

Meeting Minutes
Aug 19, 2021
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
AgWG Conference Call
Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The AgWG approved the July AgWG [meeting minutes](#).

Action: Feedback on [Animal Mortality Expert Panel Report](#) is requested by COB Friday, Sep 3rd. Send written feedback to Jeremy Hanson, Panel Coordinator (jchanson@vt.edu). Email Jeremy with questions or requests (e.g. if more time is desired to provide comments).

Action: The AgWG is asked to send feedback to Loretta Collins (lcollins@chesapeakebay.net) regarding Ag Data Concerns and prioritizing needs for the Phase 7 Watershed Model.

Action: Contact Vanessa Van Note (VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov) with further questions and concerns regarding the incorporation of Hillandale data, and the use of private industry data and/or alternative data sources for CAST-23 and the Phase 7 watershed model.

Introduction

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** Workgroup Chair

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the July AgWG [meeting minutes](#)

10:05 **Animal Mortality Expert Panel Report (5 min)** Jeremy Hanson
Jeremy Hanson, VT, provided a quick update on the status of the [Animal Mortality Expert Panel Report](#) that is currently under CBP partnership review.

Action: Feedback on [Animal Mortality Expert Panel Report](#) is requested by COB Friday, Sep 3rd. Send written feedback to Jeremy Hanson, Panel Coordinator (jchanson@vt.edu). Email Jeremy with questions or requests (e.g. if more time is desired to provide comments).

CBP Assignments

10:10 **Ag Data Concerns (20 min)** Loretta Collins
Loretta Collins, UMD-AgWG coordinator, provided a summary of the status of CAST-21 Workplan items. Agreement about what will be included and excluded from CAST-21 depends on votes of members of the workgroups and Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT). Approved data and method changes for CAST-21 need to be finalized through the WQGIT by Sept. 1, 2021. Updates on other ag data concerns provided by jurisdictional AgWG members were also discussed.

Action: The AgWG is asked to send feedback to Loretta Collins (lcollins@chesapeakebay.net) regarding Ag Data Concerns and prioritizing needs for the Phase 7 Watershed Model.

CAST-21 DRAFT WORKPLAN TASK 7

10:30 Incorporating Hillandale Data (30 min)

Vanessa Van Note

Vanessa Van Note, EPA-WTWG Coordinator, provided a summary of the discussion that occurred on the [Aug 5th Watershed Technical Workgroup](#) regarding **CAST-21 Workplan Task 7: Accommodate with CAST21 QA/QC'd historic and current layer population data for Hillandale Farms, Spring Grove, PA**. In response to concerns from partners and time constraints, the WTWG tabled the issue before a vote for approval of data incorporation could be reached. Among the concerns expressed was a need for consensus to use the private industry data from the AgWG and related questions regarding protocols for the use of alternative data sources for CAST-23 and the Phase 7 watershed model.

Discussion

Loretta Collins: This Hillandale issue is exemplary of issues with our animal data so it's an indicator of longer conversations that need to be had later on.

Tim Sexton: Is the reason the Hillandale data isn't used because they're a D county?

Loretta Collins: The story is in the numbers. The counties in question are not exclusively D counties from one census year to another. In 2017, Adams County was not indicated as a D county, meaning the data is not being protected, it just not there.

Tim Sexton: In 2016/17, we did a pilot study for the swine in PA and poultry in VA and we discovered that industry data was considerably more accurate than what the growers provided in both cases, down to an individual headcount.

Chris Brosch: There was a time when the Bay Program tried to collect CAFO animal numbers to adjust the regulatory and nonregulatory loads prior to the TMDL. That CAFO data, basically capacity data for these farms, almost always exceeds production. The manure of these birds is what is important. In DE we rely on annual industry data. I think we need to pool our data resources and try to make sense of it on a state by state basis and then see what our options are for replacing it for Phase 7.

Kelly Shenk: We have already covered similar ground like this when we updated the poultry numbers for broilers in the watershed model. We got poultry industry data and were able to get Bay Program approval of that approach by using publicly available data to corroborate the industry data. Maybe we can do something similar with this.

Paul Bredwell: Good point Kelly, one of the issues people had was whether we can trust industry data, so verifying that data is important. We've had success with the poultry industry data and verifying it. It's important that we have the most accurate data.

