

Nutrient Management Subcommittee Meeting minutes of September 25, 2018, held at the Rappahannock Office Building in Tappahannock.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by David Kindig, the committee chair.

Voting members present were: David Kindig, Jim Riddell, Danny Withers, Keith Burgess. Non-voting committee members were: Blair Gordon, Tim Sexton; Public attendees: Keith Balderson.

All voting members were present which made a quorum.

Minutes of the previous nutrient management subcommittee meeting held September 10, 2018, at Dept of Forestry, in Charlottesville were distributed, to all members. With no objections to those minutes, the meeting advanced to the next order of business.

The original list of items to be address by this committee distributed at the September 25, 2018 meeting was updated with 6 more items assigned to be addressed by the subcommittee. This updated list was distributed all attendees. Items added are designated:

9N – Nitrogen Timing and Placement as a BMP

10N – Section B. Polices and Specifications, 2. Eligibility, add the following statement: "NMP's developed by DCR staff and/or approved by DCR as part of a VPA or VPDES permit meet the NMP component of this practice. These plans are deemed to be in accordance with VPA and VPDES permit requirements and/or 4VAC50-85-130D. 2&3., 4VAC50-85 et seq., and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014)."

11N – Take out the statement of turning in verifications to the district in the NM-1A spec

12N-Define "Fully Implemented Nutrient Management Plan"

13N – Planner/Producer form for NM-1A B.2.xi.b – Develop appropriate wording that clearly identifies what is needed to meet this requirement

14N – Add NM-2 Practice back into the cost-share program

Since the charge of this subcommittee is nutrient management issues, of the 14 items assigned to this committee, it was requested by DCR leadership of the cost share program, that recommendations be developed by the committee to be brought back to the October 18, 2018 TAC meeting for items 12N and 13N, and then as time allowed for any other item that attain consensus. This was agreeable to all subcommittee members present.

Item 13N was the first item discussed by the committee.

"Planner/Producer form for NM-1A B.2.xi.b – Develop appropriate wording that clearly identifies what is needed to meet this requirement"

To begin this discussion we identified the role of the planner and farmer for this statement. The farmer will be the one to keep the records with enough detail that applications can be confidently matched to the recommendations in the nutrient management plan. The planner can then certify the farmer has made the applications in accordance with the recommendations in the plan.

The discussion continued with some clarification needed for section B.2.xi. of the NM-1A practice. It should be interpreted that only one of the three items listed are required to meet this specification. So it will be read as:

- a. a completed verification form (DCR199-231) (04/18); OR
- b. a statement signed by the Nutrient Management Planner and the producer that nutrients were applied this period according to a NMP; OR
- c. nutrient application records for the *most recent* 12 months. For acres that have not had a NMP written within the last 18 months this requirement is waived.

The Sub-committee voted to “Advance” the above language relating to item 13N and the associated form for option b. (attached) to the TAC.

Item 12N – Define “Fully Implemented Nutrient Management Plan”.

This language has been added to all cost share practices that require a plan, and can be interpreted many ways by district employees, based on their level of expertise and understanding of nutrient management plans. For this reason it was identified that a definition was needed so the language is consistently administered and to minimize staff time in dealing with the plan itself.

Fully Implemented Plan-

1. Plan is written by a current, Virginia Nutrient Management Planner
2. Farmer agrees, by a signed statement, that as the plan is written, he will be able to follow the crop rotation and all the nutrient recommendations on all fields signed up for in this practice.
3. For spot checks of practices that require “Fully Implemented Plans” (if applicable) 1) crops in the plan must accurately match actual field crops and the field management practices in the plan must be current with field treatment. 2) Farmer must have nutrient application records or NMP maps or plan balance sheets or field summary sheets, that are consistent with recommendations in the nutrient management plan, for the review period of the spot check.

The intent of this definition is to have the review of the “Fully Implemented Plan” only apply to those acres in the practice. The specifications of the practice, are incorporated in the Plan recommendations, on the fields (acres) that are identified to be included in the practice. This takes the burden off of the district staff to have any responsibility for reviewing all the acres in the plan. IF district staff find any other components of a plan that they question as far as meeting the Certification and Training Regulations, they should call David Kindig Nutrient Management Training and Certification Coordinator to follow up with the planner.

The Sub-committee voted to “Advance” the above language relating to item 12N to the TAC.

Continuing with the meeting, the members reviewed all of the other items they were tasked to make recommendations on, 12 items in all. All 12 items were discussed, but it was suggested that since this was the first reading of the items by some of the sub-committee members, they requested no definitive action be taken at this meeting, allowing all some time to study the items to be able to give each one better consideration.

The above action was agreed to be all sub-committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

The next nutrient management subcommittee meeting will be held:

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Rappahannock Office Building

772 Richmond Beach Road

Tappahannock, VA 22560

Room; USDA-FSA Conference Room

Submitted by: David Kindig

Nutrient Management Subcommittee Chairman

Fully Implemented Plan- (elements)

1. Plan is written by a current, Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner
2. Farmer agrees, by a signed document, that as the plan is written, he will be able to follow the crop rotation and all the nutrient recommendations on all fields signed up for this practice. (at sign up or prior to payment)
3. For spot checks of “Fully Implemented Plans” if applicable - 1) crops in the plan must accurately match actual field crops and the field and management practices in the plan must be current with field treatments. 2) Farmer must have nutrient application records or NMP maps or plan balance sheets or field summary sheets, that are consistent with recommendations in the nutrient management plan, for the review period of the spot check.

Additional Recommendations:

**Structural practices that currently require having a fully implemented NMP during the life of the practice should be reviewed for applicability.

** In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, producers must be fully implementing a current NMP with in the life span of this practice on all ag production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on.

** Recommend to be used as guideline for FY 2019

From NM-1AB.2.xi.b.

*A statement signed by the Nutrient Management Planner and producer that nutrients were applied during this period according to a NMP ***

**Statement Acknowledging Nutrient Applications have been made to match recommendations in the nutrient management plan written for the same time period:

Using a written, or digital record keeping system, I have diligently recorded all nutrient applications to the fields using the materials and rates stated in my nutrient management plan for the period (month/year) through (month/year) to the crops specified in my nutrient management plan.

_____/_____/_____
(farmer signature) (date signed)

I have reviewed application records kept by (farmer name) and *I here by certify that these records have supplied sufficient information to show he has applied the proper materials and nutrient rates to the crops specified in the nutrient management plan covering (month/year) through (month/year).*

_____/_____/_____
(planner signature, that wrote the plan) (date signed) NMP Cert. No. _____

Additional edits to the NM-1A practice, 2. Eligibility, xi:

***c. nutrient application records for the ~~preceding~~ *most recent 12 months (before the cover sheet signature date)-of an active plan.*

***For acres that have not had a NMP written for them within the last ~~12-18~~ months this requirement is waived.

****Interpret as either a. OR b. OR c.