

Virginia Agricultural BMP Advisory Committee
Waynesboro Public Library
600 South Wayne Avenue, Zip 22980
October 18, 2018
9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee convened at 9:30am on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at the Waynesboro Public Library in Waynesboro, Virginia.

ATTENDANCE

Matt Kowalski, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Charlie Wooton, Chesapeake Bay District
Representative
Ashley Wendt, DEQ
Jason Carter, Virginia Cattlemen Association
Nick Livesay, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Scott Baker, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Chad Wentz, NRCS
Emily Horsley, FSA
Gary Boring, Area IV Representative
Chris Barbour, Outside the Chesapeake Bay
District Representative
Tom Turner, John Marshall SWCD
Luke Longanecker, Virginia Association of
Conservation District Employees
Robert Bradford, Area II Representative
Dana Gochenour, Lord Fairfax
Beck Stanley, Virginia Agribusiness Council
Proxy
Joseph Stepp, Hanover-Caroline SWCD
Carrie Swanson, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Anne Coates, Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Charles Newton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Alston Horn, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Aaron Lucas, Headwaters SWCD
Association
Ben Rowe, Virginia Farm Bureau
Chris Atkins, Virginia Grain Producers
Association
Allyson Ponn, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Kristal McKelvey, Tidewater SWCD
Carl Garrison, Virginia Forestry Association
Sarah Hagan, VDOF
Danny Withers, Three Rivers SWCD
Hobey Bauhan, Virginia Poultry Federation

Darrel Marshall, VDACS
Sam Truban, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Megen Dalton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Kris Jarvis, John Marshall SWCD
Brandon Dillistin, Northern Neck SWCD
Kevin Dunn, Peter Francisco SWCD
Jim Riddell, Virginia Agribusiness Council
Eric Paulson, Va. State Dairymen
Rachel McCuller, Headwaters SWCD
Ricky Rash, Piedmont SWCD
Jim Wright, Peanut SWCD
Lonnie Johnson, VCE
Tim Higgs, VDACS
Keith Thomas, Shenandoah SWCD
Bryan Hofmann, Friends of the Rappahannock
Amanda McCullen, Culpeper SWCD
Katie Hellebush, Virginia Forestry Association
Ben Chester, DCR
Mark Hollberg, DCR
Scott Ambler, DCR
Blair Gordon, DCR
David Kindig, DCR
Amy Walker, DCR
Wayne Davis, DCR
Carl Thiel-Goin, DCR
Stacy Horton, DCR
Roland Owens, DCR
Denney Turner, DCR
Christine Watlington, DCR
Bob Waring, DCR
Raleigh Coleman, DCR
Darryl Glover, DCR
Nick Moody, DCR
Jim Echols, DCR

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION

Mr. Darryl Glover welcomed everyone to the TAC meeting. The meeting began with the review of the agenda for the day and the ground rules for discussion during the full TAC meeting. Each subcommittee chair will present a report of recommendations discussed during subcommittee meetings and the full TAC will vote to advance, table or amend. Mr. Glover reminded everyone that the implementation time for the over 170 recommendations received by DCR related to the cost-share program is for FY20 or FY21. All recommendations that have been presented to the TAC and subcommittees will be fully considered and presented to the SWCD Board in January 2019.

Mr. Glover announced the upcoming TAC meeting dates

- November 15, 2018
location TBD
- December 10, 2018- a change from the previous date
Piedmont Virginia Community College
222 Main St.
Standardsville, VA
- January 8, 2018
Waynesboro Public Library
600 S Wayne Ave.
Waynesboro, VA 22980

Mr. Glover announced that all additional suggestions need to be submitted by October 22, 2018 to be considered by the TAC. These additional suggestions will be distributed and presented to the TAC subcommittees at the next meeting on November 15, 2018.

