

**AGRICULTURAL BMP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PROGRAMMATIC SUBCOMMITTEE
Central High School Complex, 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063
August 26, 2019
9:30am-1:00pm**

TIME AND PLACE

The Programmatic Subcommittee meeting was held on Monday August 26, 2019 9:30am at the Central High School Complex.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present

Darryl Glover, DCR
Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau
Greg Wichelns, Culpeper SWCD
Beck Stanley, Virginia Agribusiness Council (proxy for Kyle Shreve)
Carrie Swanson, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Anne Coates, Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Charles Newton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Brandon Dillistin, Northern Neck SWCD
Steven Meeks, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Jay Yankey, Prince William SWCD
Sam Truban, Lord Fairfax SWCD (proxy for Dana Gochenour)
Joe Wood, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Voting Members not Present

Ricky Rash, Piedmont SWCD
Sharon Conner, Hanover-Caroline SWCD
Dana Gochenour, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness Council
Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD

Non-Voting Members Present

Debbie Cross, DCR
David Bryan, DCR
Christine Watlington, DCR
Roland Owens, DCR
Denney Collins, DCR
Stefanie Kitchen, VA Farm Bureau

WELCOME

Meeting Opens (9:30 AM)

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. Mr. Glover scheduled an additional programmatic subcommittee meeting tentative for

October 1, 2019 1:30-4:00pm at the Farm Bureau in Orange County. The additional subcommittee was scheduled to review draft CEF, Priority, and Secondary Consideration language.

DISCUSSION

Mr. David Bryan gave a brief update on the items that have already been discussed at the full TAC. The items included 1P Eliminating Practice Caps and Making SL-6 Variance Eligible, 6P Flat Rate Payments and 8P Conservation Easements. These items will be voted on at the next full Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS, David Bryan and Darryl Glover

- 4P – VACS Policy for USDA Contract Cancellations
 - Motion to table and include in future trainings by Mrs. Martha Moore, seconded by Mr. Jay Yankey
Motion Passes Unanimously
 - This information is already included in the manual and is the same for CREP contracts. Clarification on this information will be provided by Mr. David Bryan during future VACS updates and trainings.
- 9P – E&S Costs – Should This Include Costs of Engineering and Implementation?
 - Motion that E&S engineering design expense of applicant be eligible for VACS cost share, with an approved permit by Mr. Greg Wichelns, seconded by Mr. Steve Meeks
Motion Passes Unanimously
 - Motion that implementation of E&S for an agricultural scenario be eligible for VACS cost share with an approved permit by Mr. Greg Wichelns, seconded by Mr. Jay Yankey.
Motion Passes Unanimously
David Bryan and Christine Watlington will work on developing language.
- 10P – Tax Credit Notification Form
 - Motion to place the revised tax credit form in the glossary of the FY20 VACS Manual and make it optional for Districts by Mr. Charles Newton, seconded by Mr. Steven Meeks
Motion Passes Unanimously

EQUINE WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS, Darryl Glover

- 2E – Definitions of Agricultural Products and Agricultural Production
 - The subcommittee was presented with two separate options of possible definitions
 - Option 1, Attachment 1 – drafted by Mrs. Martha Moore
 - Option 2, Attachment 2 – drafted by DCR staff
 - Motion to add DCR drafted statement (Attachment 2) under production in the glossary section of the FY20 VACS Manual by Mr. Greg Wichelns, seconded by Mr. Steve Meeks
Motion Passes Unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS CONTINUED

- 5P – Carve-Out and/or Definition of “Small Farms”
 - Motion to table suggestion of carve-out and definition of small farms and move forward with marketing and PR outreach for small farms by Mrs. Martha Moore, seconded by Mrs. Anne Coates.
Motion Passes Unanimously

PR and outreach to include marketing materials such as brochures for small farms to better inform small famers of VACS practices that they could benefit from.

- 3P – Options for Regionalization of VACS Program
 - A brief discussion was held on the regionalization of the VACS program. This is something that is mentioned in the WIP II. It was suggested by Mr. Roland Owens to look into the CEF rankings/ values on a geographic basis to have a better determination of how this could potentially work. It was concluded that the CEF discussion scheduled for the October 1, 2019 programmatic subcommittee should be held first before this can be discussed any further.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Programmatic Subcommittee, 1:30pm-4 PM on October 1, 2019 tentatively at Farm Bureau in Orange County, VA.

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

Programmatic Subcommittee, 9:30am on October 24, 2019 location TBD, likely DEQ Innsbrook

Mr. Darryl Glover at the close of the meeting encouraged everyone to review the WIP III, especially Chapter 7.2 and come back with any comments or questions.

ADJOURN (11:25 AM)

Attachment 1

Agricultural Land: Defined as “land being used in a BONA FIDE program of agricultural management and engaged in the production of agricultural, horticultural or forest products for market. The real estate must consist of a minimum of five contiguous acres and have verifiable gross receipts in excess of \$1,000 per year from the production or sale of agricultural, horticultural or forest products produced, or revenue generated from livestock activities on the applicant’s agricultural land for each of the past five years.

Agricultural Products: Crops, livestock and livestock products or activities that create the need for agriculture best management practices to, including but not limited to: field crops, forage, fruits, vegetables, horticultural specialties, cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, poultry, furbearing animals, milk, eggs, and furs., ~~and equine activities that create the need for agriculture best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollutants.~~

Agricultural Production: The production for commercial purposes of crops, livestock and livestock products, and includes the processing or retail sales by the producer of crops, livestock or livestock products which are produced on the parcel or in the district. For livestock operations, the agricultural product includes revenue generated from activities which are conducted on the parcel or in the district and that create the need for agriculture best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollutants.

Attachment 2

Agricultural Land: Defined as “land being used in a BONA FIDE program of agricultural management and engaged in the production of agricultural, horticultural or forest products for market. The real estate must consist of a minimum of five contiguous acres and have verifiable gross receipts in excess of \$1,000 per year from the production or sale of agricultural, horticultural or forest products produced on the applicant’s agricultural land for each of the past five years.

Agricultural Products: Crops, livestock and livestock products that create the need for agriculture best management practices to, including but not limited to: field crops, forage, fruits, vegetables, horticultural specialties, cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, poultry, furbearing animals, milk, eggs and furs.

Agricultural Production: The production for commercial purposes of crops, livestock and livestock products, and includes the processing or retail sales by the producer of crops, livestock or livestock products which are produced on the parcel or in the district. For purposes of the VACS program, commercial equine operations such as breeding, boarding and training facilities are eligible for funding if they meet the necessary acreage and income requirements for each of the past five years.