

PROGRAMMATIC SUBCOMMITTEE
Thursday, October 4, 2018
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Staunton, Virginia

TIME AND PLACE

The first meeting was held on October 4, 2018 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ended at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was held at:

DCR Staunton Regional Office
12 Sunset Boulevard
Staunton, Virginia 22401.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present

Darryl Glover, DCR
Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau
Dana Gochenour, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Joe Wood, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD
Greg Wichelns, Culpeper SWCD
Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness Council
Carrie Swanson, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Anne Coates, Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Charles Newton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Brandon Dillistin, Northern Neck SWCD
Keith Horsley, Tidewater SWCD
Steven Meeks, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Jay Yankey, Prince William SWCD
Kris Jarvis, John Marshall SWCD

Voting Members not Present

Ricky Rash, Piedmont SWCD
Kendall Tyree, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Joseph Stepp, Hanover-Caroline SWCD

Non-Voting Members Present

Christine Watlington, DCR
Denney Turner, DCR
Debbie Cross, DCR

WELCOME

A quorum was established with 16 voting members present. Mr. Glover welcomed the participants and briefly reviewed actions of previous meeting. Expectations of next full TAC meeting were discussed along with general rules of voting. Upcoming meeting dates for WIP III were announced. Hiring updates

were given on the current vacant positions at DCR Central Office. Any additional recommendations to subcommittees need to be submitted by October 22, 2018 to Darryl Glover and Christine Watlington.

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

The next full Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-share Program Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held on October 18, 2018 beginning at 9:30am.

The meeting will be held at:

Waynesboro Public Library
600 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

The next two Chesapeake Bay WIP Phase III – Agriculture Sector Meetings will be held 10am-12:30pm
October 22, 2018- Area I and II

Virginia Department of Forestry
900 Natural Resources Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

October 24, 2018 – Area III and IV

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
1375 Greate Road
Gloucester Pointe, Virginia 23062

The second Programmatic Subcommittee meeting will be held on November 6, 2018 beginning at 12:30 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at:

Orange County Public Works
235 Warren Street
Orange, Virginia 22960

OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS

The committee continued to review the list of recommendations that were provided.

- #43 Shade Alternatives Developed for Cattle
 - combined with #42 and moved to discuss later
- #44 Cost-share to replace out of lifespan watering troughs
 - sent to Stream Exclusion Subcommittee (15, 1)
 - Discussion: this is in conjunction with CCI.
- #45 Invasive Species
 - Tabled (12, 4)
 - Discussion: maintenance responsibility is to establish buffer and NRCS has a program for invasive species that provides no credit.
- #46 100% Cost-share and rental payments for non-riparian tree planting (shade for livestock)
 - combined with #42 and #43 to discuss later
- #47 Bonus Payment for buffers that already exist
 - Voted (13, 3) to be tabled.
- #48 SWCDs to make payments to co-payees (lenders)
 - Voted (16, 0) to discuss
- #49 Fund DEQ Ag Loan Program