Ms. Christine Watlington reviewed the TAC meeting summary and minutes from the meeting held on Monday, September 10, 2018 at the Virginia Department of Forestry in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Ms. Watlington then led the discussion on the full TAC voting procedure, as a part of the ground rules provided by Mr. Darryl Glover. All voting members of the TAC are to receive one vote in the full TAC. Mr. Kevon Dunn made a motion to change the voting procedure to each organization and District having one voting member. Mr. Dunn explained that this would prevent from one organization or District being able to overpower with votes in the full TAC. Mr. Charlie Wootton seconded this motion. Discussion was held and a vote was taken (Y=14, N=36), the motion did not pass. The voting procedure was held as it stands in the original ground rules that all voting members of a subcommittee receive one vote in the full TAC.

A brief discussion was held for clarification on the 80% rule for voting, this is for registered voting members present, absent members do not count towards the 80%.

CHESAPEAKE BAY WIP III DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Glover provided an update on the status of the Chesapeake Bay watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) development. Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District has been added to the previous group of eight other Chesapeake Bay Districts as needing the most additional nutrient reductions for Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed to reach reduction targets by year 2025. These Districts are Culpeper, Eastern Shore, Hanover-Caroline, Headwaters, Lord Fairfax, Northern Neck Shenandoah, Three Rivers and Robert E. Lee. There are also seven additional Districts that are being asked to revisit their proposed WIP III agricultural BMP input decks for opportunities they can identify for additional agricultural BMP implementation. These Districts are Blue Ridge, Loudon, Mountain, Peaks of Otter, Peanut, Thomas Jefferson, and Tidewater. The new information will be presented at the upcoming WIP development meetings held at 10:30-12:30pm on:

- October 22, 2018- Department of Forestry in Charlottesville
- October 24, 2018- VIMS, Waterman's Hall in Gloucester Point

There are planned Joint Sector Meetings with “Soil and Water Conservation District Representatives, locality government staff and local NGOs to discuss outcomes of the two parallel evaluation efforts, compare recommendations and needs, share information and tools and identify any gaps and opportunities for collaborator.” The meetings are scheduled

- Area II Combined WIP III Meeting
November 1, 2018 9am-noon
Germanna Community College, Daniel Technology Center
18121 Technology Dr, Culpeper, VA 22701
- Area I Combined WIP III Meeting
Nov. 26, 2018 1-4 pm
Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Workforce Center
1 College Ln, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
- Area III Combined WIP III Meeting
Nov. 28, 2018 1-4 pm
Germanna Community College, Sealy Auditorium/Room 134
10000 Germanna Point Dr, Fredericksburg, VA 22408
- Area VI Combined WIP III Meeting
Nov. 29, 2018 1-4 pm
Eastern Shore Community College, Great Hall
29300 Lankford Highway, Melfa, VA 23410

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT, CHAIRPERSON: DAVID KINDIG

Mr. Dave Kindig presented the report from the Nutrient Management Subcommittee. The subcommittee currently has 14 items to review and consider. Mr. Kindig presented two of the recommendations that the subcommittee were ready to discuss for information from the full TAC.

The Nutrient Management Subcommittee voted to amend the following recommendations:

Item 13N- Nutrient Management Plan Writing and Revision- DCR Specification for No. NM-1A

Current Language:

B. Policies and Specifications

2. Eligibility

- xi. In order to verify implementation of the NMP, an applicant must provide to the District:
 - a. a completed verification form (DCR199-231) (04/18);
 - b. a statement signed by the Nutrient Management Planner and producer that nutrients were applied during this period according to a NMP; or
 - c. nutrient application records for the preceding 12 months (before the cover sheet signature date). For acres that have not had a NMP written for them within the last 12 months this requirement is waived.
 - d. For acres that have not had a NMP written for them within the last 12 months this requirement is waived.

Proposed interpretation for Program Year 2019:

- xi. In order to verify implementation of the NMP, an applicant must provide to the District:
 - a. a completed verification form (DCR199-~~231~~ 244) (04/18); OR

- b. a statement signed by the Nutrient Management Planner and producer that nutrients were applied during this period according to a NMP; or
- c. nutrient application records for the ~~preceding~~ most recent 12 months ~~(before the cover sheet signature date)~~ of an active plan.

For acres that have not had a NMP written for them within the last ~~12~~ 18 months this requirement is waived.

