

9/13/2023

PY 2025 Animal Waste Subcommittee Meeting-DOF Charlottesville, Board Room 10:00-3:00

Meeting Minutes

- Quorum was established and Amanda called the meeting to order at 10:05AM
- Introductions
 - Amanda Pennington, DCR-Chair- Voting Member
 - Phil Davis, DEQ-Voting Member
 - Eric Paulson, VA State Dairymen's Association-Voting Member
 - Nick Livesay, Lord Fairfax SWCD-Voting Member
 - Mark Campbell, Virginia Farm Bureau-Proxy for Zach Jacobs
 - Aaron Shull, Headwaters SWCD-Voting Member
 - Kevin Dunn, Peter Francisco SWCD-Voting Member
 - Megen Dalton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD-Voting Member
 - Elizabeth Dellinger, VACDE-Voting Member
 - Kendal Dellinger (arrived at 10:12), Culpeper SWCD-Voting Member
 - Steve Escobar, VA Equine Council-Voting Member
 - Michal Tabor, Blue Ridge SWCD-Proxy for Cynthia Martel
 - Hunter Gravatt, Hanover-Caroline SWCD-Voting Member
 - Darryl Marshal, VDACS-Voting Member
 - Ben Chester, DCR-Non member
 - Chris Coggin, Shenandoah Valley – Non member
 - Shelby Foonsness Shenandoah Valley – Non member
- Amanda explained the matrix items.
- Starting with 2a.- *Add NMP requirement to CCI-WP-4 specification.*
 - Kevin said everyone participating should have a NMP. Phil Davis stated that it shouldn't be a problem.
 - **Motion from Kevin Dunn to add, "In order to be eligible for cost-share, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage receiving manure from the associated storage structure. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014); must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner; and must be on file with the local District before any cost-share payment is made to the participant. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VAC50-85-130G)." As the new item number 9 in the CCI-WP-4 and to the CCI-WP-4C as the new item 8, and replace the language within the rest of the WP-4 Suite to be consistent. Second Steve Escobar – Vote Unanimous.**
- Moved onto 3a.- *Allow for unrolling hay for WP-4SF. Language could state: Unrolling hay in pastures is permitted outside the feeding facility for the lifespan of the practice. Concentrated feeding of any sort is not permitted outside the feeding facility (including but not limited to: hay*

rings, feed carts, troughs, bunks, etc.). Justification: there are numerous soil health benefits to unrolling hay in pastures, which is directly correlated to water quality due to increased nutrient filtering and distribution of nutrients. Reducing the discrepancies with NRCS practices which allow for unrolling hay. Positive animal welfare perspective due to allowing calves the ability to bed down in the hay during winter storms. Our District has had several producers not sign up for WP-4SF practices due to this limitation.

- Nick explained the background of the item.
 - Elizabeth stated that with the new part three we may want to further explain things within the specs as the producers will be receiving a copy.
 - **Motion from Steve Escobar to add “Unrolling hay in pastures is permitted outside the feeding facility for the lifespan of the practice. Concentrated feeding of any sort is not permitted outside the feeding facility (including but not limited to: hay rings, feed carts, troughs, bunks, etc.)” as Item B.-2.-v. of the WP-4SF. Second Kendal Dellinger. Vote Unanimous.**
- Moved onto 4a.- *In WP-4 suite spec, allow for sizing manure storage for any on farm generated manure.4. Cost-share and tax credit is not authorized for: i. Storage of manure generated outside of this facility. Language could say: Cost-share is eligible for sizing facility to treat/store any on farm generated manure from separate herds or livestock. Justification: It is least cost technically feasible to build one structure that treats all manure that could lead to other resource concerns on the farm.*
 - Nick gave a background of the issue.
 - Elizabeth suggested adding similar language to the WP-4LL, Amanda stated that it may be early to add that to the LL now as it may leave room for mismanagement.
 - **Add the language “Animal waste generated from any qualifying group of animals on the farm where the facility is to be located.” As the new item i. under section B.3. Cost-share and tax credit is authorized: of the WP-4 and WP-4SF. Motion by Elizabeth Dellinger, Second Nick Livesay. Vote Unanimous.**
- Move onto 5a.- *Suggest adding a limit for eligibility for a WQ-12 regarding the water quality concern/proximity to water features.*
 - Amanda and Ben provided background of the issue.
 - Megen stated that the intent was to keep clean water clean.
 - Discussion about if water coming from a structure that is far away from a stream still would be a resource concern.
 - We discussed when water from WQ-12s needs to be discharged and where they need to be discharged.
 - Michael Tabor asked if the WQ-12 contributes to the WIIP goals. We believe it is, but Amanda stated that Stu may think it is not.
 - **Michael Tabor suggests leaving it the way it is. Michael Tabor motioned to table this item, Kendall Dellinger seconded the motion; Vote 13 yay, 1 abstain Amanda Pennington.**
- Break for lunch 11:30AM
- Meeting Resumed 12:20PM (Eric Paulson did not return)
- Move onto 6A.- *Evaluate CCI-WP4 payment rate as applicable to swine operations. They are more similar to poultry than other livestock in receiving multiple groups per year.*

