

Virginia Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting 9:30 AM, January 18, 2018
Draft Summary

Attendance:

Member	Representing	Member	Representing
Tom Turner	CB, SWCD staff	Matt Kowalski	CBF
Mark Hollberg	DCR CBCDC	Blair Gordon	CDC OCB (proxy)
Robert Bradford	VASWCD Area II (proxy)	Scott Ambler	DCR, RMP
Spencer Yager,	SWCDE		

Other Participants: Tom Dunlap, Colonial SWCD; Brandon Dillistin, Northern Neck SWCD

Gary introduced Denney Turner who has been hired as a Grants and Ag. Incentives Program Technician to assist him and the as yet to be hire Grants Manager. Denney is completing her MS studies at VCU in Environmental Studies.

The draft summary of the October 26, 2017 TAC meeting was reviewed and approved with two typo corrections needed. The approved summary will be posted on the DCR webpage and distributed via all-district e-mail list-serve.

A summary of discussion topics, action items, and significant conclusions are as follows:

- ◆ **NRCS:**
 - Gary noted that both NRCS and DCR have RCPP funds available.
- ◆ **FSA:**
 - Gary noted that DCR was up to date on committing state CREP funds and confirming CREP funding availability on District contracts, all FSA contracts submitted have state funds confirmed. Over \$200,000 of the original \$500,000 is still available for confirmation.
- ◆ **Stream Protection discussion:**
 - WP-2, LE-2 and SL-6 were all reviewed.
 - § WP-2, The TAC approved the changes suggested at the previous meeting. The changes included removing “eroding” from B. 1. i., and inserting intermittent into the new B. 1. iii. b. after wetlands so that the new language reads: “*Wetlands, “intermittent” springs, seeps and gullies adjacent to streams should be included in the buffer area. Isolated seeps, springs or wetlands may be fenced as well.*” One typo was identified to remove an extra comma in section B.8. at the end of the sentence.
 - § LE-2, The TAC approved the changes suggested at the previous meeting. The suggested changes approved were “*protect streambanks and*” between “To” and

“establish” in B. 5. And insert intermittent as above into B. 5. i. a) so that it reads:
“Wetlands, intermittent springs, seeps and gullies adjacent to streams should be included in the buffer area. Isolated seeps, springs or wetlands may be fenced as well.”

- § SL-6, The TAC approved the changes suggested at the previous meeting of adding “intermittent” to the newly approved SL-6 language in B. 5. i. a).

◆ **Forestry discussion:**

- CCI-FRB-1, the TAC approved the changes that were proposed in the previous meeting. The changes approved were striking B. 7., renumbering b.7-10., removing “Forestry BMPs for Water Quality in Virginia, and” in what is now B.9 and changing the rate from \$100 to \$200 per acre paid up front for a 5 year lifespan in C.

◆ **Animal Waste discussion:**

- WP-4, the TAC questioned how to record composting bins built under the WP-4 credit measures. It was suggested to reach out to Roland for more information on this topic. The TAC proposed that NRCS composter standards should be added to the standards list, 316 animal mortality composting.
 - § New language suggested at previous meeting was approved, “*The simultaneous construction of mortality composting bins only if contained within or attached to (new language) the animal waste storage facility.*” As B. 3. i. (d)
- WP-4C, The TAC suggested new language in B.2.iii. “*For prefabricated composting including drum composting facilities. Cost-share Payment/Tax Credit should consider (new language) the least cost technically feasible option.*”
 - The language of “least cost technically feasible” was discussed. The TAC decided that least cost technically feasible should be included.

◆ **Cover Crops discussion:** No teleconference held, or report to TAC provided. The TAC discussed defining performance criteria for the SL-8B cover crop practice. B.3. language was added and approved by the TAC. The language now reads...

“A good stand and good growth of vegetative winter cover must be obtained in sufficient time to protect the area from nutrient leaching and runoff in the fall and winter. (Ongoing research in Virginia’s coastal plain indicates that a cereal grain crop with 30 plants per square foot of field planted with two tillers per plant (60 tillers per sq. ft.) by December 1, provides the optimum biomass for scavenging excess nitrogen while protecting the soil from erosion). All cover crop plantings must maintain a minimum of 50% cover crop plant material on the enrolled acres from December 1 through the lifespan of the practice.”

◆ **Review of Matrix of TAC Recommendations:**

- No typos were identified and no edits were needed, the TAC approved.

◆ **New Business:**

- RMP-2, The TAC suggested new language in several places. Be sure to circulate.
 - § A. 1st paragraph, last sentence. “...*Once an RMP has been approved, verified as being fully implemented by the review authority and the owner/ operator has*

received a Certificate of RMP Implementation such owner/ operator is eligible for a payment (new language)."

- § B. 1st paragraph, first sentence. Strike ~~apply for, or~~ The language will now read *"As owner/ operator cannot receive cost-share funding, until such owner/ operator has received a Certificate of RMP Implementation by meeting the requirements set out in 4VAC50-70-80 thus affirming that the RMP was determined to be adequate and that the RMP has been fully implemented."*
- § Delete current B.3.ii. ~~This practice applies to crop, hay, and pasture lands that are included in an approved RMP that receives a Certificate of Resource Management Plan Implementation.~~
- § Delete Current B.3.iv. ~~Before a cost share payment can be made, a current copy of the Certificate of RMP Implementation must be on file with the SWCD.~~
The language of 3.B. now reads...
 - i. Receipt of RMP-2 cost-share is not contingent upon prior receipt of RMP-1 practice cost-share that may be provided to assist with RMP development.
 - ii. A cost-share payment cannot be made until the onsite verification inspection is conducted by the review authority and the review authority affirms such adequacy and implementation to DCR.
 - iii. An applicant may apply for a new RMP-2 on land management units which have previously received cost-share for RMP-2 when a new RMP has been implemented and a new Certificate of RMP Implementation issued.
 - iv. An applicant may apply for multiple RMP-2 practices either within the same cost-share program year or another cost-share program year, but the RMP-2 applications must not include the same land management units.
- § Strike of B.6. was approved by TAC. ~~"RMP-2 is not eligible for carryover."~~
- § C.3. TAC approved striking ...~~"If the payment for this practice is redirected at the participant's request to a certified RMP developer, an IRS 1099 Misc. tax form should go to the entity receiving the cost share funds."~~
- § TAC approved for RMP-2-4 page "Cost Share Payment Authorization" to be deleted in entirety.

◆ **Agency Updates:**

○ **DCR:**

- § DCR has had some recent changes in staff at the headquarters in Richmond. Darryl Glover is the acting Deputy Director of SWC/DSFM. Clyde Chrisman has been reappointed as the DCR Director. DCR is currently hiring an S&WC Liaison and a Deputy Director.
- § Gary Moore will be out for knee surgery beginning on January 30th.

- ◆ **Concerns from the Floor?** No concerns were stated. Suggestions from the field need to be in by May 31, 2018.

NEXT TAC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR June 13, 2018, 9:30 AM in the DOF Training room. TAC suggested June 14 or 21, 2018 if DOF Training room was available. The date had to be rescheduled to June 13, 2018 due to room availability.

Adjourned

DRAFT