A motion was made to clarify how to interpret the language of NM-1A, (49Y, 1N). Motion passed.

Proposed Statement to meet requirement of part b.

Using a written, or digital record keeping system, I have diligently recorded all nutrient applications to the fields using the materials and rates **at or below those** stated in my nutrient management plan for the period (month/year) through (month/year) to the crops specified in my nutrient management plan.

_____/_____/_____
 (farmer signature) (date signed)

I have reviewed application records kept by (farmer name) and *I here by certify that those* records have supplied sufficient information to show ~~he~~ **the producer** has applied the proper materials and nutrient rates **at or below** ~~to~~ the crops specified in the nutrient management plan covering (month/year) through (month/year).

_____/_____/_____
 (planner signature, that wrote the plan) (date signed) NMP Cert. No. _____

A second motion was made for NM-1A proposed language to be taken back to the Nutrient Management Subcommittee for further revision, clarification and discussion (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.

Item 12N-- Define “Fully implemented Nutrient Management Plan”

Proposed definition:

Fully Implemented Plan-

1. Plan is written by a current, Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner
2. Farmer agrees, by a signed document, that as the plan is written, he will be able to follow the crop rotation and all the nutrient recommendations on all fields signed up for this practice. (at sign up or prior to payment)
3. For spot checks of “Fully Implemented Plans” if applicable:
 - 1) crops in the plan must accurately match actual field crops and the field and management practices in the plan must be current with field treatments.
 - 2) Farmer must have nutrient application records or NMP maps or plan balance sheets or field summary sheets, that are consistent with recommendations in the nutrient management plan, for the review period of the spot check.

Additional Recommendations:

**Structural practices that currently require having a fully implemented NMP during the life of the practice should be reviewed for applicability.

** In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, producers must be fully implementing a current NMP *within the life span of this practice* on all ag production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on.

A motion was made to send 12N back to the Nutrient Management Subcommittee for further discussion to clarification (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Mr. Kindig announced future meeting date, time, and location.

The subcommittee will meet on October 30, 2018 at:

DCR Tappahannock Regional Office
772 Richmond Beach Road
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and scheduled to end at 2:30 p.m.

PROGRAMMATIC, CHAIRPERSON: DARRYL GLOVER

Mr. Darryl Glover presented the report from the Programmatic Subcommittee. The subcommittee currently has 63 items to review and consider. Mr. Glover presented all recommendations and whether the recommendations were tabled, advanced, refer, amended or being discussed by the subcommittee.

The Programmatic Subcommittee voted to table the following recommendations:

- 5P: consider awarding a bid to a contractor to complete projects,
- 6P: allow Districts to hire contractors directly,
- 8P: TAC Restructure,
- 19P: replacement of Components,
- 26P: funding made available for producers that are willing to provide land for demo/research
- 27P: remove the new CEF 10% reduction for tracts in approved RMPs,
- 29P: add a stream restoration practice that is not limited to participants that qualify for the VACS
- 30P: modify contract language to remove the prorated payback option for BMPs that are destroyed,
- 31P: allow funding to be applied on land that doesn't qualify under current VACS rules,
- 34P: offer 100% cost-share on major waterways
- 36P: non-urban stream restoration opportunities exist within the agriculture sector, cost share
- 38P: give priority for cost-share to the full functioning family farms
- 47P: offer a bonus payment for buffers that already exist on a property.
- 54P: alternative energy system tax credit program
- 57P: "carry forward" tax credits
- 59P: tax credit only practice to help incentivize the removal or dilapidated farm buildings
- 62P: easement program

Recommendations Agreed to by the TAC:

- 49P and 50P: lumped together – recommending letter of support from board to DEQ
- 63P: mentorship program – forwarding to Virginia Forage and Grassland Council

The Programmatic Subcommittee voted to forwarded to board for potential implementation FY20 and FY21 the following recommendations:

- 4P: clarify use CEF value rather than HUC
 - reevaluate how both are used for cost share
- 7P: VACS Regional Program

The Programmatic Subcommittee voted to discuss the following recommendations:

