

# Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

## Conference Call Summary

April 16, 2015

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Calendar Page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22594/>

---

### ACTIONS & DECISIONS

**DECISION:** The Agriculture Workgroup approved the March quarterly meeting minutes.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Cropland Irrigation panel charge with the addition of specifically mentioning collaboration with the Nutrient Management panel.

**DECISION REQUESTED:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the BMP credit duration spreadsheet, with the caveat that pre-amble language will be drafted and shared with the workgroup.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Agricultural Stormwater and Tailwater panel charge, with the caveat that the title would be revised for clarity.

**ACTION:** Nominees for the Cropland Irrigation and Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panels are due to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved each of the proposed membership lists for the phase 6.0 Expert Panels.

**ACTION:** Provide comments on governance and the BMP protocol to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net), [kristen@headwaters-llc.org](mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org), and [john.rhoderick@maryland.gov](mailto:john.rhoderick@maryland.gov).

### MINUTES

#### **10:00 Welcome, Introductions, Review Meeting Minutes**

- The Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs introduced the draft minutes from the March 18-19<sup>th</sup> Meeting.
- VA motion to approve, VA second
  - There were no objections

**DECISION:** The Agriculture Workgroup approved the March quarterly meeting minutes.

#### **10:05 Land Use Relative Loading Rates**

- Tom Jordan provided an update on the [review subgroup's progress and recommendations](#).
- Rhoderick: Will the subgroup have their long term recommendations by fall for use in version 6.0?
  - Jordan: That is the group's intention.
  - Dubin: Goal is to have it ready and approved by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to have it in the beta version of Phase 6.0.
- EPA: Can you explain the funding for the longer term project?
  - Dubin: Working with EPA on funding now.
  - EPA: There will be a call later this afternoon, however this is not a done deal. Need more information about what is being proposed.
  - Dubin: The subgroup's recommendations will need a published record to cite.

- EPA: Having an approved report by October is clearly the goal. If we miss the October deadline, what do we lose if we have to wait until 2016?
  - Shenk: If changes are to be made to Phase 6.0 beta, the Partnership will have to decide. We can't make any guarantees that we will make changes in 2016, because that will be a Partnership decision. Partnership has not committed to making any specific decisions in 2016.
  - Shenk: Loading rates are technically easy to change, however if the loading rates change in 2016, the 2017 model will be different from what the Partnership reviewed in 2016.
- VA: Will 5.3.2 estimates be used as a starting point?
  - VA: Modeling workgroup is doing sensitivity on the 5.3.2 model. The group should review this information.
  - Dubin: The group was looking at 5.3.2 as a reference.
- John Rhoderick thanked the members of the subgroup for their work on this effort.

#### **10:40 Cropland Irrigation EPEG**

- On behalf of the Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG), Jen Nelson presented the [final draft panel charge](#) for forming the future Phase 6.0 BMP Expert Panel for Agriculture Workgroup approval
- USGS is hoping to have data from their project in 2016, which would impact the panel's work.
- MDA: One of the charges built in to the Nutrient Management Panel Charge was collaboration with the irrigation group. Suggest mentioning collaboration within this charge as well.
  - Agreed.
- Rhoderick: Are there any objections to approving the cropland irrigation charge?
  - MDA motion, VA second.
  - There were no objections.
- Saacke Blunk: Suggest opening the invitation for nominees to a wider audience in the Partnership.
  - There were no objections.
- Nominations for the panel will be requested with a 2 week turnaround. We will come back to the Workgroup with a slate of nominees as well as a chair.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Cropland Irrigation panel charge with the addition of mentioning collaboration with the Nutrient Management panel.

#### **11:20 BMP Credit Duration**

- Mark Dubin presented the [BMP credit duration spreadsheet](#) on behalf of the subgroup.
- When did CREP start?
  - Late nineties. Some states were earlier than others.
- Will we say buffers that were installed pre-CREP have a credit duration of 15 years?
  - Would depend on the state contract length.
- What will we have to add to NEIEN to specify whether it is 10 or 15 year credit duration?
  - Will have to double records in the NEIEN appendix to allow for this level of reporting. Group can decide what the default would be.
  - 15 year contracts more common in recent years.
  - Suggest 10 year default.
    - There were no objections to a 10 year default credit duration.

- EPA: From maintenance standpoint how does this connect with assurance the buffer is being maintained?
  - Dubin: Group discussed maintenance and verification. With BMP verification you have 100% of initial inspections and verification. Then there will be sub-sampling through time.
- EPA recommend that we need to have the context as part of this document, showing that the duration of credits are linked to having a verification program.
  - VA also need to be clear that verification programs are not fully implemented until 2018.
  - Johnston: This credit duration will be used for calibration of the model, not used for progress until verification is complete.
- Watershed Technical workgroup will be looking at credit durations at their May meeting.
- WTWG will send their final products back to the source sector workgroups after their meeting.
- Matt Johnston will add the pre-ambles to the credit duration.
- MDA motion to approve, EPA second.
  - There were no objections.

