

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Meeting Materials

Summary of Actions and Decisions

Decision: The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the November AgWG call.

Action: Jackie Pickford, Staffer, will distribute a poll for current voting members to rank at-large nominees for the 2023 - 2025 term to be completed **by COB Monday, Feb 6th**. Confirmation of the new at-large members will occur at the February AgWG meeting.

Action: If you want to be involved in the effort to gather Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) data to qualify for Dairy Precision Feeding BMP implementation, please contact Mark Dubin (mdubin@chesapeakebay.net) and Frank Schneider (fschneider@pa.gov).

Introduction

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** – Jeremy Daubert, AgWG Chair.

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the November AgWG call.

CBP Assignments/Data & Modeling

10:05 **Agricultural Data Inputs (15 min)** - Tom Butler, EPA.

Tom provided an update on the Phase 7 Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) and their [December](#) and [January](#) meetings.

Discussion

Kathy Boomer: Fertilizers vary greatly. More effective and efficient fertilizers are being developed. Are we thinking about that as a BMP?

Tom Butler: Anything is fair game for inclusion for Phase 7. Lot of different perspectives in the group to investigate issues like that.

Dave Graybill (in chat): where are the names posted of the individuals that serve on the fertilizer committee?

Tom Butler: Not posted publicly yet, we are trying to get a webpage up on the CBP website where we will post all of the individual members.

Jackie Pickford (in chat): Once the membership is finalized I can make sure it is distributed to the AgWG.

Dave Graybill: Confidence level in this effort will go up if we know who the expertise is.

Ken Staver: Who is driving the cart on the fertilizer stuff? Is it the AgWG, the fertilizer group or the Ag Modeling Team?

Tom Butler: Anything regarding Phase 7 will be decided by the AMT. For Phase 6, I think the fertilizer group will report to the PSC directly.

Alex Ehols (in chat): Do we have fertilizer suppliers represented in the working group? How about Ag agronomists?

Tom Butler: Don't have industry reps yet, but we have a separate effort trying to recruit their expertise.

Kathy Boomer (in chat): Lots of gov't funding available to support research to develop next generation fertilizers and more effective application prescriptions.

Alex Ehols (in chat): We have seen a huge drop in application rates based on dealer recommendations when they shift to an income model instead of yield.

Kathy Boomer (in chat): 1) The fertilizer expert group could provide powerful direction to research needs. 2) Would be great to leverage/include expertise of fertilizer industry. Pressure to advance sustainable agriculture is leading them to think about how to work collaboratively to address shared challenges.

10:20 **AgWG At-Large Membership Nominations: Upcoming Timeline (10 min)** - Tom Butler, EPA. Tom outlined the process for approving and ranking at-large members for the 2023-2025 term, including the upcoming timeline and expectations. Nominees spoke to the AgWG about their qualifications and interest in the position.

- **December 2022 – January 2023:** Call for nominations.
- **January 23, 2023:** Poll will be sent out to voting membership (signatory and "mid-term" at-large) to rank nominees.
- **February 16, 2023:** Confirmation of new at-large members.

Action: Jackie Pickford, Staffer, will distribute a poll for current voting members to rank at-large nominees for the 2023 - 2025 term to be completed by COB Monday, Feb 6th. Confirmation of the new at-large members will occur at the February AgWG meeting.

Accounting & Reporting

10:30 **Progress report: Dairy Precision Feeding Update (10 min)** – Mark Dubin, UMD, Frank Schneider, PA SCC.

As a follow up from the [November 2022 discussion](#) on Dairy Precision Feeding (DPF) tracking and reporting criteria, Mark and Frank provided a brief update on the progress of jurisdictions to gather Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) to quantify DPF implementation.

Discussion

Ken Staver: Long term, do you see this affecting the manure nutrient bucket in the model?

Mark Dubin: That's certainly a possibility.

Ken Staver: Inorganic N has a higher sensitivity load than manure N, so when you replace manure with fertilizer, you get higher loads. Right now DPF is a BMP, but you think it might affect the quantities as well?

Mark Dubin: Yes, I believe so.