- 3P: more funding for education and technical assistance for farmers
 - Amendment for new farmers education --- new and existing
 - Sent back to subcommittee
- 12P: multi-practice or tier approach for a new practice
 - Amendment to develop bmp bundles
- 13P, 14P, 15P: lump together practice and participant caps
 - subcommittee voted to remove participants caps and revise/ increase practice caps
- 16P, 17P, 18P: lump together Cost Share Rates
- 20P: practice that encourages producers to report all conservation practices implement
- 21P: incentive could be provided for the producers to report their information
- 22P: refine the suite of BMPs and design standards
- 23P: new practices that address storm water runoff issues
- 24P: open all livestock BMPs to equine
- 25P: expand VACS program participant eligibility
- 28P: practices included under the conservation planning practice should receive priority consideration
- 32P: develop practices that can be applied on orchards and vineyards
- 33P: 100% cost-share on streams that are identified as impaired by DEQ.
- 35P: practice that provides cost-share or tax credit to rehab or construct a farm pond
- 39P: flash grazing of livestock in excluded buffer
- 40P: SL-6 flash grazing practice
- 41P: flash grazing of SL-6 buffers.
- 42P: silvopasture system
- 43P: shade alternatives developed for cattle
- 44P: cost share to replace out of lifespan watering troughs
- 45P: invasive species
- 46P: 100% cost share and rental payments for non-riparian tree planting
- 48P: SWCDs to make payments to co-payees (lenders)
- 51P: low or no interest loan or part of cost-share payment up front to help with purchasing materials
- 53P: feed mixing equipment tax credit program for the purchase of equipment
- 60P: opportunity to grant a second extension (carryover)
 - take back to subcommittee to amend
 - recommend to board that they allow a specific longer extension time
- 61P: modifying tracking to allow for the capture of more/better data

The Programmatic Subcommittee voted to forward as amended the following recommendations:

- 1P: increase funding to support SWCDs
 - Forwarded as is
- 9P: allow for more proactive approaches for BMPs instead of being strictly retroactive.
- 11P: alternative crops
 - o (struck hemp) amendment by subcommittee
- 52P: allow NM-1s to be tax credit eligible since they are being verified
 - motion to allow NM-1s to be tax credit eligible (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.

The Programmatic Subcommittee voted to refer the following recommendations:

- 10P: expand VACS eligibility
 - stream protection subcommittee
- 44P: providing cost share to replace out of lifespan watering troughs w
 - stream protection subcommittee
- 55P: offer higher tax credits ~~or cost share~~ for no till equipment purchases
 - cover crop subcommittee, strike cost share
- 56P: raise the tax credit on conservation tillage and precision application equipment.
 - cover crop subcommittee
- 58P: financial assistance for precision equipment
 - voted to refer to Board
 - voted to split into two sections
 - amended and referred to nutrient management and cover crops
- 37P: clearinghouse of designs possibly 15 or more already approved by the state engineer to avoid the time and cost of engineering
 - animal waste

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Mr. Glover announced future meeting date, time, and location.

The subcommittee will meet on November 6, 2018 at:

235 Warren Street
Orange, Virginia 22960.

The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

ANIMAL WASTE, CHAIRPERSON: AMANDA PENNINGTON

In Mrs. Pennington's absence, Ben Chester represented the animal waste committee and presented the subcommittee's report. The subcommittee currently has 20 items to review and consider. Mr. Chester presented tabled recommendations and amendments.

The Animal Waste Subcommittee voted to table the following recommendations:

- 2A: definition of "tract"
 - the definition is defined in the glossary of the VACS manual.
 - if FSA maps don't reflect the boundaries of the tracts, then staff should be properly trained in how to outline.
 - unanimously voted to table (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.
- 3A- make the cost share rate on the actual cost with no cap
- 11A and 13A: poultry litter transport
 - outside scope of VACS program
 - unanimously voted to table (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.
- 19A: request every project have site plan/ survey and create streamline process
 - some items need site plan, but not all items
 - engineering staff have a streamline process for programs that need site plans
 - unanimously voted to table (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.
- 20A: No more than 70% of a districts allocation can go to animal waste unless no applications for agronomic practices are received. Only existing storage needs will be eligible for cost share,
 - unanimously voted to table (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.

