

BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team

Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Summary of Actions and Decisions:

- **ACTION:** Please review each Chair nominee's qualifications on the [calendar page](#) and vote with your primary affiliate organization, jurisdiction or source sector workgroup in [this poll](#) by COB Sept. 22nd. Each primary affiliate organization, jurisdiction or source sector workgroup will receive one vote; so please collaborate with those within your organization.
 - Please contact both Vanessa and Whitney with any questions or concerns.
- **ACTION:** Provide Vanessa Van Note (vannote.vanessa@epa.gov) with feedback or clarification on the "Record of Verification Concerns" [document attached](#).
- **ACTION:** If interested, jurisdiction representatives may fill out this [Doodle Poll](#) to set up a call with Vanessa Van Note to discuss concerns and feedback related to their individual BMP Verification Program.

9:30 AM

Welcome, Introductions, Roll Call, Vanessa Van Note (EPA), Coordinator

- Welcome
- Roll Call of participants
- Announcement – Vanessa Van Note (EPA); Update on winter interns
 - If there is a course of action my October we may be able to utilize the winter interns and give them the task of a literature review but the key is to have a clear work charge for them by the last week of October (next six weeks). The workgroup will discuss this further during October's meeting.
- Announcement – Due to the importance of discussing the climate policy options, we were unable to secure a spot on the August WQGIT call to request approval of the updated task statement. Comments were extended to the WQGIT. This will be on the September WQGIT call agenda with a decision requested.
- Announcement – Jeff Sweeney (EPA); Verification concerns assigned to and addressed by the WTWG.
 - At the previous WTWG a presentation was given on cut-off and back-out procedures and a discussion will be continuing with a recommendation eventually coming back to the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team on any changes. The WTWG is also discussing timing of QAPs and quality requirements of BMP Data in the QAPs and ensuring there is transparency in terms of credit duration. As WTWG has discussions around these topics they will be bringing them to the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team.
- Announcement – Vanessa Van Note (EPA); Next Meeting/Future Meeting Topics
 - Jason Keppler with present on MD's verification program to expect that into the future

- Other workgroups working on verification will have topics brought into conversation with the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team

ACTION: If interested, jurisdiction representatives may fill out this Doodle Poll to set up a call with Vanessa Van Note to discuss concerns and feedback related to the BMP Verification Program by COB Sept. 11th.

9:50 AM **Chair Nominations**, *Vanessa Van Note (EPA), Coordinator*

- Time allotted for individuals nominated for the Chair position to introduce themselves and discuss their interest and qualifications for the position.
- Voting will take place privately via an online poll by Sept. 22nd
- Per voting guidelines to maintain fairness in the voting process, each affiliate organization or jurisdiction will only be given one vote
- The Chair for this group will be announced at the October Meeting.

Summary: Elliot Kellner, James Martin, and Jason Keppler shared their expertise and experience regarding BMP Verification and water quality. There was discussion amongst the group regarding the potential of a Co-Chair or Vice-Chair between chair nominees James Martin and Jason Keppler. Support was given from others in the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team for a Vice or Co-Chair. A Vice or Co-Chair will be considered in the voting process dependent upon consensus from voting members.

ACTION: Please review each Chair nominee’s qualifications on the [calendar page](#) and vote with your affiliate organization or jurisdiction in [this poll](#) by COB Sept. 22nd

10:20 AM **Resource Improvement (RI) Practices vs NRCS Conservation Practices**, *Vanessa Van Note (EPA), Coordinator*

- Explaining the origin of RI practices and the difference between RI credit durations and other BMP credit durations

Summary: Some jurisdictions are currently reporting RI Practices including NY, MD, PA, and VA. WV is not yet reporting RI Practices. The group recommends having someone currently on NRCS join the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team.

Chat Conversation:

- **Dana York:** CSP CSP Contracts are 5 years at the minimum.
- **Rebecca Hanmer:** CREP buffer contracts are longer than 3 years. I hear 10, 13, 15 years from FWG members
- **Alana Hartman:** The 313 practice is usually for dry waste in WV

- **Emily Dekar:** 313 practice can be both liquid or dry storage in NY there are notes in the standards for all types of storages in the NY standard
- **Ted Tessler:** PA has reported RI practices

10:40 AM

[In-Depth Look at the Establishment of Credit Duration](#), *Vanessa Van Note (EPA)*

- An in-depth analysis on all factors that were considered when developing verification protocols and procedures for agriculture structural BMPs, agriculture (non-urban) stream restoration, and agriculture forest planting.

