

AGWG Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2011

Meeting Minutes- Coale

- Anstadt- Pt of order- discussion of precision/decision ag was requested as a discussion topic 6 months ago
- Coale- oversight will work to get it onto the schedule

Meeting Schedule- Coale

- Third Thursday of every month, may not have face to face every month, may have conference calls, some may be canceled all together
- Would all face to face meetings be in Fish Shack? Not necessarily, can volunteer to host this meeting

ChesapeakeStat- Kilbert

See stat.chesapeakebay.net

- Monitoring- look into further monitoring of showcase watershed
- Ongoing process, tool of the workgroup, updates, changes, additions can be made at any point
- Poultry Litter Workgroup to meet and report out to wg
- Glancey- high priority, set up task workgroup to share documents and group will receive access by cob tomorrow

NACD Project Update- York/Ensor

See Presentation

- All states making progress, some quickly, some not as quickly, all headed in similar direction
- Who is verifying party? It varies state by state, in favor of third party review, needs to be a distance between inspector and installer
- Framework is in place, AGWG wants to be sure this is incorporated in model
- Does AGWG want to have leadership role in ensuring continuation of this process?
- Keeling- WTWG has been the one responsible for tracking and reporting, they should also be invested, Think AGWG has done enough w BMP's
- Samadani- Process that should be used for any data collection, add more credit for load reduction- is that correct? There are a few works such as volunteer, to look at validity need level of inspection for accuracy etc, don't know if there is money to add this to the state budgets/workload. If volunteer what are the consequences
- Coale- Certain states are at different places along the path- if a state decides to fund and run with it, is that ok, can they report that and would they see some benefit over those unable to access at that pace
- Zygmunt- When can data be included?

- Shenk- We can take it today, as long as it is 2006 or later, no lag if after calibration period. Tremendous interest in EPA to get this initiative moving. Can see role for workgroup to keep it rolling, so much of what we do in this group is relevant,
- Hively- Are we counting practices that have been on the ground for some time, agriculture is part of stewardship to the land
- What ever the state considers as a practice that reduce nutrient and sediment reductions that the state wants to track.
- States interest in whether it is worth track is more effort toward TMDL, and these practices will not help get toward water quality

NRC Report Presentation- Sharpley

See Presentation

- Anstandt- Talked about structural practices, did you spend time looking at infield N or P practices since N is reaching Bay from groundwater, structural not effective
- Galloway- Limited discussion because it was outside of charge, complete system in nutrient cycling. Need committee for broader scope
- Stephanie- asked to review accuracy and tracking over all sectors, would have liked to get further into this but it was not the charge
- Zygmunt- Four R's for nutrient planning, can we drill down to state specific planning to see how it lines up w existing plans in each state? Only rate is being considered now, hoping to see more specificity on whether or not you are considering the 4 R's
- Stephanie- Looking to figure out our future, there is a committee discussing if there will be further reviews and what they will be on. If you have suggestions, it would be useful if you identify those
- Shenk- Drilling down beyond HUC 4 scale, it would be useful. Help the states know how to refine plans, help EPA and model
- Is nutrient management planning required in states? MD and DE state wide and in parts of VA
- CEAP assessment still leaves question on ag management and how it effects water quality
- Bredwell- Does the report detail all other sectors/stakeholders?
- Sharpley- this presentation teased out ag details, but there is discussion on urban stormwater etc.
- Stephanie- no recommendations, said people in watershed are going to have to make sacrifices to get to the goal. Committee laid out aggressive approach to highlight what could be done to get to the goal.
- Sharpley- not saying ag has to do it all, address all sectors/stakeholders

NRC Report Response- Coale

- Accurate Tracking of BMPs is Paramount-
- Samadani- Verification is important, lifespan of BMPs should be considered over all states