The Animal Waste Subcommittee voted to amend the following recommendations:

- 1A – mortality Freezers added to WP-4C
 - the animal waste subcommittee voted to amend 1A with similar language to the addition of drum composters, it will be an option only based on the most cost feasible.
 - unanimously voted to amend (50Y, 0N). Motion passed. Sent back to subcommittee.
- 9A: include 642-Water Well, 533-Pumping Plant and 578-Stream Crossing to the applicable NRCS standards listed
 - voted to amend (49Y, 1N). Motion passed. Sent back to subcommittee

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Mr. Chester announced the future meeting dates, times, and locations. Meetings will be held on:

November 6, 2018
 November 29, 2018
 December 17, 2018

All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. and are scheduled to end at 3:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at:

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
 1934 Deyerle Avenue, #B,
 Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

COVER CROP, CHAIRPERSON: BOB WARING

Mr. Bob Waring presented the report from the Cover Crop Subcommittee. The subcommittee currently has 30 items to review and consider. Mr. Waring presented items that the subcommittee has tabled, recommendations to be referred to other subcommittees and amendments that the subcommittee has voted on.

The Cover Crop Subcommittee voted to table the following recommendations:

- 8C: allow contracts to be switched from SL-8B to SL-8H or vice versa mid-year.
- 11C: allow fall nutrient application if producer has a livestock operation and application is accounted for in the NMP – no imported manure.
- 13C similar to 9C: take off the acreage cap for harvestable cover crops
- 14C: add an incentive payment to producers who leave crop residues on fields to be planted with cover crops.
- 20C incentive fly cover crop
- 21C higher payment rates (airplanes as well)
 - Airplanes are a lot of money especially at broadcasting rates
 - Expensive in comparison to benefit
 - Not high results practice
- 24C: build the soil health and carbon content of the soil by using no till, and non-sequential cover crops and crop rotation
- 26C: provide incentives for producers to grow their own cover crop seed
- 28C: remove the limit/cap associated with the Cover Crop Program

The Cover Crop Subcommittee voted to refer the following recommendations:

- 1C: increase the cost share rate and the incentives to encourage long term conversions especially on cropland and pastureland with poor soils and highly erodible land.
 - programmatic subcommittee
- 29C: higher incentives rates for cropland filter strips and cropland sod waterways should be considered.
 - stream protection subcommittee

- 30C: the “land retirement to open space” category will require higher incentives if it is to compete with market values
 - programmatic subcommittee

The Cover Crop Subcommittee voted to forward to the board as amended the following recommendations:

Item 5 C. Sub-Committee voted 8:0:0 to recommend to the TAC the following Amendments to SL-8B:

AMEND – SL-8B – B. Policies and Specifications #12. The cover crop must be killed using mechanical or chemical means or by grazing no earlier than March 15th and no later than ~~May 15~~ **June 1** for the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountain and Valley

Motion made to amend recommendations as presented (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.

Item 7 C. Sub-Committee voted 8:0:0 to recommend to the TAC the following Amendments to SL-8B and SL-8H:

AMEND/REPLACE – SL-8B – B. Policies and Specifications #6. Seeding rates shall be adjusted based on germination rates.

~~**STRIKE - SL-8B – B. Policies and Specifications #6.** All seed must be free of prohibited noxious weed seed, have a minimum germination rate of 80% and have no more than 16 restricted noxious weed seeds per pound. If the grower elects to use home grown seed, it must be tested for purity, germination and noxious weeds prior to seeding by a recognized seed laboratory.~~

AMEND/REPLACE – SL-8H – B. Policies and Specifications #13. Seeding rates shall be adjusted based on germination rates.

~~**STRIKE - SL-8H – B. Policies and Specifications #13.** All seed must be free of prohibited noxious weed seed, have a minimum germination rate of 80% and have no more than 16 restricted noxious weed seeds per pound. If the grower elects to use home grown seed, it must be tested for purity, germination and noxious weeds prior to seeding by a recognized seed laboratory.~~

Motion made to accept recommendations with amendments (46Y, 4N). Motion passed.