- Voted (16, 0) to advance and combine with #50 BMP Loan Program
- #51 Pay Upfront to help Purchase Materials (loan or cost-share payment)
 - Voted (16, 0) to discuss
 - Discussion: options to solve same situation as #49 and #50. Issue is that producers cannot afford upfront cost to pay contractors. Issue is if someone gets advance payment and does not finish the practice, the district would then be responsible. Many details would need to be worked out. Recommendation to pay a fraction of the component (a certain percentage to address the cash flow issue. Partial payment part way through?
 - Split ½ way project capital to pay contractors> Pay for component completed though bids are for whole practice not by component. Cash flow is district—producer—contractor.
- #52 Allow NM-1A to be Tax Credit Eligible
 - Voted (16, 0) to advance with clarification that it is for producers
 - Discussion: Every district is different in how they decide how to spend money, whether it is cost-share first. If a District runs out of money and can't pay producer for cost with cost-share, they could get a tax credit. NMP are a flat rate, not a percentage paid practice. Barrier to this would be the ability to sign documents and to transfer payment to others. The producer has to sign a form to allow payment be given to planner.
- #53 Feed Mixing Equipment Tax Credit Program for the Purchase of Equipment
 - Voted (9, 6, 1) to discuss; abstained = Adrienne Kotula
 - Discussion: This is not a DCR tax law, but DCR can make a legislative recommendation. Questioned what type of nutrient reductions would be seen if this was implemented, focusing on better management of feeding livestock. Hurdle would be the upfront cost. Recommended to have a new tax credit designed similar as two existing programs.
- #54 Alternative Energy System Tax Credit Program
 - Voted (16, 0) to table
 - Discussion: what would be the direct water quality benefit?
- #55 and #56 Offer Higher Tax Credit on No Till, Conservation Tillage and Precision Ag. Equip.
 - Voted (15, 0, 1) Abstained= Adrienne Kotula in support of raising tax credit to be in line with inflation as a general recommendation to raise tax credit.
 - Discussion: Equipment cost has increased since the cap was created
- #57 Carry Forward Tax Credit (Refund)
 - Voted (15, 0, 1) abstained = Jay Yankey to table
 - Discussion: this has not been an issue
- #58 Financial Assistance for Precision Equipment
 - Discussion: Split this recommendation into two.
 - 58A Cost Share Precision Ag Equipment up to a cap
 - Voted (Advance 9, Opposed 5)
 - Tabled
 - 58B Increase Payment rate for NM-5N and NM-5P
 - Discussion: move to NM subcommittee
 - Voted to advance (16, 0)
- #59 Tax Credit Practice to Help Incentive The Removal Of Farm Buildings/ Impervious Surfaces
 - Voted to Table (15, 1)

- Discussion: other programs in the state that would handle this. Suggestion narrowly defined if it is a water quality issue.
- #60 Second Extension (carryover) to Participants if Needed Case by Case Basis
 - Voted to Table (16, 0)
 - Discussion: process like this is already in place for first year, felt second carryover was unnecessary
- #61 Modify Tracking to Allow for the Capture of More Data
 - Move to Discuss
 - Discussion: Roland is needed for this discuss and was absent at this meeting
- #62 Easement Program
 - Voted (16, 0) to table
 - This is already done by Virginia Outdoors Foundation
 - Fully implemented RMP would be a barrier to an easement
- #63 Mentorship Program for Precision Rotational Grazing (Incentives for Mentors)
 - Voted (16, 0) to amend
 - Discussion: should be amended into something more useful/ practical

FURTHER ACTION FOR ITEMS READY FOR DISCUSSION

- #2 Modify How Technical Assistance is Allocated
 - Will revisit at next meeting
 - Committee was assigned to come back to the next meeting with a list of factors that should be considered as priorities for all staffing and concrete suggestions/concepts
- #3 More Funding for Education and Technical Assistance for Farmers
 - Combined with #1 Increase funding to support SWCDs
 - Voted (16, 0) to advance with #1
- #4 Use CEF Value rather than Hydrologic Unit Ranking as Primary Factors
 - Voted to advance as amended (15, 0, 1) Anne Coates not in the room
 - Recommendation: advance with amendment to reevaluate how CEF and HUC rankings are used for Cost-Share
- #7 VACS Regional Program
 - Voted (16, 0) to advance with future stakeholder input, additional conversations needed
- #9 More Proactive Approaches for BMPS
 - Voted (16, 0) to advance
- #10 Expand VACS Program Participant Eligibility (SL-6 interest)
 - Voted (16, 0) to referred to Stream Protection Subcommittee with #3 and #9
- #11 Alternative Crop BMPs
 - Voted (15, 1) to advance
 - Discussion: will need input from possibly Virginia Tech and other states
- #12 Multi-Practice or Tier Approach for a New Practice
 - Voted (16, 0) to advance
 - Discussion: details will need to be worked out, recommended amendment to advance and develop BMP bundles
- #13 Consider Removing All Practice and Program Caps
 - Discussion: moved to amend at 9/10/18 meeting

- Voted (15, 1) to increase, set or establish practice state caps without removing participant caps
- Voted (13, 3) to Remove state participant caps
- Discussion: reevaluate maximum caps, increasing caps and decide on particular practice individually