There could be two categories to represent both ground and container nurseries.
- Is data available for vegetative environmental buffers?
  - There is some data.
- Karst sinkhole grass buffers.
- Chair: Are karst sinkhole grass buffers a standalone BMP or are they the same as a grass buffer or constructed wetland in a hydrologically active area? Does the practice have relevance in other sectors?
  - Is this a sub category of the existing grass buffer BMP?
    - WV agreed that the karst could be captured under existing grass buffers.
  - VA: Karst buffers to be used as stream exclusion?
    - This would require further discussion.
  - Grass buffers may be incorporated into the existing grass buffer BMP.

- NGO: Tax ditch restoration BMPs involve re-grading and planting wetlands.
  - It may be possible to do a calculation through the non-urban stream restoration BMP, rather than completing an additional review.
- Shoreline erosion control is already an approved BMP, so it can be removed from the priority list.
- MD recommended taking P sorbing materials in ag ditches and non poultry mortality composters off the list for now.
- Biofilters reference the poultry house biofilters
  - Materials are land applied in the same area.
  - Taken off the list for now.

**ACTION:** Emma will post the re-prioritized BMP list developed today. AgWG members will approve the final list on 9/29.

### **5. TetraTech Verification Sampling Approach**

- Agriculture Workgroup members discussed the supplemental verification document for a statistically-based approach to estimating appropriate sample sizes for BMP verification. This approach was developed by TetraTech and introduced during the August 14th meeting for receiving workgroup review comments.
- Cost effectiveness issues were raised.
  - TetraTech: The documentation addresses prioritizing the high risk BMPs.
- Chair asked if there were any objections to including the TetraTech sampling approach as an appendix.
  - There were no objections.

**DECISION:** AgWG adopted the TetraTech sampling approach to be included in the AgWG verification document.

### **6. Poultry Litter Subcommittee Update**

- John updated Agriculture Workgroup members on the continuing work of the Subcommittee, which has held two conference calls in the past month. John discussed the progress to date, and intended schedule and next steps for completing Phase 6.0 recommendations.
- The Ag Modeling Subcommittee will be working jointly with the PLS to finish the report and modeling recommendations collaboratively.
- John Rhoderick will be taking over interim leadership of the PLS due to Jim Glancey's increased workload. Jim will continue to be involved with the DE data and the work with the AMS.

### **7. Agriculture Workgroup Updates**

- Representatives from the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee discussed the next steps needed to finalize the Phase 6.0 agricultural land uses. The AgWG will be asked to make a final recommendation during the August 29th conference call.
  - AMS will share the Phase 6.0 land uses with the AgWG on August 29<sup>th</sup> for approval.

- Members can provide comments on the agricultural land uses to Chris Brosch/Curt Dell by 9/15.
- Chris Brosch discussed a path forward to finalize the Phase 5.3.2 recommendations. This approach was presented to the WQGIT and received general support.
  - The panel chairs support taking the information collected to date and developing a best professional judgment answer from each of the expert panels.

**ACTION:** AgWG members will provide comments on the agricultural land uses to Chris Brosch and the AMS by 9/15. AMS will share the Phase 6.0 land uses with the AgWG on September 29<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

## Adjourned

### Participants

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)	Headwaters LLC
John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mark Dubin (Coordinator)	UMD
Ed Kee	Delaware Department of Agriculture
Rachel Melvin	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Jason Keppler	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Alisha Mulkey	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Greg Albrecht	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Steve Taglang	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Ted Tesler	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Tim Sexton	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bill Keeling	Virginia DEQ
Chris Brosch	VT/VADCR
Andy Yost	West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Marel Raub	Chesapeake Bay Commission
Curtis Dell	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Susan Marquart	Pennsylvania NRCS
Emma Giese, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Fred Samadani	Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Lindsay Dodd	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Jim Cropper	Northeast Pasture Consortium
Jennifer Nelson	Resource Smart LLC
Frank Coale	UMD
Dale Hawks	USDA-NASS
Jeremy Hanson	Virginia Tech
Steve Dressing	TetraTech
Robin Pellicano	MDE
Sarah Diebel	DDOE
Peter Thomas	
Laura Mensch	DDA
Amanda Dawson	USDA-NASS