Frank Schneider (in chat): Thanks Mark, as an FYI, PSU is expanding on their research with a grant and assistance of the Nature Conservancy. MUN is a win win for all states if we can get a larger data set

Dave Graybill (in chat): good work Mark on the MUNs project. Just like Alex's comments about fertilizer recommendation changes the past 2 years, the feed protein levels in dairy have really evolved a lot in the past 20 years.

Action: If you want to be involved in the effort to gather Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) data to qualify for the Dairy Precision Feeding implementation, please contact Mark Dubin (mdubin@chesapeakebay.net) and Frank Schneider (fschneider@pa.gov).

10:40 **Crediting NRCS Soil & Water Conservation Plan Practices (15 min)** – Leon Tillman, USDA-NRCS. Leon provided an update on crediting individual components of the Soil and Water Conservation Plan BMP. This topic was presented at the [September](#) AgWG meeting.

Discussion

Ken Staver: So there will be a sliding scale for SWCP from state to state?

Leon Tillman: No, it may be different based on the conversion rate to acres. That conversion is not done bay-wide. It would be up to the states to convert from feet, for example, to acres. That is how it would differ.

Mark Dubin: Reason the Simpson Weammert-Lane panel decided to combine this into a single practice was because there was not enough data available for individual practices.

James Martin (in chat): Am I understanding that Option 2 is status quo, options 1 and 3 would require new expert panels and option 4 kicks the issue to another group

Leon Tillman: Correct.

James Martin (in chat): Does the partnership have the stomach (or budget) for new expert panels

Olivia Devereux (in chat): Here is a link to the BMP Review Protocol:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/bmp-review-protocol>

Jackie Pickford (in chat): I believe EPA set aside a budget for expert panels but the actual number has not been publicly released yet.

10:55 **New Business & Announcements (10 min)**

- **Cover crop BMP verification hybrid method**
 - Present AgWG approved [cover crop survey hybrid method](#) to WTWG in Feb 2023 for update to verification protocols.
- **Nov 2022 - Jan 2023: NFWF's Chesapeake Ag Networking Forum.** (Virtual).
 - 📄 Registration/Recordings: <https://sites.google.com/view/2022canf/home>
 - 📄 Contact: Joe Toolan, Manager of CB Programs (joe.toolan@nfwf.org)
- **2022 Ag Census is here!**
 - Responses are due by Feb. 6, 2023 nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

11:05 **Review of Action and Decision Items (10 min)**

11:15 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 16th: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom

Participants

Jackie Pickford, CRC
Jeremy Daubert, VT
Tom Butler, EPA
Elizabeth Hoffman, MD
Greg Albrecht, NY
Kate Bresaw, PA
Seth Mullins, VA
Marel King, CBC
Jeff Sweeney, EPA
Jeff Hill, YCCD
Leon Tillman, NRCS
Dave Graybill, Farm Bureau
Jenna Schueler, CBF
Ken Staver, UMD
Paul Bredwell, US Poultry and Egg
RO Britt, Smithfield Foods
Matt Royer, PSU
Mark Dubin, UME/CBPO

Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal
Grant Gulibon, PA Farm Bureau
Mark Nardi USGS
Matt Monroe WVDA
Lisa Beatty, PA DEP
Sushanth Gupta, MD DNR
Cindy Shreve, WV is here
Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting
Keith Bollt, US EPA
Leah Martino, EPA R3
Kathryn Jo Brasier, PSU
Alex Echols, Campbell Foundation
Kathy Boomer, STAC and Foundation for Food & Ag Research
Emily Dekar, Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Jim Riddell, VA Cattleman Association
Nick Hepfl, HRG, Inc.
James Martin, VA DCR

****Common Acronyms**

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)
AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)
BMP- Best Management Practice
BMPVAHAT- [BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team](#)
CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)
CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)
CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office (houses EPA, federal partners, and various contractors and grantees working towards CBP goals)
CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
CRC- [Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)
DPF – Dairy Precision Feeding
EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency
MUN – Milk Urea Nitrogen
NEIEN- National Environmental Information Exchange Network
NFWF- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)
PA DEP- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
STAC- [Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee](#)
TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load
WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)
WTWG- [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)
UMD- University of Maryland
USDA-ARS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Agricultural Research Service*
USDA-NASS- United States Department of Agriculture-*National Agricultural Statistics Service* USDA-NRCS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Natural Resources Conservation Service*