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Mr. Waring announced the future meeting dates, times, and locations. Meetings will be held on:

November 1, 2018
 December 6, 2018
 January 3, 2018

All meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. and are scheduled to end at 3:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at:

Virginia Farm Bureau
 12580 West Creek Parkway
 Richmond, Virginia 23238

FORESTRY, CHAIRPERSON: JIM ECHOLS

Mr. Jim Echols presented the report from the Forestry Subcommittee. The subcommittee currently has 12 items to review and consider. Mr. Echols presented items that the subcommittee has tabled and amendments that the subcommittee has voted on.

The Forestry Subcommittee voted to table the following recommendations:

- 7F: 100% cost share for buffer establishment with 3 year establishment contract included to ensure proper establishment of forest buffer through proper maintenance.
 - this prolongs the process making it difficult to close things out.
- 9F: develop buffer strategies for properties that are not traditional agriculture, but may be in a rural or even suburban setting, and have a stream flowing through their property
 - this is outside of agriculture, and therefore does not have to do with the VACS program
- 10F: develop a position that can consolidate all of the best options for buffer projects
 - interesting idea, but not appropriate for the VACS program
- 11F: develop sustainable farm certification
 - RMP helps certify proper conservation practices

The Forestry Subcommittee voted to discuss further the following recommendations:

- 3F: reduce number of stems per acre required in FR-3 from 300 to 100 stems per acre.
 - the subcommittee is currently working on proper wording
 - Department of Forestry decides the number of stems per acre
 - deviates from NRCS standards
 - motion made to discuss recommendation further (44Y, 6N). Motion passed.
- 4F: if applicant applies for FR-3, in conjunction with an SL-6, cap stays at \$70k to promote forested riparian buffers.
 - FR3 is the best practice for nutrients, didn't want to penalize for having trees
 - Stayed in subcommittee
- 12F: with existing programs, reduce the restrictions to make the programs more palatable for farmers.
 - motion made for subcommittee to discuss recommendation further (50Y, 0N). Motion passed.

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Mr. Echols announced future meeting date, time, and location.

October 24, 2018 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

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

STREAM PROTECTION, CHAIRPERSON: MARK HOLLBERG

Mr. Mark Hollberg presented an overview of the work that has been completed in the Stream Protection Subcommittee. The subcommittee currently has 30 items to review and consider. Mr. Charlie Wootton, Mr. Tom Turner and Mr. Aaron Lucas presented items that have been extensively discussed and amended in the subcommittee.

The Stream Protection Subcommittee voted to table the following recommendations:

- 1S: automatic 10% reduction to CEF for farms that have proper stocking rates determined by a certified conservation planner or grazing management specialist
- 5S: create a Blanket Permit Process for Simple SL-6s
 - concern has been addressed in new tracking program

- 12S: modify practice failure section so when cost-share for fence replacement for a BMP is paid the lifespan doesn't start over.
- 16S: SL-6 stream exclusion with option annual hay removal
 - model would not give credit
- 18S: consider allowing temporary fence along rivers that have known flooding issues.
 - current standards should apply, CCI practice
- 22S: adding new well as a component to the current SL-9 practice
 - practice failures are in place
- 25S: Wildlife habitat plantings cost share program to promote living field borders, conversion of crop land to wildlife habitat and insectary rows.
 - Not a pressing concern for VACS at this time
- 28S: cost share made available for water monitoring devices to reduce farmer concern

The Stream Protection Subcommittee voted to refer the following recommendations:

- 30S: we suspect WIP 2 levels of off-stream watering likely exist as voluntary practices. Couple this practice to tree planning options in pastures.
 - forestry subcommittee
 - recommendation was not fully understood by subcommittee

The Stream Protection Subcommittee discussed three main concepts due to the similarities of the recommendations they received:

1. Stream Protection Subcommittee Discussion Notes for SL6

New practice – akin to a WP-2 but with a different set back. Presented the new SP-1 “spec.” Asking if the full TAC likes the new practice’s concept. This would create a narrow buffer, like the LE-1T. Would allow for stream fencing and limited access but no cross fence. All water bodies and streams in a field would need to be fenced out. This needs to be flushed out more but would be good for those on rented land.

