Agriculture Workgroup

Who we are, where we've been

A quick review and reminder

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Who we are

- The Agriculture Workgroup provides expertise and leadership on development and implementation of policies, programs, and research to reduce pollutant loads delivered from agricultural lands and animal operations to upstream waters and the Chesapeake Bay.

A quick look at the last 2 years – 2014

- Poultry Litter Subcttee
- Verification process
- Manure treatment subgroup – the pre-Expert Panel process – launched Manure Treatment/Tech panel.
- Recommendations for PLS approved
- Resource Improvements protocol
- Nutrient Management EP for Ph 5
- Cover Crops EP for Ph 5
- Conservation Tillage EP for Ph 5
- Ag Modeling Subcomm (AMS) on all scenario builder modifications for Ph 6 including:
  - "proposed ag land uses" for SB; Fertilizer sales data; Alternative manure; nutrient manure production data source; Crop yield, crop nutrient needs, crop data inputs…
- Interim governance protocol allows 2/3 majority ☺
- **In 2014 – the AgWG met 20 times including 7 times in the last quarter of the year around NM Ph 5 dialogue.**

A quick look at the last 2 years – 2015

- Re-charged the NM Ph 5 panel to split P and N and examine specific land uses
  - Resulting in Recommendations that have since been adopted for the last 3 years of the Ph 5 model use.
- Thanked and decommissioned Ph 5 panels for Conservation Tillage and Cover Crops.
- Launched new Ph 6 Expert Panels:
  - NM; CC; CT; Manure injection/incorp; Animal waste management; Manure technologies, and by 2016, cropland irrigation, ag stormwater, ag ditches.
- Instigated significant outreach and education around NM to provide partnership and stakeholders with access to NM basics, intricacies, and improve overall transparency in communicating science around nutrient movement in the environment – systems based.
- **In 2015 – 19 AgWG sponsored meetings were held including a series of NM web-based briefings to communicate the findings of the Ph 5 NM Expert panel.**

Challenges ahead

- Working with state partners on continued efforts to improve confidence and transparency in reporting NM (and other practice) acreage
- Ensuring that Ph 6 accurately captures the complexities of agricultural management of the land uses
- Expert panel process – many panels moving simultaneously – each with significant human inputs and requiring support from CB Program staff.
- Continued work to bring together partners, educating the broader partnership about the needs and complexities of agriculture and improving farm-based efforts to deploy BMPs for managing nutrient and sediment loss from the farm.