

Draft Meeting Notes

Agriculture Workgroup Meeting

December 12, 2013

Log Lodge Conference Center

Beltsville, MD

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

ACTION: Nominations for a new workgroup chair should be sent to Emma Giese through COB January 9, 2014 in preparation for selecting a new chair during the workgroup's February monthly meeting.

ACTION: AgWG will convene a separate meeting in January/February to discuss the CEAP report. The meeting will include a presentation from NRCS on the report, followed by a panel discussion.

AgWG Action Items and Decisions

DECISION: AgWG approved the list of Functional Equivalent Technical Review Panel nominees. The remaining slots will be filled by COB Thursday 12/19/13. The final list of members will be posted at that time.

ACTION: The Poultry Litter Subcommittee report will be brought to the Agriculture Workgroup for approval in February pending subcommittee approval.

AgWG Notes

- Meeting convened at 9:30
- Welcome and introductions
- Meeting Notes
 - November meeting minutes will be posted and approved at the next meeting

AgWG Notes

Agriculture Workgroup Nomination

- After over four years of serving as the chair of the Agriculture Workgroup, Frank announced his decision to step down as chair in early 2014 once a new chair has been selected.

ACTION: Nominations for a new workgroup chair should be sent to Emma Giese through COB January 9, 2014 in preparation for selecting a new chair during the workgroup's February monthly meeting.

AgWG Notes

USDA CEAP Report Release

- Frank and Mark discussed plans to schedule a formal presentation from USDA on the latest Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) report.
 - USDA's second CEAP report for the Chesapeake Bay was released on December 5, 2013.
 - NGO: Recommend a panel of critics to respond to the CEAP presentation at the same meeting
 - Recommend that STAC be asked to conduct an objective review
 - This request could be made following the panel discussion

ACTION: AgWG will convene a separate meeting in January to discuss the CEAP report. The meeting will include a presentation from NRCS on the report, followed by a panel discussion.

AgWG Notes

Expert Review Panel Report Review Process

- Tetra Tech is currently assisting the Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage, and the Nutrient Management panels in formatting and editing of the panel reports in preparation for final publishing.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural Management Plans Subgroup

- The subgroup continues to develop a verification protocol recommendation for agricultural management plans

AgWG Notes

Manure Treatment Technology Subgroup

- Kristen Hughes Evans, Subgroup representative, provided an update on the activities of the subgroup in developing a plan of work for a future BMP expert review panel.
 - Kristen reviewed the findings of a recent workgroup survey
 - Recommend that prioritization of the technologies be related to what technologies are included in state WIPs
 - Recommend that the types of manure to be clearly defined up front, including which types of technologies are eligible for each type
 - AgWG can recommend how best to divide the panel workload, whether with smaller subgroups or another approach.

AgWG Notes

Agricultural Functional Equivalent Recommendation Report

- Dana York, representing the Maryland Department of Agriculture, provided an update on the draft recommendation report to define and implement a tracking and reporting protocol for agricultural functional equivalent (FE) BMPs.
- The corrected version is posted on today's calendar meeting page

AgWG notes

Ag Functional Equivalent Technical Review Panel

- Frank and Mark proposed for workgroup concurrence the formation of a technical review panel for the review of the Agricultural Functional Equivalent recommendations proposed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
 - The proposed membership of the panel is based on nominations received from the workgroup members following the decision during the November meeting to form the panel.

AgWG notes

Ag Functional Equivalent Technical Review Panel

- NGO: Recommend a water quality representative from a state agency, to evaluate the water quality benefit aspect of practices.
 - USDA: Recommend a clear charge to the panel in order to clarify these concerns
- Recommend a Chesapeake Bay Program partnership definition of Functional Equivalency, which considers the water quality benefits
 - This review panel may change the definitions and assumptions
- Recommend clarifying which aspect of the function is equivalent (technical, agricultural, design)

AgWG notes

Ag Functional Equivalent Technical Review Panel

- PA and WV will be given one week to submit their representatives.
- MD motion to form the review panel
 - VA: Second
 - All in favor

DECISION: AgWG approved the list of Functional Equivalent Technical Review Panel nominees. The remaining slots will be filled by COB Thursday 12/19/13. The final list of members will be posted at that time.

AgWG Notes

BMP Verification Review Panel's Recommendations

- Dana York, BMP Verification Review Panel Chair, presented the panel's findings and recommendations from a recent review of the partnership's approach to developing verification guidance for the tracking and reporting of BMPs.

AgWG Notes

BMP Verification Review Panel's Recommendations

- Coordinator asked if the workgroup was comfortable adopting the review panel recommendations presented. The review panel requested a how-to section.
 - NGO: Request that the workgroup review the protocol before making a recommendation.
 - By January 9th a near final draft 'how-to' document will be available to accompany the verification matrix.

AgWG Notes

BMP Verification Review Panel's Recommendations

- Chair clarified that the existing expert panels are not charged with addressing verification.
 - AgWG may need to revisit the charge to the panels in the future
 - USDA: If a panel charge does change, panelists should be given the option to reconsider their membership

AgWG Notes

LUNCH

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee Report Update

- Jim Glancey, Chair of the Poultry Litter Subcommittee, provided an update on the subcommittee's development of a draft recommendation report on model data inputs for representing commercial poultry production in the CBP models.
 - The subcommittee report is expected to be available to initiate the partnership review process at the February meeting.

AgWG Notes

Poultry Litter Subcommittee Report Update

- States still need to provide data sources and references to Jim
- The Poultry Litter Subcommittee will then be approving the final report

AgWG Notes

PLS Data and the CBP Modeling Tools

- Matt Johnston explained the key parameters that the PLS plans to provide the Partnership
 - Chair: the report does not need to include data from all 6 states, only those with data
 - EPA: Recommend a very quick peer review

AgWG Notes

VADCR's New Ag BMP Tracking Program - World View

- Stephanie Martin, VADCR, presented Virginia's new program for tracking agricultural BMPs.
 - How is data kept private?
 - On a secure site
 - All data is collected electronically

AgWG Notes

VADCR's New Ag BMP Tracking Program - NutMan 4

- Nick Stone, Virginia Tech, presented Virginia's latest nutrient management planning software - NutMan 4
 - The goal of the new software is to meet new reporting and quality control requirements, including assurance that planned acres are not double-counted.

AgWG Notes

- AgWG adjourned at 3:10PM
- Next AgWG meeting: Thursday January 9th