**DECISION REQUESTED:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the BMP credit duration spreadsheet, with the caveat that the pre-ambles will be shared with the workgroup.

#### **11:00                    Agricultural Stormwater and Tailwater EPEG**

- On behalf of the Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG), John Lea-Cox presented the [final draft panel charge](#) for forming the future Phase 6.0 BMP Expert Panel for Agriculture Workgroup approval.
- Rhoderick: Does this BMP include field sediment ponds?
  - No.
  - EPA: Recommend re-naming the practice. Agricultural stormwater is used in CAFOs in reference to animal operations, which may be misleading.
- What land use would this be applied to?
  - Dubin: Container nurseries would be high input specialty, field grown would be low input specialty, and farmstead.
  - Recommend adding the language of which land uses this practice applies to up front in the document.
- VA where do the stormwater practices applied on pastures fit in?
  - May have to be a separate review.
  - Will be discussing the BMP panels that are in the queue at a future AgWG meeting.
- Saacke Blunk: Motion to approve the report with the title change with re-naming the BMP for clarity.
  - VA second.
  - There were no objections.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Agricultural Stormwater and Tailwater panel charge, with a change in title for clarity.

**ACTION:** Nominees for the Cropland Irrigation and Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panels are due to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11:40                    Phase 6.0 Panel Membership**

- Saacke Blunk: based on nominations from the Agriculture Workgroup, the Workgroup Co-Chairs, staff, and the Phase 6.0 BMP Expert Panel chairs have [proposed membership for the Phase 6.0 Expert Panels](#) that would balance out the needed expertise for the panel as well as be able to deliver what the panel charge suggested. We did have to do some additional recruitment around NRCS representation.
- Ken Staver presented proposed Cover Crop panelists.
- Kristen Saacke Blunk asked for AgWG approval of the cover crop panel.
- Emma Giese clarified that the next steps, if the AgWG approved the panel would be to send the proposed list out to the WQGIT, STAC, CAC, and other interested parties for comment. If no comments are received by the deadline given, the panel would be ok to convene for their first meeting. If significant comments are raised Emma will bring those back to the AgWG to address.
  - UMD motion to approve the cover crop panelists, EPA second.
  - There were no objections.
- Wade Thomason presented proposed Conservation Tillage panelists.
  - VA motion to approve the conservation tillage panelists, MDA second.
  - There were no objections.
- Curt Dell presented proposed Manure Injection/Incorporation panelists
  - MDA motion to approve the manure injection/incorporation panelists, UMD second.
  - There were no objections.
- Kristen noted that in some cases individuals were nominated who would need to be pulled in as advisors from time to time, either for programmatic, or other specific questions. The panels will occasionally be bringing in technical advisors.
- Frank Coale presented proposed Nutrient Management panelists.
  - VA motion to approve the nutrient management panelists, second.
  - There were no objections.
- Kristen noted that not all panelists have confirmed their willingness to serve, although most have been confirmed at this point.

**DECISION:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved each of the proposed membership lists for the phase 6.0 Expert Panels.

#### **Announcements**

- The Management Board is considering new governance that would apply to the GITs and workgroups. One component they are considering is to no longer allow voting. The workgroup chairs will be providing comments back to the Management Board, and AgWG members are invited to provide feedback to John and Kristen.
- The WQGIT is accepting comments on the BMP protocol by April 30<sup>th</sup>, and workgroup member comments are also invited.

**ACTION:** Provide comments on governance and the BMP protocol to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net), [kristen@headwaters-llc.org](mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org), and [john.rhoderick@maryland.gov](mailto:john.rhoderick@maryland.gov).

**12:00                      Adjourned**

**Next Meeting:** May 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00-12:00 conference call

#### **Participants:**

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Co-Chair)                      Headwaters LLC

John Rhoderick (Co-Chair)  
Mark Dubin (Coordinator)  
Rachel Rhodes  
Tim Sexton  
Bill Keeling  
Chris Brosch  
Susan Marquart  
Curtis Dell  
Emma Giese, Staff  
Jeff Sweeney  
Kelly Shenk  
Matt Johnston  
Jeremy Hanson  
Kim Snell-Zarcone  
Fred Samadani  
Lindsay Dodd  
Jennifer Nelson  
Frank Coale  
Ken Staver  
Wade Thomason  
Sally Szydlowski  
Lucinda Power  
Tom Jordan  
Robin Pellicano  
Ron Ohrel  
Steve Dressing  
Jessica Blackburn  
John Lea-Cox

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
UMD  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia DEQ  
Virginia Tech/VADCR  
Pennsylvania NRCS  
USDA Agricultural Research Service  
Chesapeake Research Consortium  
U.S. EPA  
U.S. EPA  
UMD  
Virginia Tech  
Conservation Pennsylvania  
Environmental & Water Resources Management Consulting  
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Resource Smart LLC  
UMD  
UMD  
Virginia Tech  
Water Stewardship  
EPA  
SERC  
MDE  
Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association  
TetraTech  
CAC  
UMD