

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2014

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22022/>

ACTION ITEMS & DECISIONS

DECISION: Workgroup Members approved the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved the draft 9/11/14 agricultural BMP priorities list.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved moving the draft Phase 6.0 agricultural land use classification forward to the WQGIT.

ACTION: Workgroup members will provide any comments on the AMS presentation to Curt Dell by Wednesday (10/1).

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Minutes

- John Rhoderick, Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chair, introduced the draft minutes from the September 11, 2014 workgroup meeting held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Field Office in Annapolis for review and approval.
- MDA motioned to approve the minutes, VA second.
 - There were no objections to approving the September 11 minutes.

DECISION: Workgroup Members approved the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes.

2. BMP Development Priorities for Phase 6.0

- The Agriculture Workgroup discussed an initial list and approach during the August 14th meeting, and created the current prioritized list during the September 11th meeting.
- Mark will be following up with modeling team today to address options in the “notes” section.
- WV agreed to count the karst sinkholes as a grass buffer if that is what the AgWG recommends.
- NGO noted that ditch restoration might be more involved than stream restoration BMP.
 - MDA is looking at innovative technologies to get away from removing all vegetation.
- PA noted concern about the cover crop BMP and recommended that panel develop P and sediment efficiency values.
 - Mark Dubin: The Cover Crops Expert Panel has a meeting scheduled in October to discuss phosphorus and sediment values.

- NGO: With animal waste facilities will you look at all scales, including horses?
 - Dubin: The category is general so it should cover all livestock species.
- NGO: Recommend clarifying the term “cropland irrigation management”.
- John Rhoderick asked for a motion to approve the BMP priorities.
 - VA motion, NGO second to approve the priorities.
 - There were no objections to approving the BMP priorities.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved the draft 9/11/14 agricultural BMP priorities list.

3. Phase 6.0 Agricultural Land Uses

- Chris Brosch presented the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee’s current proposed Phase 6.0 agricultural land uses.
- AMS has discussed creating manure and non manure land uses.
- NGO: Will states be reporting manured acres?
 - Brosch: The Census of Agriculture has manured acres, and AMS is discussing other sources for manure application data.
- NGO: What about assigning BMPs to land uses with and without manure?
 - Brosch: The hierarchical structure could help states submit BMPs on broader land uses (e.g. “commodity crops”) where they didn’t have more specific information.
- MDA: In terms of load, are you looking at nutrient applications to satisfy crop needs or direct deposition?
 - Brosch: This will be up to the AMS in terms of what application rate each crop receives. Application rates are separate from loading rate targets.
 - MDA noted concern with both applying nutrients and having direct deposition overlapping on the same acres.
- Chair asked for AgWG to move these land uses forward to the WQGIT next week.
 - NGO motion, MDA second to approve the Agricultural land uses.
 - NGO: Note that this raises a lot of questions with this level of detail in the land uses. Data collection will be difficult for some states. Is there a risk that we’ve broadened the inequity between states? There is now an opportunity to challenge other pieces of the puzzle.
 - Chair: This is a draft list going forward, and it will get narrowed in the coming months.
 - Brosch: TetraTech is developing targets for each land use, and when loading targets cannot be established, they will probably get combined to simplify the list.
 - PA noted the difficulty of collecting data at this level of detail, recommends keeping level of detail consistent with availability of national datasets.
 - Brosch: AMS is discussing this aspect.
 - There were no objections to moving the land uses forward to the WQGIT next week.

DECISION: Agriculture Workgroup members approved moving the draft Phase 6.0 agricultural land use classification forward to the WQGIT.

4. Overview of AMS Scenario Builder Recommendations

- Curt Dell presented an overview of AMS progress and recommendations to date as well as their next steps. Curt and Matt will be providing this summary to the WQGIT on October 7-8th.
- MDA: How do we balance the equity between states with using all available data?
 - Johnston: The key will be starting to put methods on paper and test out the next model. We need to test out our assumptions, and then if they don't work, go back to the states to make it work.
- NGO recommended showing visually the priorities that AMS has already started working on.
 - Dell: We can add a slide to remind WQGIT that this workshop was a Midpoint Assessment priority.
- VA: Will we have an opportunity to provide comments before the WQGIT presentation?
 - Send comments to Curt Dell.
 - Mark Dubin clarified that the WQGIT is not making any decisions based on this. The presentation is intended to give an update on AMS' activities.

ACTION: Workgroup members will provide any comments on the AMS presentation to Curt Dell by Wednesday (10/1).

Adjourned

Member	Affiliation
Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)	Headwaters LLC
John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mark Dubin (Coordinator)	UMD
Rachel Rhodes	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Jason Keppler	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Steve Taglang	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Ted Tesler	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Chris Brosch	Virginia Tech/Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Andy Yost	West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Curtis Dell	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Emma Giese, Staff	Chesapeake Research Consortium
Kim Snell-Zarcone	Conservation Pennsylvania
Bill Angstadt	Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
Fred Samadani	Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting
Dana York	Green Earth Connection
Lindsay Dodd	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Jim Cropper	Northeast Pasture Consortium
Frank Coale	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	VT
Robin Pellicano	MDE

Steve Dressing	TetraTech
Peter Thomas	
Darrell Marshall	

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