

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2014

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22023/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

DECISION: Workgroup members approved the October 9, 2014 minutes.

ACTION: Send comments on the Wetlands panel scope of work and panel membership to nlaw@chesapeakebay.net by COB Friday (10/24).

ACTION: AgWG members to provide additional literature sources to develop land use loading targets to steven.dressing@tetrattech.com by October 31st.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions/ Meeting Minutes

- The Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs introduced the draft minutes from the October 9, 2014 workgroup meeting held at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis for review and approval.
- Motion to approve the October 9, 2014 minutes.
 - There were no objections.

DECISION: Workgroup members approved the October 9, 2014 minutes.

2. Poultry Litter Subcommittee Update

- John Rhoderick provided an update on the status of the Poultry Litter Subcommittee in completing their draft final report in preparation for collaborating with the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee to develop the Phase 6.0 recommendations.
- The draft final report has now been completed by the PLS. The subcommittee plans to begin talking the the Ag Modeling Subcommittee to determine how to incorporate the recommendations in to the Phase 6.0 model. There will be a joint meeting between the two subcommittees to discuss the next steps.

3. Wetland Restoration Expert Panel

- Kristen Saacke Blunk reviewed the scope of work for a new expert panel being formed for wetland restoration BMPs by the Wetland Workgroup and Habitat Goal Implementation Team for cross-sector comments from the Agriculture Workgroup. Comments are due to the panel coordinator by Friday, October 24th.
- Mark Dubin noted that this panel will be reviewing wetland restoration, and not constructed wetlands.
- Chair recommended the panel be renamed so that there is no confusion about their scope of work.

- Johnston: Recommend listing the NRCS codes for what is included in this panel's scope of work for clarification.
- MDA: Recommend that the wetland panel include review of non cost-shared wetland restoration in their scope of work.
- MDE: Is there a distinction between tidal and non-tidal restoration?
 - Law: The expert panel is looking at both tidal and non-tidal wetlands. It is within the panel's scope to review both.
 - PADEP: Recommend the panel review tidal and non-tidal separately.
- MDA: Recommend that an AgWG representative be a panel member to represent the practical implementation side of the practice.
 - Law: The AgWG can recommend additional panel members.

ACTION: Send comments on the Wetlands panel scope of work and panel membership to nlaw@chesapeakebay.net by COB Friday (10/24).

4. BMP Panel Reports

- The Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage, and Nutrient Management Panels met face-to-face on October 15th and 16th in Frederick, Maryland, and developed preliminary recommendations for the Phase 5.3.2 models. The three expert panels are planning to finalize their Phase 5.3.2 recommendations by the end of October in preparation for review by the Agriculture and Watershed Technical Workgroups. A special joint session is scheduled between the two workgroups for November 6th to potentially recommend the panel recommendations for consideration during the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team on meeting on November 10th. If approved by the partnership, the panel recommendations could go into effect in the modeling tools for the 2014 progress reports.
- The Nutrient Management panel came to consensus on a Tier 2 efficiency for all land uses that had an efficiency approved for Tier 1. The efficiency will be added on top of the Tier 1 efficiency. Efficiencies were chosen by best professional judgment based on literature. The report accepted last year will be updated to include the new references and recommendations and will be finalized early next week. Tier 2 will replace the enhanced nutrient management and decision agriculture BMPs.
 - UMD: Are all components of Tier 2 required for Tier 2 credit?
 - Brosch: Yes.
 - Rhoderick: What is the panel recommending for Tier 3?
 - Brosch: Tier 3 will be assigned an efficiency in Phase 6.0.
 - Co-Chair: What additional support is needed to finalize these recommendations?
 - Brosch: Comfortable completing the report
 - UMD: Note that the WTWG has asked to see all reports 10 days in advance of being asked to approve them. Have asked the panels to submit by 10/28 so that the technical appendices can be written for the WTWG to approve.
 - Co-Chair: Is the panel prepared to make Phase 6.0 recommendations?
 - Yes.