- Hively- Practice lifespan as well as determination dates need to be considered as well as verification
- Extent of maintenance, visit a year or so after installation- adaptive management on farm level
- Current Accounting is not consistent-
 - Hively- need list of practices that can be accounted for and can be utilized and how it needs to be measured
 - Pattison- all that info is in NEIEN, all exists practices by practice, unit by unit
 - Hively- put it on agenda to obtain info from Tetrattech,
 - Pattison- Does anyone know what FSA will be providing? C/S can be reported over and over and over again. Need to be careful
 - Hively- be happy to work this further to resolve this
- Committee Unable to confirm accuracy of BMPs reported
 - Sam- accounting for non- c/s, verification should be same as c/s.
- Committee was not able to quantify error of BMP reporting data
 - Pattison- we don't know what areas of model to start with, it will haunt that EPA but we need to evaluation
 - Model is only as good as the worst data you have, until you can tighten up landuses, it will be providing estimates and there will be great error range
- Consolidated regional BMP program present opportunities-
 - NACD effort at state level would accomplish that
 - Partnership would serve function as well
- Targeted Programs provide valuable data
 - Understand that state differences exist but recognize that it needs to be state's responsibility to report
 - Variability across watershed needs to be address- growing season etc
- Improve Tracking Non Cost share BMPs
 - Same level of expectations for c/s and non
 - We would like to see NACD project to continue on, need funding
- Is there a process in place for eval. Through adaptive management for 2 yr milestone
- Should be individual for practices
- Understanding of adaptive management-

- Need reports to drive adaptive management, should be getting reports back, ChesStat is good tool for this, needs to be easily used by public
- Sensitivity analysis or uncertainty analysis has to be part of this
- Educating public in general, not just about lag times
 - Pattison- trying to tell public for yrs that model results is not real time
- Application and placement method is just as important as nutrient application, on farm nutrient balance, etc
- Funding on competitive basis
- Hively- Suggest decrease grain (corn) acres changed to diversified rotations
- Coale- need driver stronger than economy to steer this
- Dubin- look at ag long scale to see balancing that we don't see shorter term
- Hively- Local farms cannot be pushed aside, local farms feed locals, maybe not China but feed people
- WG generally supports recommendations of report

WIP II Update-

- Postponed to next meeting (lack of attendance)

BMP Assessment Update

- 2 things going on- 1 EPA funded VTech, 2nd avenue through Tetratech
- Mid Atlantic- Non point source BMP focus
- Tetratech focusing on point source and supporting where needed
- Nutrient management is 1st of list, cover crops etc
- Just beginning, delay discussion so that we can bring in Tetratech
- Precision/ Decision will be rolled into nutrient management evaluation
- Brian Benim is lead at VTech
- Angstadt- Is there a charter given to this expert group?
- Dubin- Recommendation brought to group after consideration of expertise, literature, etc that address questions presented
- Angstadt- A charter to look at 2-3 BMPs isolated is not enough, need to look at system
- This is an interim step of building a better machine
- 2 step process, look at implementation and look at next phase of model
- Limitation of good local data, need better data- we all agree
- Angstadt- Lets take 40 different practices and define them as a single efficiency- it is obscure

- Instead of top down, why not certify specific farmers and assess county by percentage of certified
- Discussions on model modifications have begun
- Need to come up w short term goals (get numbers to plug in the model) and then suggestions for 2017 model construction (include frustration points of everyone, brought to EPA from workgroup)
- Need consideration of baseline/ basic assumptions- this needs to go on now

Meeting in Aug-

- Discussion on BMP Update
- Chris and Tim will discuss

In Attendance-

Jo Mercer, MDA

Tim Sexton, VA DCR

Kelly Shenk, EPA, CBPO

Suzy Friedman, EDF

Bob Ensor, NACD

Dana York, NACD

Hank Zygmunt, Resources Dynamics

Dean Hively, USGS

Jeff Sweeney, EPA

Bill Angstadt, DMAA

Fred Samadani, Environment and Water Resources Management

Paul Bredwell, Poultry and Egg Association

On the Phone-

Ted Tessler

Jennifer Nelson

Mark Davis

Bill Keeling

Fred Saminaini

Paul Bredwell

Glen carpenter

Quarine

Jim Glancey

Ken Patison

Susan Safeman

Tom Juengst

Aaron Ristow