

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Conference Call Summary

May 21, 2015

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22595/>

ACTIONS & DECISIONS

ACTION: RSVP to egiese@chesapeakebay.net if you would like lunch on 6/17 during the quarterly meeting.

ACTION: Nomination period for the cropland irrigation and nursery/ag stormwater panels has closed. There are still key roles to fill on each panel, please provide additional nominees to egiese@chesapeakebay.net by COB 6/5/15.

ACTION: Any additional references for the loading targets steering committee to consider should be sent to egiese@chesapeakebay.net and mdubin@chesapeakebay.net as soon as possible.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved language to accompany the credit duration spreadsheet describing how credit durations relate to BMP verification.

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions, Review Meeting Minutes

Kristen Saacke Blunk and John Rhoderick, Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs, introduced the draft minutes from the April 16th Meeting.

- Workgroup members approved the April 16th meeting minutes.

Announcements

- A Nutrient Management webinar briefing on Phase 5 Panel Report content tentatively scheduled for May 28th, to provide an advance look at the report. [Post meeting note: webinar was postponed, see 5/22 email from Emma for details] There will be another webinar following the comment period to brief on comments and panel responses.
- The Management Board is likely to modify the Chesapeake Bay Program governance in favor of a full-consensus approach to decision making. They are expected to provide guidance on defining GIT and workgroup membership. These discussions are expected to take place at the 5/28 meeting.
- The AgWG June 17th-18th quarterly meeting will be held in Petersburg, VA. Remember to reserve hotel rooms, and [RSVP to VSU](#) for small farm field day on June 16th. RSVP to egiese@chesapeakebay.net by 6/10 if you would like lunch on June 17th.
- The Phase 6.0 Nutrient Management, Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage, and Manure Injection/Incorporation panel charges and membership are out for Partnership comment by COB 5/26. Open stakeholder meetings to be scheduled over the summer. Emma will be emailing everyone with dates/locations once those have been determined.

- The UMD position posting has closed, Mark will provide more updates as they move through the hiring process.
- Nomination period for the cropland irrigation and nursery panels has closed. There are still key roles to fill on each panel, please provide additional nominees to egiese@chesapeakebay.net by COB 6/5/15.

ACTION: Nomination period for the cropland irrigation and nursery/ag stormwater panels has closed. There are still key roles to fill on each panel, please provide additional nominees to egiese@chesapeakebay.net by COB 6/5/15.

Land Use Loading Targets Project

Mark discussed next steps for refining the agricultural land use loading targets, as well as the timing and scope of work for this project.

- DMAA recommended the steering committee consider some global meta-analysis data from Duke University that could be used in estimating loading rates.
 - Any additional references for the loading targets steering committee to consider should be sent to egiese@chesapeakebay.net and mdubin@chesapeakebay.net as soon as possible.

ACTION: Any additional references for the loading targets steering committee to consider should be sent to egiese@chesapeakebay.net and mdubin@chesapeakebay.net as soon as possible.

Virginia Tech Panel Updates

Jeremy Hanson, VT, reviewed updates from the Manure Treatment Technologies Expert Panel and the RFP for the Animal Waste Management Systems – Poultry Pads Expert Panel.

- The Manure Treatment Technologies panel is still sorting through literature and data. The panel has a busy month coming up in June, as they are beginning to construct portions of the reports. Thank you to the states who helped share monitoring information. Panel is still on track to complete their recommendations.
- The deadline for proposals for the Animal Waste Management Systems & Poultry Pads panel is tomorrow. Have done a lot of outreach to encourage applications, however applications typically come in on the day of the deadline.
- Virginia Tech will be taking over coordination of Wetlands Expert Panel.

AMS updates

Curt Dell, AMS chair, shared updates from recent Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee discussions.

- AMS members are working on a method for estimating loads from Animal Feeding Operations and Farmsteads. Currently exploring use of reported livestock/poultry numbers to estimate loading rates, and land area per animal unit to estimate sediment loading rates. AMS is reviewing estimates of land area per animal unit, and will be making revisions to the actual numbers, but the first step is to define the process.

- While AMS members are refining the actual numbers, Scenario Builder team is building the software. Full documentation of Scenario Builder will be shared with the Agriculture Workgroup later this summer for full review.
- AMS has recommended that the “Trampled Riparian” Phase 5 land use not be included in Phase 6. The AgWG will see a more detailed presentation on this at the June meeting.

WQGIT BMP Protocol Revisions

- Lucinda Power provided a brief update on the Water Quality GIT’s revisions to the BMP Protocol and next steps.
- Many of the comments received during the comment period related to requiring expanded language on conflicts of interest, grandfathering of existing panels.
- Lucinda will be sending out a revised version in early June for fatal flaw review, and the WQGIT is expected to approve changes at their July 14th conference call.

Nutrient Management Phase 5 update

- Chris Brosch (panel chair): The Nutrient Management Phase 5 panel has a meeting at 1PM today to identify tiers and components that have efficiencies. Expecting to define a crediting methodology following today’s call.

Airshed Model

Mark Dubin: There have been concerns regarding how ammonia emissions are represented, which affects ammonia reduction BMPs. Following discussion with the Modeling Workgroup regarding changes to the Phase 6 airshed model, have recommended establishing a science panel with agricultural experts to review ammonia emission representation.

- DMAA: Suggest an NRCS member on the panel
 - Dubin: The review panel membership has not been set, please send any recommendations for members.
- What was the specific concern with the airshed model representation?
 - Dubin: Concern was in not representing the low altitude deposition.

Credit Duration

Based on feedback received during the April Workgroup meeting, Matt Johnston and Mark Dubin shared draft language to describe the link between credit duration and verification.

- MDA motion, NGO second to accept the language.
- There were no objections.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved language to accompany the credit duration spreadsheet describing how credit durations relate to BMP verification.

Adjourned

Next Meeting: June 17-18 face-to-face meeting at Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

Participants

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)	Headwaters LLC
John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mark Dubin (Coordinator)	UMD
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
Gary Flory	Virginia DEQ
Chris Brosch	Virginia Tech/VADCR
Susan Marquart	Pennsylvania NRCS
Curtis Dell	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Jack Meisinger	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Emma Giese, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Jeff Sweeney	U.S. EPA
Matt Johnston	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	Virginia Tech
Bill Angstadt	Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
Fred Samadani	Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Lindsay Dodd	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Jim Cropper	Northeast Pasture Consortium
Tom Simpson	Water Stewardship
Steve Dressing	TetraTech
Gene Yagow	Virginia Tech
Jack Frye	Chesapeake Bay Commission
Sjoerd Duiker	Penn State
Bob Palmer	DE
Robin Pellicano	MDE