- Cover Crops panel is in the process of finalizing phosphorus and sediment efficiencies for the new cover crop species approved last year. All numbers will be related back to the rye standard. Panel will be meeting early next week to finalize recommendations.
- Conservation Tillage panel has recommended eliminating CNT as a BMP moving forward. This is because most jurisdictions have reported under the HRMSD BMP instead. Panel has developed recommendations for nitrogen and phosphorus for the HR BMP.
 - UMD: Will the AgWG be asked to approve the removal of CNT with the rest of the HR report on 11/6?
 - Dubin: Yes.
- Dubin: The AgWG's regularly scheduled meeting will be on 11/13. The WTWG has invited AgWG members to their 11/6 conference call. That gives the AgWG the opportunity to approve the reports prior to the WQGIT meeting on 11/10.

5. Land Use Loading Rate Literature Review

- TetraTech reviewed agricultural land use loading rate literature sources collected to date. A summary of the literature has been provided with the meeting attachments.
- Additional needs include CBW specific literature from sources other than journals and journals not included in the TetraTech review.
- Workgroup members discussed additional data sources to be included in the review.
 - Saacke Blunk will provide any applicable gray literature from the innovative nutrient sediment grants from NFWF.
 - Saacke Blunk: Is anyone able to follow up on current CIG grants? They are likely in reports at NRCS currently.
 - Dubin: Recommend that EPA make a request to NRCS for these reports.
 - Rhoderick: This is the information that is going to set the targets in the next model. Recommend that jurisdictions go to their land grant university and research contacts for this information.
 - Rhoderick: Recommend soliciting the full list of panelists to review the list and provide comments.
 - TetraTech is pulling literature from the expert panels when applicable.
 - Devereux: The literature review is one component of what is being used to establish the targets, also using SPARROW, APEX, APLE.
- Tesler: Is the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee involved?
 - Devereux: We presented to AMS earlier this fall, and they also have been asked to provide information.

ACTION: AgWG members to provide additional literature sources to develop land use loading targets to steven.dressing@tetrattech.com by October 31st.

6. Review of Manure Tech Proposal

- Jeremy Hanson provided an overview of the proposal for the Manure Treatment Technologies Expert Panel, which has been accepted by the CBW-ROC steering committee. Per the BMP protocol, feedback and approval on the proposed panel membership and scope of work will be solicited from the workgroup members in November.
- Once the scope of work has been revised by the panel chair, it will be shared with workgroup members and the Partnership along with panel member CVs.
- Rhoderick: Where do you expect the panel to meet, given they are out of state?
 - Hanson: There will be a kickoff face to face stakeholder and meeting in Maryland.
 - Dubin: The panel will meet over conference call as needed.
- Saacke Blunk: Have you checked the panel member expertise against what was recommended by the Manure Tech subgroup?
 - Hanson: Yes.
- MDA: Will there be a request for an AgWG member to join the panel?
 - Mark Dubin will be a resource for the expert panel, and a liason to the workgroup.

Adjourned

Participants

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)	Headwaters LLC
John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mark Dubin (Coordinator)	UMD
Larry Towle	Delaware Department of Agriculture
Rachel Rhodes	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Jason Keppler	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Steve Taglang	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Ted Tesler	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Tim Sexton	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Chris Brosch	Virginia Tech/VADCR
Andy Yost	West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Marel King	Chesapeake Bay Commission
Emma Giese, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Fred Samadani	Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Connie Musgrove	UMCES
Sally Szydlowski	Water Stewardship
Olivia Devereux	DEC
Steve Dressing	TetraTech
Robin Pellicano	MDE
Sarah Diebel	DDOE
Matt Johnston	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	VT
Gary Flory	VADEQ
Neely Law	CWP
Bill O'Donell	NRCS
Jeff Sweeney	EPA

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