

Agriculture Subcommittee

January 6, 2004

Romney, WV

Present

Christina Richmond	WVDA
Doug Hudson	WVDA
Matt Monroe	WVDA
Heather Richards	Potomac Conservancy
Carla Hardy	WVCA
Rob Stull	Canaan Valley Institute
Emily Funk	WV Poultry Association
Andy Walker	WV Poultry Association
Steve Conrad	Farmer
Philip Harman	Farmer
Douglas Stoliphen	Farmer
Richard Michael	Farmer
Mark Hedrick	Pilgrims Pride
David Raines	WVCA
Bill Milleson	Farmer, WVFB, SBWAHC
Bill Parker	Farmer, WVFB
Rodney Branson	Farmer
Debbie Nicol	Farmer
Jerry Yates	WVU/Farmer
Michael Schwartz	Freshwater Institute

Matt Monroe called the meeting to order.

Michael Schwartz from Freshwater Institute attempted to explain the Scenario Builder that would aid in determining what BMP's would allow WV to meet their cap load allocations to the Bay. He explained that this was just an "example" of how things could work.

Michael told the group one thing that needs to be done is WV needs to develop costs for all BMP's that don't have costs associated with them.

The group then went on to discuss what they want in the final Tributary Strategy. The list is as follows:

Michael said, Freshwater Institute will begin implementing the farmer's requests into the agriculture portion of the document.

- 100% financing for all BMP installation relating to the Bay. (point source and non-point source farms)
 - o This would include maintenance such as moving and loading and unloading equipment.
- Non-accounted for BMP's

- What the farmers are and are not going to get credit for.
- Group disagrees with model numbers and load allocations.
- Group does not want this document to regulate what they do.
- Background for practices (rotational grazing).
- Winter feeding area as a BMP. Available cost-share.
- Revisions for NRCS standards – livestock facilities – land application of litter.
- Reductions by DNR in deer and geese populations.
- Better fencing programs for stream banks.
- Group questioned whether they have to accept all BMP's.
- Want credit for how BMP's work in WV. (P transport in soil)
- More accurate phytase credit.
- Nutrient Management Plans – Farmers want a credit for not using all nutrients required by the plan.
- BMP credit for liming applications.
- Litter transport that is not documented through Litter Transport Program.
- Credit for Dry Streams with Buffers.
- Refuse left on the soil. (crop residues in excess of 30%)
- Berms along streams/rip-rap/permanent buffers around feeding areas.

- The BMP's the group wanted to see a credit for were
 - o Increase in cover crops
 - o Gutters around feeding pads
 - o Grassed waterways
 - o Stream crossings – bridges that are not NRCS approved
 - o No-till replanted pastures
 - o Frost seeding of legumes
 - o Deep stack litter- crust outs
 - o Side dressing of N (PSNT)
 - o Feed conversion /manure additives
 - o Does litter we apply count as carbon sequestering
 - o Poultry composters

We have to decide how we are going to account for BMP's with out cost share programs?
 Michael Schwartz, wanted the group to understand the tributary strategy is a living document and things will change in it.

Matt asked for solutions to the farmer's aversion to the strategy and none were given.
 The group has said, they will agree to do something, but they don't want to have hard numbers that could become mandatory in 5 or 10 years.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30.