

Meeting Minutes  
January 16th, 2020  
10:00 AM-11:00 AM  
Conference Call

**Workgroup Areas of Focus**

**Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation**  
**Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments**

Summary of Actions and Decisions:

- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the December meeting minutes.
- **Action:** Email Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) and Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by Jan 28<sup>th</sup> if interested in joining an ad hoc group charged with clarifying issues related to implementation, tracking, crediting, and verification of stream restoration practices on non-urban lands.

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes**

Workgroup Chair

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**Data & Modeling**

10:05 **Stream Restoration BMPs (30 min)**

Tom Schueler

The Urban Stormwater Workgroup (USWG) has been revisiting the BMP recommendations of the 2013 [Stream Restoration Expert Panel](#) report sponsored by the USWG. Tom Schueler, Chesapeake Stormwater Network, will discuss the review process that has taken shape in the USWG, what has been accomplished, and what is still left to do. In December, the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) requested that the AgWG revisit the use of default load reduction values assigned to stream restoration practices and applied to agricultural settings following approval of one of a series of USWG memos ([Recommendations for Improving the Application of the Stream Restoration Prevented Sediment Protocol](#)) that have come out of the review process.

- Jason Keppler: When will the report be done?
  - Tom Schueler: Three reports are out already (verification, outfall stabilization, and prevented sediment) and the other two will be out soon.
- Dave Montali: What is the hold up with PA DEP from the WQGIT conversation?
  - Tom Schueler: They have concerns about the stream restoration philosophy and design approach used. We are in discussion with them regarding their comments, but it's been a difficult path forward. After the two-month comment period, these comments came in late.

- Bill Keeling: As I remember, Tom highlighted that this was an urban stream restoration report without a focus on agriculture. It was already acknowledged that there are different stressors in the urban and agricultural sectors. I don't believe the WQGIT decided that all default values for stream restoration should be removed. Many states only have linear feet of stream restoration reported.
  - Dave Montali: Our concerns are similar. Our WIP has a large focus on non-urban voluntary stream restoration and we want our practitioners to follow the protocols. We did not have an issue with the revised language in Protocol 1, but we have a real-world concern with reporting of site-specific information and the monitoring piece as well.
  - Tom Schueler: The conversation at the WQGIT was that the AgWG made a decision approving the use of the expert panel geared toward urban stream restoration in the agricultural sector as well. The AgWG needs to have some sort of expert panel to assess the agricultural side of these default value, monitoring, and verification issues. The USWG has done their job for the urban side, and if there are issues with applying it to agriculture, you have about 18 months to sort it out.
- Jason Keppler: I would suggest that an interested group gets together to tackle this issue.
- Kristen Saacke-Blunk: I think the experts that were involved in developing the urban report are the same experts we would reach out to get this information for the agricultural landscape. This may not be as large of a lift as we think. We are focused on the water quality benefits in this group, and the documents already developed are very pertinent to the agricultural landscape. The stream bank restoration work already done from the USWG is very helpful.
- **Action:** Email Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) and Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by Jan 28<sup>th</sup> if interested in joining an ad hoc group charged with clarifying issues related to implementation, tracking, crediting, and verification of stream restoration practices on non-urban lands.

10:35 **Nomination for 2020-2021 Term (10 min)**

Chair

Time to review the governance protocols answer any questions regarding the nomination and voting process for the leadership and at-large positions open for the 2020-2021 term. **All nominations are due NO LATER than January 17<sup>th</sup>.**

- Jason Keppler: 6 at-large positions, chair, and vice chair nominations are open.
- Loretta Collins: The signatory members will submit their ranking votes and the new at-large membership will be confirmed at the face-to-face meeting in February.
- Jason Keppler: We have received one nomination for chair, Gary Felton from UMD. The Vice-Chair position is still open for nominations.
  - Matt Monroe: The Vice-Chair is a support role and it's not too much work but does include behind the scenes work.
- Kristen Saacke-Blunk: Is the Vice-Chair intended to step into the role of chair after their term?
  - Jason Keppler: That is the goal, however in reality that is a difficult commitment that we don't require.
  - Loretta Collins: That is in the governance but has not seemed to work out.
- Kristen Saacke-Blunk: I think the jurisdictional partners always have a large stake in the direction of this AgWG. I propose the land grant universities and extension take turns leading and facilitating the AgWG as leaders so the jurisdictional members can continue

with their roles. I would love to see a rotation between institutions and get them on board with a path forward. I wanted to suggest this idea to use extension for what it does best.

- Jason Keppler: Having been the chair for 2 years, it's been difficult to be impartial with my role at MD that have a direct impact on our producers. I think that is a good idea. It would be great to have someone from Penn State or Virginia Tech.
- Kristen Saacke-Blunk: We could go to all the states and try to get buy in to this plan, but it would call for re-writing the guidance and leave it up to the institution to find the right person to serve.
- Loretta Collins: That's an innovative idea, Gary Felton at UMD has an extension role and that may be a good start to moving in that direction. Hopefully we can discuss at the February meeting.

#### 10:45 **New Business & Announcements (10 min)**

- Lee McDonnell named as the **new Chief of the Science, Analysis and Implementation Branch** in the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO), effective January 5, 2020.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is soliciting pre-proposals under the Chesapeake Bay **Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants** program to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Program description [here](#)
  - INSR pre-proposals are due by midnight, **Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020** and must be submitted through NFWF's online application at [www.nfwf.org/easygrants](http://www.nfwf.org/easygrants).
- Public comment period OPEN for the **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**. Comment period **closes Feb 4, 2020**. see rules at link below:
  - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/06/2019-26268/conservation-reserve-program>
- New rules expected SOON for **FSA CREP** program.

### **Next Meeting:**

#### **February 20, 10AM-3PM: Face-to-Face Meeting**

Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112  
Annapolis, MD 21403

#### ***Pending Topics:***

**Accounting & Reporting:** Resource Improvement BMPs- Are they being accounted for at full potential?

• BMP crosswalk updates

**Implementation:** Strategizing technical assistance • Addressing the gaps- What the Phase III WIPs can tell us • Technical Service Providers

**Innovation:** Hemp- What are nutrient & sediment implications? (**Early 2019**) • Furthering research to update nutrient fertility recommendation- Why the time is now and where is the support?; Soil Health Initiatives (**Early 2019**) NRCS, Soil Health Institute

**Data & Modeling:** Animal data input updates for animal • USGS- Latest information tying water quality trends to BMP implementation

**CBP Assignments:** Adapting to climate change in the ag sector (**Feb 2019**)

## Meeting Participants

Jason Keppler	MDA
Loretta Collins	UMD
Matt Monroe	WV DA
Allie Wagner	CRC
Greg Albrecht	NY State Dept. of Ag and Markets
Amanda Barber	NY State Dept. of Ag and Markets
Frank Schneider	PA State Conservation Commission
Jerry Ours	WV DA
Cindy Shreve	WV DA
Clint Gill	DDA
Emily Dekar	USC
Adam Lyon	MDA
Dr. Gurpal Toor	UMD
Paul Bredwell	U.S. Poultry and Egg
Seth Mullins	VA DCR
Jeff Hill	LCCD
Barry Frantz	NRCS
Kristen Saacke-Blunk	Headwaters, LLC
Ruth Cassilly	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	VT
Dave Graybill	PA Farm Bureau
Ron Ohrel	American Dairy Association North East
Jeff Sweeney	EPA
Bill Keeling	VA DEQ
Dave Montali	WV DEP
Marel King	CBC
Ken Staver	UMD
Tom Schueler	CSN