

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
OCTOBER 15TH, 2013 CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

ACTION ITEMS AND DECISIONS

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Conservation Tillage BMP Panel Report.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Cover Crop BMP Panel Report.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Nutrient Management BMP Panel Report.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Jenn Volk, WQGIT Acting Chair, welcomed everyone to the call and confirmed call participants.
 - The Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management expert panels will be presenting their recommendations for WQGIT approval today. The panels were charged with addressing changes to be made to the current model in 2013 in addition to their long term recommendations. There are time constraints with implementing these recommendations in time for 2013 progress, including that the jurisdictions will need to know what to report. Due to the tight timeline, the WQGIT is moving forward with making a decision about these BMPs today.
 - Prior to the shutdown, Rich Batiuk, Science Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, indicated support in the partnership continuing to work through the shutdown so as not to impede progress.
 - When the government does re-open, our federal partners will be sent the minutes from today's meeting, along with the full reports and presentation materials so that they have the opportunity to provide their comments.

2. Conservation Tillage Expert Panel Recommendations

- Wade Thomason, Panel Chair, presented the Conservation Tillage Panel's interim Phase 5.3.2 recommendations for WQGIT member review and approval.
- Beth McGee (CBF): Will the tracking practice for this BMP be completely new, or is this practice already done?
 - Thomason: These transects will involve additional work in the states that are not already conducting them.
 - John Rhoderick (MDA): Noted that it is a new practice for Maryland, but they will be exploring how best to address it.

- Dave Montali (WV): Will the HR BMP increase the amount of expected phosphorus and is there a potential for this practice to receive higher nutrient loads than CT?
 - Thomason: For now, any nutrient reduction from the low till category would be included in HR.
 - Dubin: Clarified that states will receive base credit for the low till land use and additional credit for HR as a BMP.
 - Thomason: There will likely be different values for P in different regions due to slopes and soils. One potential in this practice is that there is minimum disturbance tillage allowed, which may help deal with the P stratification.
- Frank Coale (UMD): The Conservation Tillage panel made a similar presentation to the Agriculture Workgroup last week, who fully support this BMP.
- Ted Tesler (PA): The Watershed Technical Workgroup moved all three panel reports forward at their meeting last week.
- Jenn Volk: If there are any objections to approving this report today, please voice them now.
 - No objections.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Conservation Tillage BMP Panel Report.

3. Cover Crops Expert Panel Recommendations

- Jack Meisinger, Panel Chair, presented the Cover Crop Panel's interim Phase 5.3.2 recommendations for WQGIT member review and approval.
- Dave Montali (WV): Why is forage radish only allowed for early planting, while radish + grass is allowed during early and normal planting?
 - Meisinger: This is because the grass will last through the winter, while forage radish does not, so the mixture of radish and grass can be planted later and still be effective.
 - Matt Johnston: Will add normal planting to forage radish with grass in the appendix.
- Montali: Are there any regional limitations of cover crop species?
 - Meisinger: All species of crops can be used throughout the watershed, based on agronomic recommendations. States that do not recommend certain crops can report zero acres of that crop.
- Jenn Volk: Asked for any objections to approving the Cover Crop Panel report today.
 - None heard.
- The chairs of the Agriculture and Watershed Technical Workgroup confirmed that the report was approved at their respective meetings last week.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Cover Crop BMP Panel Report.

4. Nutrient Management Expert Panel Recommendations

- Chris Brosch, Panel Chair, presented the Nutrient Management Panel's interim Phase 5.3.2 recommendations for WQGIT member review and approval.
- Matt Johnston: Noted that because there are now three stand alone BMPs, states will need to report the acres separately.
 - Brosch: The acres will be credited as listed in the appendix.
- McGee: Do these recommendations address the sequencing issue?
 - Brosch: Unfortunately because that issue varies from county to county, the expert panel was not able to address it at this time. The panel agrees that these issues do need to be addressed in a future recommendation.
- The chairs of the Agriculture and Watershed Technical Workgroup confirmed that the report was approved at their respective meetings last week.
- Volk: Are there any objections to approving the Nutrient Management report today?
 - None heard.

DECISION: WQGIT members approved the Nutrient Management BMP Panel Report.

- James Davis-Martin (VA-DEQ): How will these new BMPs be reported?
 - Matt Johnston: A new draft of the NEIEN appendix is currently being reviewed by the Watershed Technical Workgroup. They will be finalizing it by the November meeting, at which point everything will be ready for reporting in early November.
- Volk: If the government remains shutdown, expect Monday's WQGIT meeting to be cancelled. A cancellation email will be sent out later this week if needed.

Adjourned

Participants

Jenn Volk, UD

Mark Dubin, UMD

Frank Coale, UMD

Chris Brosch, VT-VADEQ

Jack Meisinger, USDA-ARS

Wade Thomason, VT

Tim Sexton, VA-DCR

Emma Giese, CRC

John Schneider, DE

George Onyullo, DC

Bruce Michael, DNR

Helen Stewart, DNR

John Rhoderick, MDA

Jackie Lendrum, NY DEC
James Davis-Martin, VA DEQ
Wade Thomason, VT
Dave Montali, WV
Marel Raub, CBC
Dana York, Green Earth Connection
Beth McGee, CBF
Kim Snell-Zarcone, Conservation PA
Ross Mandel, Potomac River Commission
Karl Berger, MWCOG
Pat Buckley, PA DEP
Ted Tesler, PA DEP