

BMP expert panel for nontidal wetland rehabilitation, enhancement and creation

Wetland Workgroup

September 14, 2017

Neely Law, Panel Chair, Center for Watershed Protection

Jeremy Hanson, Panel Coordinator, Virginia Tech



Overview

- Quick recap
- Context
- Summary of input submitted and responses
- Next steps and timeline
- Questions/discussion
- Request for approval

Previously...

- Wetland Workgroup convened small group to draft Charge for next Wetland BMP Expert Panel
- Discussed draft charge at May 18 Wetland Workgroup conference call; charge was approved
- Virginia Tech released RFP on June 27
- CWP and TNC proposal was selected following August 1 deadline
- Proposed panel membership and Scope of Work (SOW) distributed on August 30 to workgroups, GITs and advisory committees for feedback

Context

- WQGIT's BMP Protocol
 - Describes overall process, expectations
- Charge to the panel from the Wetland Workgroup
 - Explains tasks and requests for the panel to complete under the BMP Protocol
- Scope of Work (SOW)
 - CWP and TNC gameplan with Virginia Tech; describes intended approach and timeline for meeting the Charge

Proposed panel membership

Name	Affiliation	Panelists' Area of Expertise	Role
Neely L. Law, PhD	The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP)	Water quality, BMPs, previous expert panel chair(s) and member	Panel Chair
Kathleen Boomer, PhD	The Nature Conservancy	Wetland eco-hydrology, modeling and landscape ecology, previous wetland panel member	Panel member
Jeanne Christie	Association of State Wetland Managers	Regulatory and state permitting programs, including wetland mitigation	Panel member
Greg Noe, PhD	U.S. Geological Survey	Wetland hydrology, groundwater, landscape modeling, familiarity with CBP process	Panel member
Erin MacLaughlin	Maryland DNR	Wetlands and water quality, previous wetland panel member	Panel member
Solange Filoso, PhD	Chesapeake Biological Lab	Best management practice performance, ecosystem ecology, biogeochemistry	Panel member
Denice Wardrop, PhD, PE	Penn State	Nutrients and wetlands, wetland assessment	Panel member
Scott Jackson	University of Massachusetts	Wetland creation, wetland ecology, wetland assessment	Panel member
Steve Strano	NRCS	Agriculture BMPs and Farm Bill programs, previous wetland panel member	Panel member
*Rob Roseen, PhD, PE, D.WRE	Waterstone Engineering	Nutrients and water quality, watershed management	Panel member
*Ralph Spagnolo	EPA Region 3	Permitting programs, wetland ecology and biology, previous wetland panel member	Panel member

Support to the panel

Name	Affiliation	Role
Jeremy Hanson	Virginia Tech	Panel Coordinator
Brian Benham	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech PI
Lisa Fraley-McNeal	CWP	Support, GIS, stats and Lit synthesis
Bill Stack	CWP	Support, Lit synthesis
Deb Caraco	CWP	Support, GIS, stats and Lit synthesis
TBD by WTWG	TBD	WTWG rep
Jeff Sweeney	EPA CBPO	CBPO modeling team rep
Carrie Travers	EPA Region 3	EPA Region 3 rep

Summary of input received

EPA Region 3 (Dianne McNally)

- Panel should expand on previous panel's work; further consider and evaluate potential tradeoffs, provide additional guidance on when practices may or may not be desirable, particularly for enhancement practice
 - Response: Panel must consider these issues when discussing ancillary benefits, unintended consequences and qualifying conditions of the BMP under the BMP Protocol. However, panel's scope and respective role is necessarily limited.
- Suggested Ralph Spagnolo as additional panel member; identified regulatory point-of-contact (Carrie Travers)
 - Response: Glad to welcome Ralph as panel member and Carrie in support.

Summary of input received, continued

Delaware DNREC (John Schneider) and CBP staff (Kristen Saunders, Scott Phillips)

- Panel review should be expanded to include PCBs (poly-chlorinated biphenyls).
 - Response: The panel does consider ancillary benefits and unintended consequences, but their focus is necessarily on nutrients and sediment. The BMP Protocol allows for GITs (or workgroups) to determine if certain ancillary benefits or unintended consequences should be investigated or evaluated in greater depth by the partnership (e.g., by an ad hoc group with the appropriate expertise). The analysis can be included as an appendix to the panel report.

Summary of input received, continued

Given EPA and DNREC feedback, proposed bullet point added to Charge under “guidelines” on page 4:

- Within the extent of the BMP Protocol and their assigned Charge and Scope of Work, the panel will consider potential ancillary benefits and unintended consequences associated with the wetland creation, enhancement and rehabilitation BMPs. The panel will work to describe qualifying conditions that can reduce the risk of unintended impacts on other wetland or ecosystem functions – e.g., habitat or toxic contaminants – when implementing these BMPs for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment water quality benefits.

Summary of input received, continued

Department of Defense (Sarah Diebel)

- Can the review be expanded to include both tidal and nontidal practices?
 - Response: Subgroup of Wetland Workgroup that developed Charge explicitly discussed this and agreed it was best to focus on nontidal for this panel. Does not prevent future panel(s) from evaluating tidal practices.
- Can the review address wetland rehab, enhancement and creation in developed settings, not just agricultural settings like the previous panel?
 - Response: Enhancement and rehabilitation practices are applicable to the wetland land uses in Phase 6, and these are not exclusive to agricultural settings. Most acres of creation likely to occur in rural or ag settings, but panel will consider all available information and provide recommendations that can apply in multiple settings, if possible.

No specific edits made to Charge or SOW

Other changes

- Addition of Rob Roseen as panel member
- Minor clarifying edit to SOW, page 3



Questions?

Next steps and timeline

- Schedule first conference call with group
- Plan first face-to-face meeting, coincidental with public stakeholder forum
- Get to work; develop recommendations and deliver report next year

Request for approval

- Updated panel membership (Neely Law, Chair and 10 panel members)
- Panel Charge and SOW, with revisions as discussed

Consensus Continuum



THANK YOU!

Jeremy Hanson

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