

Prioritization Update

AGRICULTURE WORKGROUP

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

The Charge of the Agriculture Workgroup

Provide expertise and leadership on development and implementation of policies, programs, and research

Reduce pollutant loads delivered from agricultural lands and animal operations to upstream waters and the Chesapeake Bay

Value: Improving water quality across our shared region while maintaining agriculture's viability and sustainability

Goal: Balance Science & Data Collection / Improved & Increased Implementation

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting and Reporting

Ensuring that Best Management Practices are accurately reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program for credit towards water quality goals.

Implementation

Making WIP Plans reality

Innovation

Staying abreast of and evaluating new/innovative agricultural conservation practices that mitigate nutrient loss

Data & Modeling

Ensuring that the agricultural sector is represented accurately

CBP Assignments

Addressing tasks and projects assigned by the Partnership

Accounting & Reporting

Item	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
NRCS BMP Crosswalks	Full-accounting of BMP implementation across watershed via stream-lined reporting	Mark Dubin, Barry Frantz	Reporting back to AgWG in Fall 2019
Non-costshared BMP Identification	Accounting for ag BMPs implemented outside of agency funding channels and reporting structures		
Resource Improvement Checklists	Crediting practices that improve water quality, but do not meet NRCS Standards & Specifications		Identification of additional practices & develop appropriate checklists
USDA Data vs State Data	Gaps / Double counting of practices		
Accounting for BMPs nearing max credit duration/ end of lifespan	Strategies to manage the verification of BMPs		Presentations by jurisdictions
Privacy concerns related to BMP reporting	1619 and other data sharing agreements among partners		Presentation by USDA & USGS

Implementation

Item	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Barriers	Overcoming roadblocks to implementation needed to improve water quality		Special topic: BMP implementation on leased land
Technical & Financial Resources	Approaches to address financial challenges to BMP implementation		Provide information on current funding sources and innovative programs
Co-Benefits	Recognition and promotion of co-benefits associated with conservation implementation		Presentations: Soil Health Water Re-Use Others?
Communication: Partner Efforts Across Watershed	Utilizing the Bay watershed-wide workgroup membership as a forum for idea exchange and collaboration.		
Communication: State/District/Private	Using the AgWG as information exchange forum among state, district, and private entities		

Innovation

Item	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Expert Panels	Identifying and quantifying the impact of effective ag BMPs on water quality	Various- in coordination with Loretta Collins & Jeremy Hanson	In-process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropland Irrigation • Ag Ditch Management • Animal Mortality Future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Capture & Reuse
NRCS Interim Standards	New NRCS practices recently adopted		
State Practices & Resource Improvements	Provide a forum to identify, discuss and evaluate non-NRCS conservation practices		
Current Research	New practices on the horizon		NRCS Conservation Innovations Grant Program Presentation Land Grant University

Data & Modeling

Item	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Artificial Drainage	Understanding water conveyance and ramification on water quality goals	Clint Gill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach to Public Drainage Associations • Report back Q-2/3, 2019
Animal Data	Ensuring accurate representation of animal sectors in the watershed model	Mark Dubin, Jeremy Daubert (Dairy), Paul Bredwell (Poultry), ? (Swine)	Dairy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • post-meeting brainstorm call with interested member Poultry/swine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from leads, as appropriate
Fertilizer Data	Improving county-level distribution on fertilizer sales data	Mark Dubin, Tim Sexton, ?	Coordinate and plan stakeholder meeting for Q1, 2019
Nutrient Fertility Recommendations	Updating nutrient fertility recommendations based on new science and technology in the agronomic sector		Communicate with Land Grant Universities to gauge interest, needs, feasibility of updating nutrient recommendations

CBP Assignments

Item	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Soil P Data	Better representation of soil P in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model-per Management Board Sept 21, 2017 recommendations	Frank Coale, Mark Dubin, ?	Report back to AgWG from Frank Coale regarding feedback from regional soil labs
Climate Change / BMP Resiliency	Ensuring that BMP effectiveness values are in sync with changing climate conditions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup • AgWG re-visit topic in Jan-Feb 2019
Emerging Contaminates			

September Meeting

Accounting & Reporting

NRCS BMP Crosswalk Update

Maryland's Resource Improvement & Verification Program

Implementation

Ag Issues and Initiatives in Sussex County

Pay for Performance

Innovation

Expert Panel Updates

Data & Modeling

Nutrient Application Recommendation Updates

Land Use Change Discussion

CBP Assignments

Soil P data in Phase 6 Model

Moving Forward

Standard Agenda Format

Introduction

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Standing Agenda Items (Balance Time)

- Accounting & Reporting
- Implementation
- Innovation
- Data & Modeling
- CBP Assignments

New Business

Review of Action Items & Decisions

Adjourn