

**Nutrient Management Training and Certification
Regulatory Advisory Panel
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Monacan Soil & Water Conservation District
Goochland, Virginia**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) took place at 9:42 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Monacan Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in Goochland, Virginia.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REGULATORY ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Whitehead, Soil Horizons, LLC
Matt Kowalski, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Bob Waring, Colonial SWCD
Betsy Bowles, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Animal Waste State Program Coordinator
Jim Riddell, Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Trey Davis, Virginia Agribusiness Council
Tim Grove, Houff Corporation
Bryan A. Cauthorn, DEQ, Biosolids State Program Coordinator
Eric Scruggs, Profit Agronomics LLC
Eric Paulson, Virginia State Dairymen's Association
Josh Lombard, GROWMARK
Darrell Marshall, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Rory Maguire, Virginia Tech
Wayne Pendleton, VDACS
James Martin, Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REGULATORY ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jake Tabor, Virginia Farm Bureau
Ryan Holbrook, Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association
R.O. Britt, Smithfield
Wesley Gwaltney, Virginia Tech, Agricultural Technology Program

DCR STAFF PRESENT

Christine Watlington Jones, Policy and District Services Manager
Stephanie Dawley, Nutrient Management Training and Certification Manager
Hunter Landis, Nutrient Management Program Manager
Nico Robichaud, Policy and Program Assistant
Breanne Lindsey, Board and Constituent Liaison

Gonzalo Ortiz, DCR, Urban Nutrient Management Specialist
Marie Schirmacher, DCR
Justin Lindemeyer, DCR
Seth Mullins, DCR

OTHERS PRESENT

Nicholas Moody, Farm Bureau (alternate for Jake Tabor)

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Watlington Jones called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Watlington Jones welcomed and thanked members of the RAP for attending the meeting.

DISCUSSION OF REVISED REGULATIONS

The Panel discussed various definitions used in the regulations (4VAC50-85-10) and recommended changes to biosolids, composted organic nutrient source, turf or turfgrass, field identifier, irrigation scheduling, organic residuals, and verifiable past crop yield records. Staff will review the use of these definitions to determine if the correct terms and meanings are used. Additionally, a final review will be done to determine if some of the terms may need to be removed from the regulations and added to the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria.

Ms. Watlington Jones provided an overview of revisions made to Section 4VAC50-85-50 of the regulations. These revisions included adding a new subsection C, which addresses the use of processing fees that may be incurred with electronic submittals.

The Panel discussed revisions to Section 4VAC50-85-100 of the regulations. The revisions included updates to the dates referenced in the section and changes to the information required in the annual activity report. The Panel also discussed the unique plan number including how the number is generated and which components of the nutrient management plan should include the number.

The Panel discussed revisions to Section 4VAC50-85-130 of the regulations. Revisions to subsections B, F, G, and H related to the information required in nutrient management plans were reviewed. The Panel discussed the inclusion of permit numbers on nutrient management plan cover sheets under subsection B. Additional criteria for nutrient management plans were added under subsection F to address the identification of circumstances or changes on nonagricultural lands. Subsection G addresses precision nutrient management plan requirements, and subsection H addresses transfer nutrient management plan requirements.

BREAK

The Panel took a break from 11:42 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF REVISED REGULATIONS CONTINUED

The Panel continued its discussion of the regulations by reviewing revisions to Section 4VAC50-85-140. The revisions included updates to the dates referenced in the section and the removal of information considered recommendations rather than requirements. Staff noted that the removed information is intended to be incorporated into future guidance documents.

DISCUSSION OF REVISIONS TO THE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

Ms. Watlington Jones provided an overview of the revisions made to the Standards and Criteria document. The revisions included the addition of defined terms, including terms removed from the regulations that are more appropriate in the Standards and Criteria. Additional references to source materials were also added and will continue to be reviewed for accuracy. Certain information was removed from the Standards and Criteria document for inclusion in future guidance documents. References to outdated information were also removed. Staff requested that Panel members provide any updated references of which they are aware to assist with accurate updates to the Standards and Criteria document.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will incorporate revisions to the regulations and the Standards and Criteria document based on the discussions held during the meeting. Once the revisions are incorporated, draft documents will be distributed to Panel members for review and feedback in mid-June.

The Panel was previously scheduled to meet on June 22, 2026; however, following discussion among staff and Panel members, the meeting will be cancelled. An additional meeting may be scheduled in July or August depending on the feedback received from Panel members after review of the revised documents. Staff will provide an update to Panel members regarding an additional meeting at a later date.

ADJOURN

Staff thanked the Panel members for their time and contributions to the review process.

The Panel adjourned at 2:00 p.m.