Kristen Hughes Evans (in chat): Facility-provided data corroborated with the facility's NMP (which is public for farm's that size I think) sounds like a very reasonable and accurate approach. In fact, I can't think of a better approach.

Mark Dubin (in chat): Kristen - Using the Hillandale Farms CAFO permits as an example, the associated NMP's are publicly available documents and are open for public comment during the review and approval process. Thanks.

Gary Felton: Vanessa, these data change state loads. Is that mentioned in your presentation?

Vanessa Van Note: Yes, it's just a summary but I can provide a full scenario if anyone is interested. It's not an official version of CAST so I want to make that clear.

Gary Felton: It might be valuable for the states to see that. Also, when you mentioned gap filling - does that apply for a new operation?

Vanessa Van Note: I was referring to filling in the gaps of CAFO operations that are under similar circumstances as Hillandale, whose numbers aren't accurately reflected in the Census. I would assume it would apply to new operations, but it doesn't automatically update, it's reliant on the ag census data.

Dave Graybill (in chat): Animal populations are only one of the questions. Your information you are using shows #'s in the population but your presentation doesn't show where the nutrients go. What

counties receive manure? What other alternative manure uses are used? What is the manure transport out of the bay watershed?

Chris Brosch (in chat): I think it is worthwhile to touch on WHY states other than PA are being impacted by millions of layers in PA.

Ken Staver: I think we need more of a mechanistic explanation of why loads are changing in other states. We need to answer how this all plays out with nutrient loads before we can improve or address this issue.

Gary Felton: That's definitely something we can focus on for future conservations. Maybe a separate fact sheet or presentation can address that.

Loretta Collins: That goes back to Dave's point in the chat as well. We definitely need to have more in depth conversations about how this works.

Vanessa Van Note (in chat): Happy to return to discuss why states other than PA were impacted and what the mechanics of manure distribution and feeding space are. Will speak with Loretta and Gary on the best way to bring forward this information. Also, I provided a [summary document](#) of the load changes (that was provided to the WTWG as well). This should be attached to the calendar page for anyone interested. Please forward any questions to vannote.vanessa@epa.gov.

Jeff Sweeney (in chat): To generally answer the question about why loads in non-PA states increase with the inclusion of Hillandale layers: The Ag Modeling group for Phase 6 (what Loretta is speaking about now) recommended that county-level chemical fertilizer sales/use data be summed to one CB watershed-wide number. That "bucket" of fertilizer is distributed across all counties in the watershed according to relative crop need. The crop need is also met by manure nutrients available in each county. If available manure nutrients change in a county (Adams and York), then the distribution of the watershed-wide bucket of fertilizer will change. This is one of many recommendations from Ag Modeling approved by the AgWG and up – for the Phase 6 model.

Action: Contact Vanessa Van Note (VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov) with further questions and concerns regarding the incorporation of Hillandale data, and the use of private industry data and/or alternative data sources for CAST-23 and the Phase 7 watershed model.

Data & Modeling

11:05 **Looking Forward: Phase 7 Watershed Model AgWG Priorities (35 min)** Loretta Collins
In follow-up to the July presentation by Gary Shenk, USGS, on the [development plan for the Phase 7 watershed model](#), Loretta Collins, UMD, led a discussion and solicited feedback on AgWG priorities for Phase 7. This will be the first in a series of discussions. The WQGIT will be hosting a 2-day meeting in late October to discuss Phase 7 priorities with the Modeling Workgroup.

Discussion

Loretta Collins (in chat): Meeting info for Aug 23 1-4PM Water Quality GIT meeting: decision on Land Use Change Product, Forest Buffer credit duration, and close-out of CAST-21 Workplan.

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/water_quality_goal_implementation_team_conference_c_all_august

Olivia Devereux: I appreciate Loretta's work keeping this set of issues. As we look towards Phase 7, the simplification of the way agriculture gets modeled needs to be kept in mind. The urban and natural have already been quite simplified, but agriculture has not. CAST and the Watershed Model are not crop growth models and it has added a lot of complexity and can lead to unintended consequences, as we're

seeing with Hillandale. Those are the kinds of things that a simplification of the agricultural model could help address.

