

Ag BMP TAC Animal Waste Subcommittee

October 13, 2022

Department of Forestry, Charlottesville

10:00 am

Voting Members Present

Amanda Pennington, DCR, Chair

Ben Chester, DCR (proxy for Steve Escobar, Virginia Horse Council)

Elizabeth Dellinger, VACDE

Megen Dalton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD

Aaron Lucas, Headwaters SWCD (proxy for John Kaylor)

Josh Walker, Shenandoah Valley SWCD (proxy for Eric Paulson, Virginia State Dairymen's Association)

Darrell Marshall, VDACS

Mark Campbell, Virginia Farm Bureau (proxy for Zach Jacobs)

Nick Livesay, Lord Fairfax SWCD

Philip Davis, DEQ

Allen Jackson, Blue Ridge SWCD

Kevin Dunn, Peter Francisco SWCD

Non-Voting Members Present

Sara Bottenfield, DCR

Amanda opened the meeting and established that there was a quorum.

Continued discussion of matrix item 4A [*Include the following NRCS Practice Standards into one or more of VACS specifications: 360 Waste Storage Facility Closure, 521 Pond Sealing or Lining - Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner, 520 Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment, and 522 Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete. The 360 Practice is used to properly demolish an existing waste storage facility, typically liquid manure pits or lagoons. The three others are options to line an existing leaking manure pit/lagoon based on the best way to line or seal them depending on environmental and soil conditions.*]:

- Prior to this meeting Amanda sent out a list of follow-up items assigned to different subcommittee members.
- Megen received more information on the question of Bay model credit. The 360 practice is not currently a creditable BMP and is not under review to be considered. No water quality benefit identified; would be a multi-year process to review and evaluate.
- Amanda thinks including NRCS 360 in the WP-8 would be appropriate anyway since it could be necessary as part of a relocation.
- Amanda moved to add the NRCS 360 standard to the WP-8 with no other changes.
- Allen questioned what it means for the standard to be included, does just having the standard included in a spec mean DEQ can loan on it? Phil says no, the producer would have to meet all requirements of the WP-8. There were questions about how this policy applies to any NRCS projects that may not follow all requirements of the comparable VACS spec. DEQ has started the

process of adding 360 to their list of eligible practices but the state code governing their program does not include abandonment, only improvements (“construction, renovation, improvement, or equipping of”) and a stand-alone pit closure is not considered an improvement. Other types of projects with a clear water quality benefit don’t need to match up exactly with VACS spec(s) because the benefit is not in question. DEQ also asked their policy staff about FR-1s and determined a legislative change would be required for FR-1 to be loan eligible.

- Kevin seconded Amanda’s motion; motion passed unanimously.
- Amanda amended her motion to continue discussion next year as to whether pit closure should be a cost share practice. Darrell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Matrix item 1A [*The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board directs the Animal Waste Subcommittee(Subcommittee) of the AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review and examine the water quality impacts of livestock manure, specifically the differences between the impact of poultry litter and livestock manures. The Subcommittee shall review the existing WP-4 standards and specifications, in addition to the Animal Waste Control Facility Needs Determination Worksheet for Livestock Waste Storage Facilities (Worksheet) provided by the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, to determine the most appropriate method to evaluate the impacts of the manure. The Subcommittee shall provide their recommendation, including the standard and specification and the method used to evaluate the impacts, to the full AgBMP TAC for review and approval; the Subcommittee shall also make a recommendation on whether the revised specification and standard should be implemented during FY2023. The action and recommendation taken by the AgBMP TAC shall be presented to the Board at their December meeting*]:

- Review updated WP-4 Risk Assessment:
 - Amanda summarized changes for folks who were not at recent meetings: adding poultry, adjusting score/number breaks in part I/top section, to be used for manure storage only.
 - Raleigh found an error which has been fixed.
 - Allen requested the reference to the Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria be updated to the most recent version (2014).
 - Ben moved to adopt the WP-4 Risk Assessment, Elizabeth seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Finalize Instruction Document:
 - Each risk assessment will need its own instruction document; they should be as similar/consistent as possible.
 - Instruction documents will not go through the TAC, will roll out ASAP and be able to make edits if/when issues are identified.
 - Megen will do some formatting of the final documents.
 - Allen asked about the Manure Estimator section, is evaluation of an alternative feeding area based on the size of the current feeding area or the potential size of denuded/feeding area in the new/alternative feeding location? Instructions were updated with, “When evaluating the proposed location use the size of the current feeding area”.

- Lengthy discussion of whether TMDL watersheds or 303(d) listing should be used for additional points for vulnerable water feature/receiving water. The subcommittee agreed that giving points for TMDL watersheds with bacteria, sediment, or nutrient pollutants identified was most appropriate.
- Added clarification for locations with multiple soil types present.
- Nick moved to adopt this version of the instruction document for all practices except WP-4, Elizabeth seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Reviewed and edited the document to create a WP-4 version.
- Amanda moved to approve the instruction document for WP-4, Aaron seconded. Passed unanimously.

Amanda thanked the subcommittee for their work this year and briefly reviewed some items that will be on the agenda for next year. Additional CCI practices for loafing lots and non-poultry composting will be high priorities.