

## BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team

### Conference Call Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

#### **Summary of Actions & Decisions:**

- **ACTION:** Please reach out to Vanessa Van Note and Elliott Kellner to inform them when your jurisdiction would like to present on their BMP Verification program(s).
- **ACTION:** Please fill out the availability poll by COB Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to schedule the monthly recurring BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call.
- **DECISION:** The BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team approved the proposed method for reevaluating credit durations.
- **DECISION:** The list of priority BMPs has been approved by the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team.
- **ACTION:** Vanessa Van Note will send out the updated presentations to the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team.

#### **Welcome, Attendance, and Announcements:**

- **Announcement:** Jurisdictions are requested to report out during upcoming meetings about their current BMP Verification programs in a similar format to Maryland's BMP Verification program given by Jason Keppler.
  - **ACTION:** Please reach out to Vanessa Van Note and Elliott Kellner to inform them when your jurisdiction would like to present on their BMP Verification program(s).
- **Announcement:** Vanessa Van Note provided an update on the backout and cutoff stating that there may be a paper that shows the approximate amount of time that it takes from when a tree is planted to show up on imagery which would help clarify backout for the tree-planting BMP.
- **Announcement:** Sally Claggett provided an update on the Forestry Workgroup Reevaluation of Credit Durations
- **Announcement:** Vanessa Van Note provided an update on Non-Urban Stream Restoration
- **Announcement:** Whitney Ashead's, WQGIT Staffer for the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team, last day is today. Vanessa Van Note will be taking on additional coordinating tasks, please reach out to her in the interim with any questions ([vannote.vanessa@epa.gov](mailto:vannote.vanessa@epa.gov))
- **Next Meeting:** To Be Determined, Whitney will be sending out an availability poll following this meeting.
  - **ACTION:** Please fill out the availability poll by COB Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to schedule the monthly recurring BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team Conference Call.

#### **Aerial Imagery & Verification Presentation, Peter Claggett (USGS)**

- **Summary:** Peter Claggett provided a presentation on verifying BMPs with high-resolution land use data. The presentation included tracking impervious surface removal, the methods and data

for verifying riparian forest buffers, and the preliminary results. Peter Claggett also provided insight on the issues with monitoring buffers using high-resolution land cover data.

- **Questions/Discussion:**

- **KC Filippino (chat):** I don't think ICD and ICR have been reported widely as a BMP, here is the updated memo that CSN put together on those practices:  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/40324/draft\\_impervious\\_cover\\_bmp\\_cl\\_eanup\\_memo\\_9.15.20.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40324/draft_impervious_cover_bmp_cl_eanup_memo_9.15.20.pdf)
- **Cassandra Davis (chat):** Impervious surface reduction is a BMP that has had acres backed-out.

#### The Credit Duration Approach Method, *Elliott Kellner (WVU) and Vanessa Van Note (EPA)*

- **Summary:** Vanessa Van Note led a discussion on the proposed method for reevaluating credit durations. Vanessa also provided clarification on her request to jurisdictions including supporting information such as desired numerical value for a practice's credit duration, studies that support the extension of a practices' credit duration, published updated NRCS practice lifespan values, etc. Each meeting will have a theme with a practice to focus on and the information provided by the jurisdiction will be presented during the meeting. The goal is for all information will be collected that is needed for the group to develop a recommendation. Vanessa provided an proposed outline for recommendations including writing formal documentation, presenting it to relevant workgroups, a review period, and consensus based approval from the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team. Vanessa also presented on the top priority BMPs including animal waste management systems, barnyard runoff control, grass buffers, narrow grass buffers, exclusion fencing with grass buffers, exclusion fencing with grass buffers and narrow grass buffers. Vanessa Van Note also proposed a schedule for reevaluating the credit durations.
- **Questions/Discussion:**
  - **Gary Felton:** I do not see a way for this recommendation to go back to the AgWG, 10 days does not do it.
  - **Vanessa Van Note:** The cycle presented is just within the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team, this cycle does not touch on the workgroups and the chain of approval process would be done prior to this. If you require more days, that is great to know and if you feel like the AgWG would need more time. As the AgWG representative you would say you object when we get to a consensus-based process to ensure there is time to review and comment on it.
  - **Norm Goulet:** Can we change the comment period of 10 days to when their workgroup has their next meeting and have at least ten days.
  - **Pat Gleason:** I support that.
  - **James Martin:** I want to be clear that we are not having an entire meeting to each practice but just that everyone will know which date each practice would be talked about?
  - **Vanessa Van Note:** Yes, in a moment we will talk about schedule and we can talk about multiple BMPs each month.
  - **Lisa Beatty:** Can you get these distributed one-week before the meeting at least?