Summary of Discussion: The group needs to come to an agreement in the future of what we mean with partial-variable credit. One way to distinguish this is partial credit on the submission end and the expiration end. Discussion around Urban Forestry BMPs and the Forestry workgroup believes it would make sense to put together a recommendation to the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team for credit duration and lifespan. Additional conversation was had on the procedures for the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team in regard to prioritizing BMPs, who is doing the literature review, and the timeline. Vanessa Van Note envisions the work as a partnership and collaboration between workgroups and the Action Team.

ACTION: Vanessa Van Note will confirm with the Urban Stormwater workgroup the difference between the Non-Urban and Urban Stream Restoration BMP Verification and duration.

Chat Conversation:

- **Ted Tessler:** Issue with FSA CREP Buffers not differentiating New vs. Re-enrolled acres
- **Sally Claggett:** Could refer to it as "permit period" instead of permit life span (wont have as many different life spans)
- **Matt Ehrhart:** Note that some practices include multiple components, which may have different lifespans. for example, a forest buffer on a farm may have the trees & shrubs, livestock or equipment crossings, fencing, and watering systems.
- **Sally Claggett:** The EP report did not focus on credit duration for either grass or forest. The FWG should provide updated professional judgement on life span and credit life span as there are new studies on that
- **Alana Hartman:** On slide 23, the parentheses could be important to the discussion as well, "the clock on those 5 years begins after ..." because then difference between ag and urban is not as great.
- **Rebecca Hanmer:** We have said we would want at least 15 years for RFBs. We can look at the broader group. Yes, Jeremy is correct about the urban forest differences that were considered by the Expert Panel

- **Mark Dubin:** I agree with the previous points made that urban versus agricultural land use conversions to forested or grass riparian buffers differ from each other beyond just the plantings themselves. For agricultural land uses there are additional supporting practices which can be critical to the survival of the buffer, i.e. fencing and livestock watering facilities for pastured land uses. The AgWG used the NRCS practice lifespans as the basis for the suggested agricultural BMPs. Thanks!
- **Rebecca Hanmer:** James mentions the LU change BMPs and verification vs imagery. Vanessa, this might be another area where one of your information presentations.
- **KC Filippino:** I think it would be good to bring in Peter Claggett or the Chesapeake Conservancy to explain what they can and can't verify via imagery. We're already in discussions about some urban SW BMPs that may not be captured by imagery.
- **Matt Ehrhart:** Sorry to jump off, but I need to join another call.
- **James Martin:** Perhaps a presentation from Peter Claggett, Chesapeake Conservancy or Univ. of Vermont on what is or is not captured in the land cover imagery
- **Sally Claggett:** Agree with Jeremy and James

11:10 AM

Concerns Related to BMP Credit Durations, *Vanessa Van Note (EPA), Coordinator*

- Presentation on Verification Concerns collected thus far.
- Open discussion of Verification Concerns from Jurisdictions and Source Sector Workgroups.

Summary: James Martin (VA) commented that he thought of this on the expiration side and that the initial implementation or practice reduction efficiency is the business of expert panels and not in the purpose of this group.

ACTION: Provide Vanessa Van Note (vannote.vanessa@epa.gov) with feedback or clarification on the [concerns related to BMP Credit Duration](#).

11:30 AM

Meeting adjourns

- Meeting Recap – Vanessa Van Note (EPA); Next Meeting/Future Meeting Topics
- Next group meeting will be **Thursday, October 8th from 9:30 – 11:30 am**

Participants:

Vanessa Van Note, EPA
 Whitney Ahead, CRC
 Jeff Sweeney, EPA
 James Martin, VA
 Ted Tessler, PA

Alana Hartman, WV
Bill Tharpe, MD Dept. of AG
Matt English, DC
Loretta Collins, UMD AgWG
Jeremy Hanson, VT
Gary Felton, UMD AgWG
Cassandra Davis, NYS DEC
Clare Sevcik, DE DNRC
Jessica Rodriguez, DoD
Elliot Kellner, WVU
Rebecca Hamner, Forestry Workgroup
Sally Claggett, Forestry Workgroup
Jason Keppler, MD
KC Filippino, HRPDC LUWG
Brittany Sturgis, DE
Emily Dekar, NY Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Dana York, Green Earth Connection
Kurt Dell, USDA ARS
Matt Ehrhart, Citizens Advisory Committee
Jennifer Starr, Local Government Advisory Committee