Forecasting Agriculture's Future in a Water Quality World

What?

Develop the CBP Partnership capacity to generate 10-year, and 20-year forecasts of agricultural land and production based upon historical trend data, analysis of driving forces (markets, technologies, policies) , and stakeholder' practical insights regarding future trends.

Why?

- Equity across sectors:
- Examine potential Ag "problems showing up in current scenarios
- Opportunity to increase/benefit from Ag Industry collaboration

How? Proposed Work Plan

1. Convene crop and livestock industry reps, agencies and farm economists in an "AG Futures Group"

2. Collect input from structured interviews and roundtable discussions to:

3. Downscale USDA regional agricultural projections.

Workshops to develop alternative future scenarios of factors affecting production and loads

Potential Scenarios

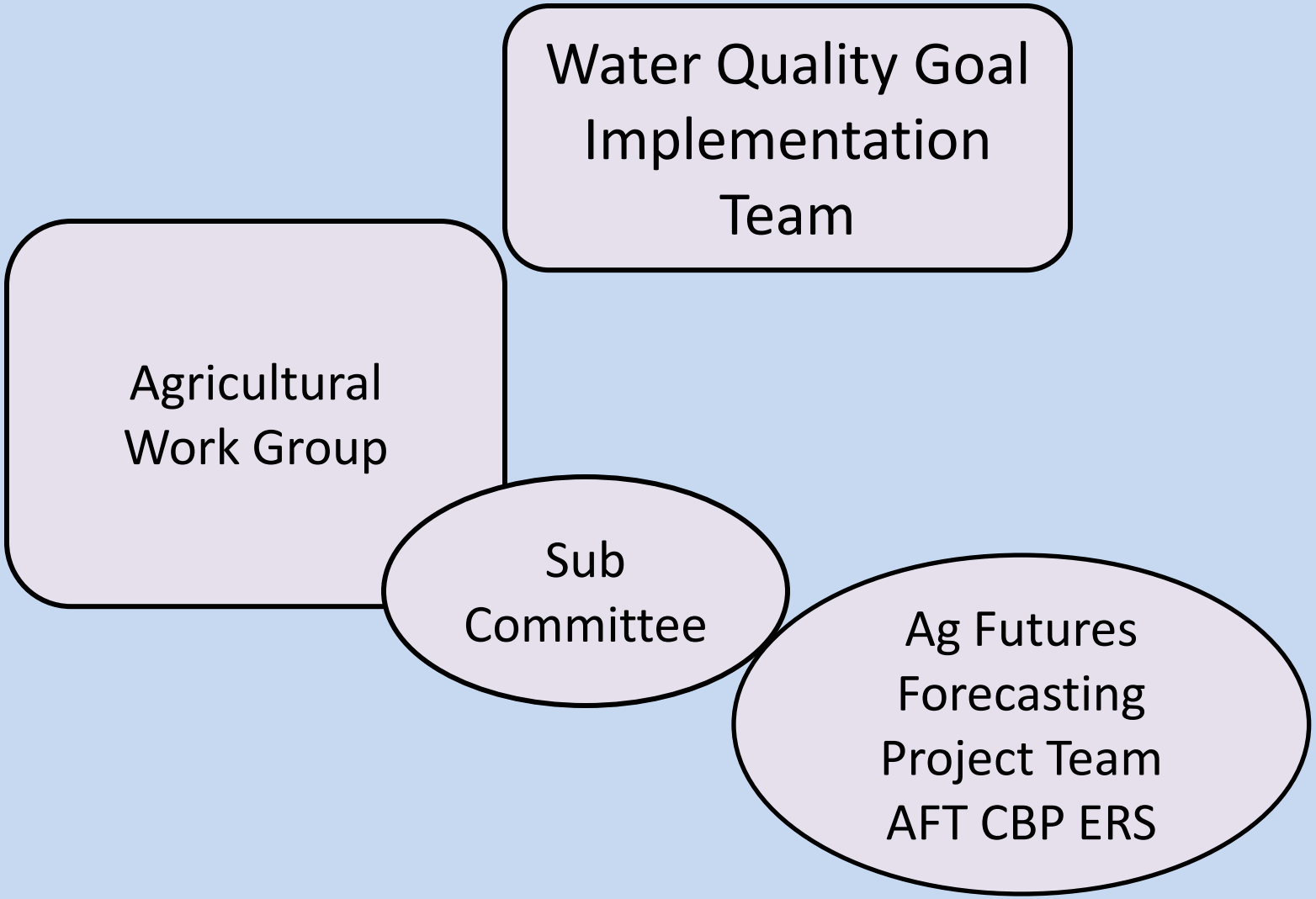
1. Business As Usual: historic trends + WIP implementation
2. Policy Implementation – urban growth, nutrient management etc. → sector loads and spatial distribution.
3. Market Forces –demand for commodities and services w/ changes genetics, nutrition, and new technologies.
4. Ag Sustainability – protect soils, growth mgmt., reforest, broad adoption of new BMPs, manage nutrient imports and exports in the face of climate change.

Work Plan Cont'd

With CBPP Modelers, evaluate alternative future scenarios estimate nutrient and sediment loads and regional offset capacity.

Watershed Stakeholder review of scenarios and impacts

Compile input and write final report with finalized scenario version.


Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
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