Agricultural Ditch BMP Panel: Update/Review

Prepared for the Agriculture Workgroup 3/16/2017



Nutrient Management Section DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Serving Agriculture and Protecting Consumers

Panel Background

- Existing and soon to be approved NRCS BMPs related to ditches are not currently credited in Chesapeake Bay Model
- BMPs installed in ditch systems represent a potentially significant source of nutrient/sediment reductions
- 70% of Delaware's tax ditches most of Maryland's 821 miles of ditches are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- In the interest of assisting with a backlog of Expert Panels faced by the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Delaware and Maryland Departments of Agriculture are coordinating the panel and providing technical support



Panel Charge

- Define which specific BMPs have sufficient research to warrant inclusion in the CBWM.
- Define the conditions in which a reporting agency can receive a nutrient and/or sediment reduction credit for a BMP.
- Define the units to report practices to the CBWM.
- Recommend procedures for reporting, tracking and verification of the BMPs.
- Analyze any potential unintended consequences associated with the BMPs.



Panel Membership

Panelist	Affiliation
Ann Baldwin	National Resource Conservation Service
Ray Bryant	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Brooks Cahall	DNREC Drainage Program
Laura Christianson	University of Illinois
Dan Jaynes	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Chad Penn	USDA Agricultural Research Service
Stuart Schwartz	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Andy Ward	Ohio State University



BMPs

- Drainage Water Management/Structure for Water Control
- Channel Bed Stabilization
- Subsurface Drain
- Denitrifying Bioreactors
- Vegetated Subsurface Outlet/Saturated Buffer
- Open Channel/Two-Stage Ditch
- Phosphorus Removal System
- Gypsum Curtain
- Blind Inlet
- Ditch Dipouts



Current/Future Steps

- Public stakeholders meeting complete
- Currently eight pages of literature review are complete
- As sections are finished, they will be released to the panel membership for review