- **Gary Felton:** Can we just say we want it in advance?
- **Vanessa Van Note:** This is a reason I want to talk schedule so we can ensure that there is information beforehand. When it comes to decision making I will ensure that everyone has the information needed. For discussion meetings, I will do my best to get presentations out. I acknowledge that this is a concern.
- **Lisa Beatty:** Even like three days before, a lot of times we come to these meetings and the presentation isn't even posted an hour before. It is just a little frustrating.
- **Vanessa Van Note:** Okay, I hear your concerns. Do we think this is a sufficient method for evaluating decisions?
- **Elliott Kellner:** Are there any other comments or issues proposed method? Hearing none, can I hear a motion to approve?
- **Jennifer Walls:** Approved
- **Norm Goulet:** Second

**DECISION:** The BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team approved the proposed method for reevaluating credit durations.

- **Vanessa Van Note:** Are there any practices that might need to be added to this list?
- **James Martin:** I think we are missing a number of animal BMPs that should be included.
- **Jeremy Hanson:** Most of the animal BMPs you just listed need to be reported annually so I'm not sure if we would need to focus on those.
- **James Martin:** If that is the case, I agree we should not look into them.
- **Sally Claggett (chat):** with extra time, the FWG could address Narrow Forest "buffers" What about land retirement?
- **Jason Keppler (chat):** According the NEIEN Appendix Doc Grassed Waterways map to the GrassBuffers Scenario Builder BMP type.
- **Brittany Sturgis (chat):** I may have missed something.. were wetland restoration practices listed?
- **Vanessa Van Note (chat):** They were not brought to my attention, Brittany. We can discuss adding them though.
- **James Martin:** Is this the subset of practices that we are going to be looking at in the question of credit duration? This is not intended to be a comprehensive review of every BMP? Earlier it seemed like you were talking about a comprehensive review and now it seems like we are back to a select few.
- **Vanessa Van Note:** I apologize if that was confusing. I meant that we should be focusing on the ones that have a list of priority BMPs that I have been given. If along the way we want to look at other practices that is welcomed as well.
- **Elliott Kellner:** Can we seek feedback on whether we are approving this list or if there are other things that need to be added to the list? Do I hear a motion to approve this streamlined method and the BMPs listed?
- **Gary Felton:** Moved

- **Elliott Kellner:** Are there any objections? Seeing none and hearing none this is approved.

**DECISION:** The list of priority BMPs has been approved by the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team.

- **Vanessa Van Note:** Does anyone have thoughts on the proposed schedule?
- **Loretta Collins:** Do you have people lined up to present on this?
- **Vanessa Van Note:** I will be doing the majority of the load on finding the information for each of these BMPs with the support from the jurisdiction(s) that requested this BMP be further examined. The discussion dates are flexible and may be changed to accommodate the recommendation of the FWG.
- **James Martin:** In CAST, September is the date for the final decisions to be included in CAST-21. Remembering that there is a hierarchy that each of these decisions have to move through I recommend we pack them in before Spring if we can.
- **Loretta Collins:** Is it the correct understanding the interested parties will provide the information they have to you and you will consolidate and present it? I kind of thought that it was the individual or state requesting further investigation on the credit duration that they would be advocating for that and providing the information for that.
- **Vanessa Van Note:** I did receive some concerns with that, this is my way of making sure that we are leaving no stone left unturned and we are providing all of the information we can for these projects. Ultimately, I can only get as much information as I come up with but if there still is reasoning that I am missing that is what I need help with. As a compromise I can consolidate the information and continue to solicit more information for those that are willing to provide it.
- **Loretta Collins:** The next step is you present the information you received and then the ad hoc team digests that and if there is reason to change the credit duration than the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team would create documentation for that decision and go through this process.
- **Lisa Beatty (chat):** Are we looking at just riparian grass buffers or grassed waterways as grass buffers as well?
- **Norm Goulet (chat):** 30 minutes on practice description, 15 minutes on what the issue is and options, 30 minutes discussion.. not going to be able to get many bmps in during one meeting
- **Loretta Collins (chat):** I like Norm's proposed timing.
- **James Martin:** I encourage members to look at the expert panel data that may bring new questions to mind or shine light on the questions we have before us.

**Method for the Decision-Making Chain of Approval, Vanessa Van Note**

**Participants:**

Whitney Ashead, CRC  
Vanessa Van Note, EPA  
Elliott Kellner, WVU  
Sally Claggett, USFS Forestry Workgroup  
Ted Tessler, PA DEP  
Gary Felton, UMD AgWG  
Alana Hartman, WV DEP  
Bill Tharpe, MDA  
Brittany Sturgis,  
Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC  
Curt Dell,  
Rebecca Hanmer, USFS Forestry Workgroup  
Emily Dekar, Upper Susquehanna Coalition  
James Martin, VA  
Jason Keppler, MDA  
Jennifer Starr,  
Jeremy Hanson, VT  
Kate Bresaw, PA DEP  
Lisa Beatty, PA DEP  
Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO  
Loretta Collins, UMD CBPO AgWG  
Mary Gattis, Bay Journal  
Matt Ehrhart  
Mark Dubin, UMD CBPO  
Pat Gleason, EPA TOWG  
Norm Goulet, VA USWG  
Ruth Cassilly UMD CBPO  
Tim Peters, NRCS  
Jen Walls, DNREC