

PROGRAMMATIC SUBCOMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 6, 2018
Town of Orange Public Works Department, Orange, VA

TIME AND PLACE

The Programmatic Subcommittee meeting was held on November 6, 2018 12:30pm- 5:00pm.

The meeting was held at:

235 Warren St. Orange, VA 22960

November 6, 2018 12:30-5:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present

Darryl Glover, DCR

Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau

Dana Gochenour, Lord Fairfax SWCD

Joe Wood, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Greg Wichelns, Culpeper SWCD

Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Carrie Swanson, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Anne Coates, Thomas Jefferson SWCD

Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Charles Newton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD

Keith Horsley, Tidewater SWCD

Steven Meeks, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Jay Yankey, Prince William SWCD

Kris Jarvis, John Marshall SWCD

Ricky Rash, Piedmont SWCD

Joseph Stepp, Hanover-Caroline SWCD

Voting Members not Present

Brandon Dillistin, Northern Neck SWCD

Non-Voting Members Present

Christine Watlington, DCR

Denney Turner, DCR

Debbie Cross, DCR

Roland Owens, DCR

Kendall Tyree, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Bob Waring, DCR

Amy Walker, DCR

Guests

Julie Williamson

WELCOME

A quorum was established with 17 voting members present. Mr. Glover welcomed the participants and briefly reviewed the new matrix that was sent out, including the newly added recommendations. Upcoming Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program Technical Advisory Committee meeting dates were announced. Mr. Glover stated that any recommendation that is not voted on by January 8, 2019 will be carried to the Technical Advisory Committee in FY20.

BMP BUNDLING CONCEPT- Bob Waring

Mr. Bob Waring presented his Concept Cost Share Practice: WFA-1- Whole Farm Approach (row crop) to the subcommittee. Programmatic suggestions 12P was referenced for this discussion: Multi-practice or tier approach for a new practice. Mr. Waring passed out four handouts to the committee, see attached. Mr. Waring explained that the WFA-1 is currently set up for row crops, but wanted the subcommittee's opinion of how this could work for animals in the future. The WFA-1 would allow for the collection of data, provide a multi-year guaranteed cost share rate, as well as provide for enhanced agricultural rotational crop BMPs. It was acknowledged that the pilot has been tailored for rotational crop production, but could be restructured for animal operations. The reasoning for the WFA-1 is the need for data, without data it is assumed that the producers are not implementing the practice. There are current methods for entering data voluntarily but a lot of the data is not captured due to time restraints. Overall, the WFA-1 is to capture all data relevant to the farm, including nutrient management, applications, nitrogen placement and timing, phosphorus placement timing, lime, potassium, and verification of Nutrient Management BMPs. Three Rivers Soil and Water Control District will serve as a pilot for this concept.

There was a brief discussion with questions and answers, followed by a motion made by Martha Moore for DCR to begin the process for a pilot program at Three Rivers SWCD for the WFA-1, and for funds be set aside. A second was made by Ricky Rash. The motion passed unanimously.

PRIORITIZATION OF FACTORS FOR DETERMINING SWCD STAFFING ASSISTANCE FUNDING

Mr. Glover began by the clarifying the definition and use of Technical Assistance, Technical Assistance Base, and Administrative and Operational funds. The subcommittee was asked at the previous subcommittee meeting to come prepared to this meeting with a list factors that should be prioritized for calculating District staffing support (administration/operations + technical assistance) funding in the future (i.e. FY21 not FY20). The factors that the subcommittee suggested included number of contracts, BMPs with engineering designs, number of animal units, agricultural acres of high priority, workload of District, number of agricultural acres (not just high priority), cost of living- census data and school system, basic staffing needs as a base amount, base operational support needed, number of damns in District, and locality planning cycle.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF EARLER, NEW AND REFERRED PROGRAMMATIC SUGGESTIONS

- 2P: Modify how technical assistance is allocated
 - o advances, unanimous
- 3P: More funding for education and technical assistance for farmers
 - o Reword recommendation: More funding for outreach and technical assistance for farmers in cooperation with external partners.
 - o Passes as amended, advances to TAC

