

**AGRICULTURAL BMP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PROGRAMMATIC SUBCOMMITTEE
Orange County Farm Bureau
13438 James Madison Highway, Orange, VA 22960
October 1, 2019
1:30am-4:00pm**

TIME AND PLACE

The Programmatic Subcommittee meeting was held on Tuesday October 1, 2019 1:30pm at the Orange County Farm Bureau.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present

Darryl Glover, DCR
Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau
Greg Wichelns, Culpeper SWCD
Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness Council
Carrie Swanson, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Anne Coates, Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Charles Newton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Brandon Dillistin, Northern Neck SWCD
Kendall Tyree, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Steven Meeks)
Sam Truban, Lord Fairfax SWCD (Dana Gochenour)
Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Sharon Conner, Hanover-Caroline SWCD

Voting Members not Present

Keith Horsley, Tidewater SWCD
Kris Jarvis, John Marshall SWCD
Ricky Rash, Piedmont SWCD
Dana Gochenour, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Joe Wood, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Jay Yankey, Prince William SWCD
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD
Steven Meeks, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Non-Voting Members Present

David Bryan, DCR
Christine Watlington, DCR
Roland Owens, DCR
Denney Collins, DCR
David Massie, Culpeper SWCD
Lisa Hyatt, Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Sara-Jane Thomsen, Virginia Agribusiness Council

WELCOME, Darryl Glover

Meeting Opens (1:30 PM)

A quorum was established with 10 voting members present, and two other voting members joined later in the meeting for a total of 12 voting members. Mr. Glover welcomed the participants and briefly reviewed the agenda.

DISCUSSION, David Bryan and Darryl Glover

Mr. Glover began discussion on 2P- Elevation of the Conservation Efficiency Factor (CEF) stating that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is still working on language. The Secretary of Natural Resources would like CEF to be elevated to a Priority Consideration. Due to the fact that DCR will need to develop a soil loss tool, the full implementation of this would likely be FY22 rather than FY21. The way in which Districts are using their Secondary Considerations will stay the same at this time. This discussion will be continued later in the meeting by David Bryan but will also be brought forward next TAC cycle for further discussion.

Mr. Glover stated that there has been concern expressed on size of the TAC. During the full TAC meeting on December 18, 2019, DCR will present a consolidation proposal to shrink the TAC down but allow broad participation across the state. During the full TAC meeting on November 20, 2019, internal issues that DCR was asked to review such as tax credits will be brought forward. At the October 8, 2019 meeting a review of the Agricultural Needs Assessment will be given.

At the close of this meeting the Programmatic Subcommittee will have reviewed and taken action all assigned recommendations, making this meeting the final programmatic subcommittee of this TAC cycle.

Mr. David Bryan gave a brief update on 2E Definitions of Agricultural Products and Agricultural Production. Mr. Bryan asked if any of the committee members had comments, no comments were made. Recommendation 2E will be voted on at the full TAC meeting on October 8, 2019.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS, David Bryan and Darryl Glover

- The subcommittee combined the discussion of recommendations 2P and 3P:
- 2P – Elevation of CEF
- 3P – Options for Regionalization of VACS Program
 - Motion to defer by Mr. Darryl Glover, seconded by Mrs. Anne Coates
 - **Motion Passes Unanimously**
 - Potential issues that could be faced as well as things to consider for implementation were discussed. The conversation will continue internally at DCR and be brought back for next year's TAC cycle and planned implementation for FY22. There are two different ways in which CEF is used from the eastern side of the state compared to the western side. Eastern tends to use a list of secondary considerations as an order of priority with CEF used to rank "like practices" while the west uses a more formal ranking sheet with a point system, especially for structural practices. A one size fits all program across the state will likely not work. A few recommendations to consider for discussion next year include a ranking sheet requirement, addition of soil loss calculations in the Tracking Program, and removing redundancy in priority consideration to CEF (ex: hydrologic units, impaired stream segments, RMPs, at least 50% of priority considerations are reflected in CEF.)

- In a statement that Mr. Bryan read from Mr. Karl Huber, Mr. Huber was confident in the effectiveness of using CEF. Mr. Huber will be asked to speak to the subcommittee again next year.
 - DCR needs to conduct further analysis on potential regionalization of the VACS program including comparing and running through different scenarios. Potentially CEF will be given a more regional element which will prioritize practices in the areas of the state where the Bay Model gives the most nutrient and sediment reductions per practice.
- Participant and Practice Caps
 - The elimination of practice caps that was recommended by the Programmatic Subcommittee will be voted on at the full TAC meeting on October 8, 2019, as will the expansion of the Variance Process to SL-6W and SL-6N/SL-6W combos. Mr. David Bryan suggested that the subcommittee take a formal vote to defer the participant cap portion of the conversation to next year. This had been discussed at previous meetings, but not voted on. By deferring, the implementation would not be until FY22.
 - Motion to defer by Mr. Charles Newton, seconded by Mrs. Adrienne Kotula.
 - **Motion Passed Unanimously**
 - Mr. Greg Wichelns said that he thought that not raising participant caps until FY22 will be a brick wall to moving the amount of money Districts need to (i.e. as part of WIP III goals). There is concern that there is no way to capture what the producer intentions might have been if there was no cap. Some producers, once making the decision to engage, prefer to do a lot of conservation work at one time because it saves them time in dealing with the District and contractors.
 - Ms. Sharon Conner discussed how the cap has been problematic in the Hanover-Caroline District even at the early stage of sign-up. Participants are capped out before all BMPs are entered for producers. As such, there is no incentive to capture additional “capped out” practices in Tracking. (However, Mr. Roland Owens cannot pull data that is not entered in the Tracking program). The cap is also across District boundaries, which can cause competition amongst Districts as to who is first to pay. Interest is also currently hard to quantify for producers across District boundaries because some Eastern Districts have not completed cost-share sign-up and/or data entry. A “Cancelled – Capped Out” function in Tracking was suggested.
 - DCR will provide feedback of what is happening on the ground for this fiscal year for participant caps (and variance requests) and see if an increase should or should not be made.
 - Mrs. Martha Moore asked if the subcommittee could review the variance process in addition to the caps because they are intricately linked.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee, 9:30am on October 8, 2019 at the Central High School Complex, 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063

Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee, 9:30am on November 20, 2019, Augusta County Government Center, Verona, VA

Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee, 9:30am on December 18, 2019 at the Central High School Complex, 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063

Programmatic Subcommittee, 9:30am on October 24, 2019 --- cancelled

Programmatic Subcommittee, 9:30am on November 12, 2019 --- cancelled

ADJOURN ~2:15 PM