

Draft Meeting Notes

Agriculture Workgroup Meeting
October 3, 2013

University of Maryland 4-H Center
College Park, MD

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

DECISION: AgWG Approved the September AgWG minutes.

DECISION: AgWG approved the Nutrient Management Expert Panel Report.

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

DECISION: AgWG approved the Cover Crop Expert Panel Report.

DECISION: AgWG Approved the Conservation Tillage Expert Panel Report.

AgWG Notes

- Meeting convened at 9:30
- Welcome and introductions
- Meeting Notes
 - NGO Motion, PA Second, all in favor of approving the September meeting summary.
 - **DECISION: Approve September AgWG minutes**

AgWG Notes

Meeting Management

- Frank discussed the management and purpose of the meeting, and recognize the members of the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) and representatives of other WQGIT workgroups invited to the meeting.

AgWG Notes

Expert Review Panel Report Review Process

- Mark Dubin, Agriculture Workgroup Coordinator, provided an overview of the partnership review process for the initial Phase 5.3.2 panel report recommendations. Each panel has identified areas of future work that they will be addressing in their upcoming Phase 6.0 recommendations. Therefore the recommendations presented for approval today are intended to be interim.
 - Each of the three panels has voted these reports as final
 - Some minor edits/formatting are needed. TetraTech will be unavailable for the duration of the govt. shutdown.
 - They will present to the Watershed Technical workgroup on October 7th and the Water Quality GIT on October 15th.

AgWG Notes

Nutrient Management Panel

- Chris Brosch, Nutrient Management Panel Chair, presented the panel approved report.
 - Panel decided that expired plans could not be verified and should not be credited.
 - MDA motion, DE second to approve the nutrient management panel report
 - PA: Comment on the difficulty of approving the report on such a short timeline. Given the work put in by this panel, support their recommendation.
 - NY: Note that this type of change might affect progress runs for this year.
 - VA: There will also be a new land use change approach. May be difficult to isolate the cause of these changes.
 - NY: Request to the partnership to conduct individual model runs to isolate the effect of each of the changes.
 - 9 in favor
 - None opposed
 - 6 abstentions

DECISION: AgWG approved the nutrient management expert panel report.

AgWG Notes

Nutrient Management Panel

- What will be the next priority for NM panel?
 - Chris: Will be based on recommendations from the watershed technical workgroup

AgWG Notes

Cover Crop Panel

- Jack Meisinger, Cover Crop Panel Chair, presented an overview of the panel approved report.
 - Based on last week's recommendation, the panel decided to add a late summer planting date category in the Phase 6.0 recommendation.
 - Recommendation to add a value for phosphorus.
 - Coordinator clarified that “interim” refers to the reports being applicable to 2013 progress, and that the final report will involve recommendations for P and sediment in addition to nitrogen.

AgWG Notes

Cover Crop Panel

- The panel had no data to prove that brassicas perform better with aerial seeding than currently recommended, and voted to keep it the same at least until more data is available.
- To handle the question of mixtures, without over complicating reporting, the panel created an average value for grass for the mixtures.
- Recommendation to take a weighted average of the grasses rather than a standard average.
 - Need data to establish the weighted average.
 - Jurisdictions could submit voluntary acres, which would provide some data for the proportion of grasses in the mixtures.
 - Coordinator: Add a comment line in the reporting, for any states who are able to report specific grasses in grass mixture cover crop acres.

AgWG Notes

Cover Crop Panel

- PA: What are the next steps for the panel?
 - Meisinger: Addressing phosphorus and sediment, with additional literature and additional modeling support.
 - VA: Another report is about 6 months out from being published.
 - VA motion to approve the cover crop panel report as is, MD second.
 - 10 in favor
 - None opposed
 - 5 abstain

DECISION: AgWG approved the cover crop expert panel report.

AgWG Notes

Conservation Tillage Panel

- Tim Sexton, Conservation Tillage Panel Member and Acting Chair, presented the panel approved report.
 - States will have to choose whether to report CNT or HR
 - MD: Does CNT still have a nitrogen and phosphorus reduction?
 - Yes.
 - MD: How to track this?
 - Sexton: The cost share can require 60% cover.
 - CBPO: Note that all acres are still to be reported under conservation tillage, then HR.

AgWG Notes

Conservation Tillage Panel

- PA: How was the crediting determined?
 - Sexton: The two small watershed studies were averaged, and the small plot studies were averaged. The RUSLE run was used to check the literature. All three values were very close to the final value of 64%.
- PA: Did the panel consider breaking their recommendations apart physiographically?
 - The panel discussed this option, ultimately did not have enough data to make a solid recommendation for multiple regions.
- Is there a yearly minimum?
 - Sexton: The practice is reported annually, regardless of which year the practice it is in.

AgWG Notes

Conservation Tillage Panel

- NY: Will there be an option of cumulative credit?
 - Sexton: Reported as what is on the ground in the given year.
- Sexton: The panel will be addressing N and P reductions in their next set of recommendations.
 - Meisinger: APEX modeling will be used to estimate nutrients.
- PA motion to approve the conservation tillage panel report, MD: Second.
 - 9 in favor
 - None opposed
 - 6 abstentions

DECISION: AgWG Approved the Conservation Tillage Expert Panel Report.

AgWG Notes

LUNCH

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee

- Mark Dubin, PLS Coordinator, provided a brief update on the development of poultry production data recommendations for consideration by the workgroup in late October.
 - The group met recently and is intending to provide their recommendations to the AgWG in October.
 - The data submitted will include litter volume and nutrient concentrations for broilers in several states
 - The report will also include an alternate method for calculating population on an annual basis.

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee

- Recommend that the panel begin validating the methodology concurrently with panel writing their report.
- What is the deadline for this report?
 - WQGIT will need to approve it during their Nov 12th call.

AgWG Notes

- Adjourned at 3:30PM
- Next meeting: Thursday October 24, 9:30-3:30 at the Log Lodge

AgWG Notes

Participants

Steve Taglang, PA DEP

Ted Tesler, PA

Marel Raub, CBC

Beth Horsey, MDA

John Rhoderick, MDA

Mark Dubin, UMD

Frank Coale, UMD

Matt Johnston, UMD

Emma Giese, CRC

Jim Baird, AFT

Chris Brosch, VT-VADEQ

Jen Nelson

Lindsay Dodd, SCD

Les Vough, UMD

Allison Fairbrother, Public Trust Project

AgWG Notes

Greg Albrecht, NY

Aaron Ristow, Upper Susquehanna Coaliting

Kim Snell Zarcone, Conservation PA

Robert Baldwin, DE

Jenn Volk, UD

Mark Davis, DE

Connie Musgrove, UMCES

Dana York, Green Earth Connection

Robin Pellicano, MDE

Fred Samadani

Bobby Long, VA-DCR

Marcia Fox, DNREC

James Davis-Martin VA-DCR

Alana Hartman, WV

Sally Szydlowski, Water Stewardship