- Megen suggested add to the CCI-WP-4 section C. after “\$1.50 per animal unit for Poultry”, add “and swine”.
- It was suggested that we run some numbers for nursery, feeder pigs, finishing hogs.
- **Action Item- Kevin and Darryl will track down numbers/scenarios for the next meeting for the CCI and ask about how they deal with animal mortality.**
- Discussion about swine composting was had.
- Action Item – Amanda will reach out to the NRCS area engineer in South East about the composting.
- *Item 1A- Create CCI practices that provide incentives for the continued maintenance and use of animal waste practices. CCI-WP-4 and CCI-WP-4C created in 2021; subcommittee deferred in 2022 with the intention to prioritize in the next TAC cycle.*
 - It was discussed if we should pay for CCIs for manure storage for WP-4s and WP-4SF or LLs or anything else separately.
 - Kevin and Ben suggest we should pay based on the manure treated rather than just animal units.
 - Amanda clarified – Keep one CCI Spec for WP-4s (except for WP-4c) and we just have a table to pay based on the amount of manure treated.
 - **Action Item – Amanda ask Stu if we get credit for the lots associated with the LL and Bs.**
 - Should we pay based on the manure or the animal units.
 - Megen stated that we should start with the existing CCI-Wp-4 and see if we can add the CCI-WP-4SF/FP/LC
 - Phil stated that the WP-4FP isn’t on the loan list.
 - The title of the CCI-WP-4 was discussed and decided to leave it the same.
 - The description and purpose were reworked to show which other codes this applies to.
 - **Action Item - Amanda to follow up with DCR. Subcommittee Discussion - Lifespans were discussed and believed that DCR needs to clarify the lifespans on CCIs as an administrative fix.**
 - Ben provided a spread sheet to show the different rate payment options.
 - Megen stated that we should add a statement saying that only one structure payment per structure can be paid.
 - For standalone manure storage structures, the \$25/AU should be multiplied by the percentage of manure being collected and treated by this structure.
 - We agreed that the payment rates should be based on \$25/au multiplied by 40% for SFs, 80% for LL/Bs, and 100% for LCs.
 - Megen – Manure collected from a feeding pad is eligible under the WP-4 based on a collection rate not to exceed 30%.
 - Elizabeth brought up the point that the rates could be over paid if the technician doesn’t count the multiple structures on a dairy properly. This was discussed and determined that the margin of error is minimal and could be fixed by training. If this becomes an issue it can be reevaluated in the future.
 - The group edited the rates section of the CCI-WP-4 Spec.
 - Nobody knows how CCI Lifespans/Ches-Bay Model Lifespans/NRCS Lifespans all work together.

- Mark from Farm Bureau left at 2:23PM
- The table to add is as follows:

Type of Practice	Rate/AU
WP-4 Poultry/Swine	\$ 1.50
WP-4 Others	\$ 25.00
WP-4 SF	\$ 10.00
WP-4LL	\$ 20.00
WP-4B	\$ 20.00
WP-4LC	\$ 25.00

- ○ Ben suggested example: For instance, a dairy with 100 animal units with a bedded pack (WP-4B) and the manure additional manure is flushed to a standalone WP-4 liquid pit. The rate to the producer would include \$5,000 per structure (pit and pack) and \$20 per 100 AU = \$2,000 and the pit would receive approximately another 20% of the manure, so this would be calculated based on $\$25 \times 20\% = \$5/\text{AU}$ per 100 Au = \$500. The total CCI payment would be \$12,500.00 = (\$5,000 + \$5,000 + \$2,000 + \$500). The total manure from this herd = 100% as shown above.
 - **Action Item: Amanda will talk to Stu and Jen to see how the rates are going to work within tracking.**
- Public Comment Period – None
- Nick moved to adjourn, Darryl Second. Meeting Adjourn at 2:56PM.