Gary Felton: I think simplifying it would lead to unintended consequences. I think it needs to be more detailed and complex because agriculture is so varied.

Chris Brosch: In terms of transparency we need to have a more diligent connection to the WTWG and their expertise. I commend Loretta for separating out the concepts of ag modeling and ag management expertise. Both of those types of expertise are necessary, but we need to focus on them both separately and together to get successful model improvements built out. Hopefully the folks on the WTWG are equally recruited for feedback.

Matt Kowalski: Do you have a timeline for the ag modeling subcommittee?

Loretta Collins: No I don't have a timeline, but we need to have a game plan by the end of this calendar year so that we can get to work.

Mark Dubin: One of the aspects of the ag modeling subcommittee was involving USDA NRCS models. We always thought that it would be of value to have a separate model to pair information and results with, so maybe we can invite that participation this time around.

Olivia Devereux: We used the CEAP model, among others, to calibrate the Watershed Model, so we set the loads against what that model was showing for each individual land use and monitoring stations.

Mark Dubin: There was some information that NRCS had access to that we did not.

Chris Brosch (in chat): Many CBPO faces in this effort are different, but a synopsis of ground covered and items tabled would be of a lot of value for the new folks to collaborate with the old folks in documenting and sharing.

11:40 **New Business & Announcements (10 min)**

- **COVID-19 Updates**
- **Delaware Maryland 4R (right source, rate, time, place) Field Day, Aug 26th**
 - Chestertown, MD (in-person)
 - More info and register [here](#).
- **A Data Driven 4R (right source, rate, time, place) Field Day, Sept 9th**
 - Darlington, MD (in-person)
 - More info and register [here](#).
- **[Preparing for the 2022 Census of Agriculture](#): KEY DATES 2022 Census of Agriculture:**
 - [Sign Up To Be Counted](#) March 2021 – June 2022
 - Data Collection Begins December 19, 2022
 - Surveys Due February 2023
 - Data Release February 22, 2024
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email

11:55 **Review of Action and Decision Items (5 min)**

12:00 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 16, 10AM-12PM: Conference Call

Meeting Chat

From Loretta Mae Collins to Everyone: 11:10 AM

Meeting info for Aug 23 1-4PM Water Quality GIT meeting: decision on Land Use Change Product, Forest Buffer credit duration, and close-out of CAST-21 Workplan.

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/water_quality_goal_implementation_team_conference_c_all_august

From Kelly Shenk to Everyone: 11:11 AM

In case we run out of time, I wanted to make sure you saw yesterday that EPA announced it will stop the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos on all food to better protect human health, particularly that of children and farmworkers. Here's a link to the press release which provides more information and the link to our website for more information. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-address-risk-chlorpyrifos-and-protect-childrens-health>

From Jackie Pickford to Everyone:

Gary Shenk's Presentation last month:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41833/2021_07_15_agwg_p7_plan_gshenk.pdf

Participants

Gary Felton, UMD

Jeremy Daubert, VT

Loretta Collins, UMD/CBPO

Jackie Pickford, CRC

Clint Gill, DDA

Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA

Greg Albrecht, NY Dept of Ag. & Markets

Kate Bresaw, PA DEP

Tim Sexton, VA DCR

Matt Monroe, WVDA

Marel King, CBC

Kelly Shenk, EPA

Dave Graybill, Farm Bureau

Matt Kowalski, CBF

RO Britt, Smithfield Foods

Tim Rosen, ShoreRivers

Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting

Carlington Wallace, ICPRB

Jenna Schueler, CBF

Greg Sandi, MDE

Kristen Hughes Evans, NFWF

Jason Keppler, MDA

Katie Walker, Chesapeake Conservancy

Gary Flory, VA DEQ

Jessica Rigelman, J7 LLC

Jeremy Hanson, VT/CBPO

Mark Dubin, UME/CBPO

Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal

Ruth Cassilly, UMD

Jeff Sweeney, EPA

Ken Staver, UMD

Cassie Davis, NYSDEC

Vanessa Van Note, EPA/CBPO

Chris Brosch, DDA

Kristen Saacke Blunk, Headwaters LLC

Leah Martino

Peter Hughes, Red Barn Ag

Paul Bredwell, US Poultry and Egg Association

Suzanne Travena, EPA

Ted Tessler, PA DEP