- 12P: Multi-practice or tier approach for a new practice
 - o amended pilot program WFA-1 by Bob Waring, advanced to TAC
- 13P: Consider removing all practice caps and program caps funding
 - o Combined with recommendations 13P, 14P, and 15P
 - o Establish or increase practice caps, bundle practice caps by type and send to TAC subcommittees for recommended cap amounts
 - o Districts to set caps but not above state, decide by subcommittees on specific practices
 - o Remove all participant caps and establish practice caps
 - o Unanimously voted to amend and advance to TAC
- 16P: Anytime cost-share increases above the current 2019 program year rates, the lifespan should go up as well
 - o Amend to say “Establish a sliding cost-share scale for BMPs based upon lifespan, if applicable”
 - o Ricky Rash motioned to advance as amended, seconded by Anne Coates
 - o Unanimously voted to advance to full TAC as amended
- 17P: Consider structuring cost share rates relative to the BMPs associated N/P/Sediment reductions
 - o Marth Moore motioned to table because of prematurity
 - o Unanimously voted to table
- 18P: Cost share payments to be paid by component or in a phase process
 - o Marth Moore motioned to table, seconded by Steven Meeks
 - o Unanimously voted to table
- 20P: VACS practice that encourages producers to report all conservation practices implemented in their farming operation.
 - o Combined with recommendation 21P
 - o Noted to try with a District on pilot basis, before fully implemented
 - o Keith Horsley motioned to advance combined with 21P, seconded by Kris Jarvis
 - o Unanimously voted to advanced
- 22P, 23P, 24P, and 25P combined-- recommendations about Horse Operations
 - o Guest Julie Williamson spoke about horse activities, water quality issues that exist because of horses and potential ways to reduce these water quality issues. Mrs. Williams said she would like to see help for horse owners, not only commercial but also backyard owners by recognizing them as a part of the program.
 - o Martha Moore motioned to form a separate work group to discuss and clarify Horse Operations in the VACS program, seconded by Steven Meeks
 - o Unanimously voted to form a separate work group for Horse Operations
 - o Recommendations for members of the work group should be sent to Darryl Glover
- 28P: All practices included under the conservation planning practice should receive priority consideration
 - o Dana Gochenour motioned to table, seconded by Joseph Stepp
 - o Unanimously noted to table
- 33P: Consider offering 100% cost-share on streams that are identified as impaired by DEQ
 - o Jay Yankey motioned to refer to Stream Protection Subcommittee, Martha Moore seconded
- 35P: A practice that provides cost-share or tax credit to rehab or construct a farm pond.

- recommended that tax credit becomes cost-share practice
- Jay Yankey motioned to advance, seconded by Steven Meeks
- Vote (15Y, 2N) motion advances as amended (consider a practice that provides cost-share ~~or tax credit~~ to rehab or construct a farm pond).
- 39P: Flash grazing of livestock in excluded buffer
 - Combined with 40P and 41P
 - Charles Newton motioned to table, seconded by Greg Wichelns
 - Voted (11Y, 6N) motion does not pass
 - Keith Horsley motioned to send to Stream Protection Subcommittee, Kris Jarvis seconded
 - Voted (16Y, 1N), motion passes to send to Stream Protection Subcommittee
- 46P: Consider 100% cost share and rental payments for non-riparian tree planting OR connect non-riparian tree planting to the creation of shade in livestock pastures.
 - Anne Coates motioned to move forward, Martha Moore seconded
 - Unanimously voted to advance
- 48P: Allow SWCDs to make payments to co-payees (lenders)
 - Further discussion needed
- 51P: Upfront outlay for high dollar practices
 - Jay Yankey motioned to table, Ricky Rash seconded
 - Unanimously voted to table
- 52P: Allow NM-1s to be tax credit eligible since they are being verified
 - WP-4D practice already exists
- 53P: Feed mixing equipment tax credit program for the purchase of equipment
 - There is not enough information to make a decision at this time. Will find out who submitted recommendation for further information to continue discussion.
- 60P: Opportunity to grant a second extension (carryover) to our participants if needed on a case by case circumstance
 - Anne Coates motioned to advance, Martha Moore seconded
- 61P: Consider modifying tracking to allow for the capture of more/better data so as to allow for more accurate reporting to the Bay Model.
 - Anne Coates motioned to advance, seconded by Joseph Stepp
 - Unanimously voted to advance
- 64P: Aquaculture as a new BMP
 - Martha Moore motioned to table until there was further research, Ricky Rash seconded
 - Unanimously voted to table

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

November 15, 2018: Virginia Agricultural BMP Advisory Committee Augusta Government Center
75 Government Center Lane, Verona 24482 9:30am – 3:00pm

December 17, 2018: Programmatic Subcommittee: Orange County Farm Bureau, 13438 James Madison
Highway, Orange, 22960 12:30-4:30pm

ADJOURN 5:00pm