Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

August 9, 2012 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

USFWS Annapolis Field Office Conference Room Annapolis, Maryland

Conference Call Number- 866.299.3188, Code- 410.267.5731 Virtual Meeting Room- https://epa.connectsolutions.com/agwg/

09:30 Welcome and Introductions

Coale

09:40 AgWG Meeting Minutes

Coale

Frank Coale, AgWG Chair, will lead a discussion on the review and approval of the minutes from the July 19, 2012 workgroup meeting at the USFWS Annapolis Field Office.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendation

09:45 Agricultural BMP Verification Process

Coale/Dubin

Frank and Mark Dubin, AgWG Coordinator, will provide an overview of the workgroup's progress to date and the latest updates on the development of an agricultural BMP verification protocol based on the draft verification principles developed by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team's (WQGIT) BMP Verification Steering Committee.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

10:00

Agricultural BMP Verification Assistance Dubin/Dressing/Meals In response to the AgWG's request for technical assistance in identifying recognized reference sources of agricultural verification protocols, EPA has provided access to Tetra Tech services. Mark is currently working with Steve Dressing and Don Meals from Tetra Tech to implement a national literature search and conduct survey interviews with recognized experts to identify potential reference sources for the workgroup.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

10:15 Agricultural Expert Review Panel Overview

Coale

Frank will provide a brief review of the four agricultural panels currently activated by the workgroup based on the priorities established by the members. The panel chairs and technical support staff will be providing a status report of activities for each of the four agricultural panels.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

10:30 Poultry Litter Subcommittee (PLS)

Glancey/Dubin

Jim Glancey, panel UD Chair, and Mark will provide a status report of the PLS activities, including evaluation focus, panel structure and membership, planned evaluation products, and estimated recommendation development timeline.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

10:45 Agricultural Nutrient Management Panel Coale/Dressing

Frank Coale, panel UM Chair, and Steve Dressing, Tetra Tech, will provide a status report of the NM Panel activities, including evaluation focus, panel structure and membership, planned evaluation products, and estimated recommendation development timeline. The panel has recently completed a comprehensive survey of nutrient management systems and programs from across the watershed. Steve will be providing an overview of the report's findings.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

11:15 Conservation Tillage Panel

Thomason/Zendehdel

Wade Thomason, panel VT Chair, and Kamran Zendehdel, Tetra Tech, will provide a status report of the CT panel activities, including evaluation focus, panel structure and membership, planned evaluation products, and estimated recommendation development timeline. The panel is currently completing a comprehensive survey of conservation tillage management systems and programs from across the watershed. Kamran will be providing a preliminary overview of the survey.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

11:30 Cover Crops Panel

Meisinger/Zendehdel

Jack Meisinger, panel ARS Chair, and Kamran Zendehdel, Tetra Tech, will provide a status report of the CC panel activities, including evaluation focus, panel structure and membership, planned evaluation products, and estimated recommendation development timeline. The panel is currently completing a comprehensive survey of conservation tillage management systems and programs from across the watershed. Kamran will be providing a preliminary overview of the survey.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

11:45 Agricultural Expert Review Panel Comments

Coale

Frank will moderate a partnership discussion on the status reports provided by the panel chairs and their technical support staff.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

12:00 Luncheon Break

01:00 Mid-Point Assessment Priorities

Batiuk

Rich Batiuk, EPA-CBP Associate Director for Science, will provide a brief presentation on the overall process and schedule for the CBP partnership's mid-point assessment.

01:10 Mid-Point Assessment Priorities - Jurisdictions

Coale

Frank will facilitate a discussion with the jurisdictional members on the top priorities for CBP partnership models and other decision support tool refinements, land use/land cover representation, agricultural production data utilization, and BMP integration. Members are requested to concisely review their top priorities.

Order of Comments: Virginia

West Virginia Maryland Delaware Pennsylvania New York

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

02:20 Mid-Point Assessment Priorities - Partners

Coale

Frank will facilitate a discussion with the partner members on the top priorities for CBP partnership models and other decision support tool refinements, land use/land cover representation, agricultural production data utilization, and BMP integration. Members are requested to concisely review their top priorities.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

03:00 Mid-Point Assessment Recommendations

Coale/Dubin

Frank and Mark will provide an overview of the workgroup's combined recommendations for review and approval. The approved recommendations will be presented to the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) and the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) to convey the workgroup's opinions in preparation for the critical planning discussions over the next several months.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

03:15 Review of AgWG Recommendations

Coale/Dubin

The members will review and finalize the workgroup's meeting recommendations for endorsement and implementation.

ACTION REQUESTED: Finalized Workgroup Recommendations

03:30 Adjourn

Conference Call Materials:

Participants are requested to review the materials posted on the AgWG webpage for the meeting. Some documents may be posted just prior to the meeting, so please check back.

Agenda Schedule:

The meeting agenda is reflective of known information at the time of publication and may be subject to change due to other circumstances. Additional agenda items may be added if time is available.

Luncheon Information:

Workgroup members may either bring their lunch to the meeting room, or utilize one of the food establishments nearby.