

Ag BMP TAC Cover Crop/Nutrient Management Sub-Committee Meeting

December 5, 2019

VA Farm Bureau

12580 West Creek Parkway, Richmond, VA 23238

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Sub-Committee Co-Chair Robert Waring.

Members in Attendance

Robert Waring, Co-Chair, DCR

Steph Drzal, Co-Chair, DCR

Ben Rowe, Vice Chair, VA Farm Bureau

Spencer Yager, VA SWCD Employees Association

Beck Stanley, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Alston Horn, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Conner Miller, VA Grain Producers Assoc

Jim Tate, Hanover-Caroline SWCD

Keith Burgess, Monacan SWCD

Amy Walker, DCR

Carl Thiel-Goin, DCR

Members not in Attendance

Allyson Ponn, Lord Fairfax SWCD

Amanda McCullen, Culpeper SWCD

Glenn Dye, Producer

Jim Riddell, Producer

Blair Gordon, DCR

Scott Ambler, DCR

Tim Sexton, DCR

Guest

David Bryan, DCR – Ag BMP Program Incentives Manager

Jaclyn Friedman, DCR - Governor Office Fellow

Opening and Housekeeping

Co-Chair Robert Waring opened the meeting and reviewed housekeeping items and welcomed everyone to the Farm Bureau Building. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the November 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed, the minutes were approved as submitted, 8:0:0

Review of the NM-3C Specification:

Co-Chair, Robert Waring, reviewed the requested revisions to the NM-3C specification. The subcommittee discussed the practice in regards to the past application of biosolids and its applicability. Numerous specs have reference to biosolids, this is a larger issue to address during the next cycle. Next cycle the Subcommittee members discussed reviewing the pelletized and regulated biosolids and how they are referenced in the nutrient management specifications.

Cover Crop Subcommittee motioned to move forward with the NM-3C revised language; motion was approved 8:0:0.

The Subcommittee discussed adding sorghum to the NM-3C specification but due to the language changes that would be needed and potentially low utilization of the practice for sorghum, the Subcommittee deferred the topic.

Cover Crop Subcommittee motioned to defer adding sorghum to NM-3C language; motion was approved 8:0:0.

Review of the SL-8A Specification:

Co-Chair, Robert Waring, reviewed the comments received after the November TAC meeting. Per a comment received there was general discussion regarding the current SL-8 and sign-up. The Subcommittee reviewed information regarding recent sign-up by vegetable and tobacco producers and acknowledged leaving the SL-8 in the manual as is, would be prudent.

In addition, the subcommittee addressed the sentence in section A and section B regarding 'not applicable to...', the members decided to strike the sentence as it included 'managed rotations' that could inadvertently exclude turf and vegetables. Based on a comment received, and further discussion by members, the planting and certification requirement was changed from 30 days to 45 days to allow for a full cycle of potential District board meetings, to ensure contract approval.

The Subcommittee addressed numerous other grammatical corrections and minor comments that had been incorporated into the updated language provided.

The subcommittee motioned to move forward with the updated SL-8A language; the motion passed 8:0:0.

Review of the NM-7 Specification:

Co-Chair, Robert Waring, reviewed the comments received after the November TAC meeting. Based on comments received the Subcommittee members stressed that the practice was not a cover crop practice, but a nutrient management practice. The Subcommittee reviewed the introduction and Description and revised the language to indicate the practice as a nutrient management BMP.

In addition, the subcommittee addressed item B. 8., which requires planting in 2 weeks. The subcommittee discussed this requirement and noted that this practice should be a planned practice. The 2 weeks was not changed.

The subcommittee then began to address Item B. 14, discussing potential clarifications based on comments received. The language was clarified correcting grammatical errors. The Subcommittee addressed numerous other grammatical corrections and minor comments that had been incorporated into the updated language provided.

The subcommittee motioned to move forward with the updated NM-7 language; motion passed 8:0:0.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the combined subcommittee will be set during the next TAC cycle.

Public Comment

The Public Comment period was opened, there being no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

Meeting Adjourned 11:58 am