Many recommended re-evaluating the 10’ fence set back.

Do any other states have a rental stream exclusion practice?

Sounds like it is worthwhile for the committee to spend more time on and flush out.

Had envisioned this as a Bay only practice to pilot it, but no one seemed to be in favor of that.

Will bring back to next TAC meeting with more specifics flushed out. – Unanimously agreed to send back to subcommittee

2. Suggestions to incorporate prescribed grazing into practice list:

(Concept ADVANCED from subcommittee 10/11/18 for TAC consideration)

SL-6

- Section B-12: No state cost-share and tax credit is authorized for any installation that is:
 - Add v. For interior fencing and watering facilities to distribute grazing in upland fields. (Applicant may apply for SL-7)
- Insert statement that stream crossing/hardened access cannot be primary water source (off stream watering facility is required)

SL-7

- Re-name: “Extension of Watering System”
- Same language as SL-7 but eliminate CREP references
- Use Description and Purpose and first paragraph under Polices and Specifications

from current SL-9

- Require periodic spot checks?
- Rate: 75% ?
- Most members agreed that some type of spot-check process would need to take place to ensure grazing management is being utilized. Will work this out during further discussion in subcommittee

SL-9

- Keep name: "Grazing Land Management"
- Substitute the old SL-10T language
- Rate: \$25/ac/year with 200ac cap
- 3 year practice
- This is not really a new practice because taking what we have now and moving things around. Attempting to separate infrastructure and management into multiple practices. Could be a better use of state dollars because you can be more realistic about what level of management the producer is willing to do.

This would give us a basic exclusion with water system practice and limited rotational grazing (SL-6); infrastructure for cross fence/troughs and 528 Grazing Plan in upland fields practice (new SL-7) and a prescribed grazing practice that would get us Nutrient Management Plan, 528 Grazing Plan and incorporate pasture renovation (New SL-9) . (There were several suggestions for renovation on list)

Full TAC unanimously agreed for the subcommittee to continue further discussion on each concept. Full group agrees that the subcommittee should move forward with developing these ideas.

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

Mr. Hollberg announced future meeting date, time, and location.

October 30, 2018

Meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and be held at:

DCR Staunton Regional Office
12 Sunset Boulevard
Staunton, Virginia 24401

AGENCY AND OTHER PARTNER UPDATES

DCR – Darryl Glover – Mr. Glover announced that the Ag Incentives Manager position has closed and interviewing process will begin in November. Mr. Glover also announced that the RMP SAG is having its meeting on November 13, 2018 at DEQ Innsbrook 9:30 – 12pm.

NRCS – Chad Wentz – Mr. Wentz gave an update on the current status of NRCs. Mr. Wentz stated that they are currently operating under continuing resolution through December 7, 2018. There is no farm bill, and no word on a new farm bill. Because of uncertainty of what will be in the farm bill, offering a very limited FY19 sign up for national initiatives. With those, will have 2 batching periods, first deadline is October 19, 2018 to be ranked by November 2, 2018, second ranking period has applications due November 2, 2018 ranked by November 17, 2018. Mr. Wentz was not sure what the allocation is for those national initiatives are yet. Always accepting applications but not ranking anything for general EQUIP right now because of the farm bill issue. NRCS will be using a new system this year called CART and will be using it starting in February. CSP still uncertain as two versions are in the farm bill so not doing CSP right now, but are taking renewals of existing contracts that will expire at the end of the calendar year.

FSA – Emily Horsley – Mrs. Horsley stated that CRP is suspended, because there is no farm bill. CREP is suspended as well. Signups need to occur before October 30, 2018 to be considered. Mrs. Horsley noted that even with the half-year sign up of CREP, they have already received applications for over 400k of the state matching fund.

Mr. Glover stated that if anyone had any additional comments for a subcommittee, to please send it to the chair of the committee. If there are any new suggestions, please have them turned into Darryl Glover by Monday October 22, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.