

**AGRICULTURAL BMP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANIMAL WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE
900 Natural Resources Dr. Charlottesville, VA
October 12, 2021
10:0am-3:00 pm**

TIME AND PLACE

The Animal Waste Subcommittee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 10:00am at the Virginia Tech Natural Resources Building in Charlottesville.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present

Amanda Pennington, DCR
Allen Jackson, Blue Ridge SWCD
Darrell Marshall, VDACS
Megan Dalton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Philip Davis, DEQ
Eric Paulson, VA Dairymen's Association
Kevin Dunn, Peter Francisco
Jay Yankey, Prince William SWCD
Sam Truban, Lord Fairfax SWCD
Steve Escobar, Virginia Horse Council

Voting Members Not Present

Rachel Winter, Headwaters SWCD
Beck Stanley, Agribusiness Council

Non-Voting Members Present

Nicole Keller, DCR
Jason Wilfang, DCR
Ben Chester, DCR

WELCOME

Meeting Opens (10:05 AM)

A quorum was established with 10 voting members present. Amanda Pennington welcomed the participants and briefly reviewed the agenda.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS

- CCI-WP-4
 - Amanda Pennington reviewed the draft language
 - Members compared language to other CCI practices and made minor edits to match and clarify.
 - Members discussed the time period over which the rate per animal unit is calculated and decided to add language to clarify that it is "as calculated for annual manure production."

- Members discussed the language around eligibility for multiple payments for multiple facilities and what counted as a ‘facility.’ Added language B.1 and C that defined that separate facilities for different animals groups may be treated as separate practices, but multiple litter sheds serving a single group does not.
- Amanda Pennington made a motion to advance the draft language to the full TAC. The motion was seconded by Kevin Dunn. Motion passes unanimously.
- CCI-WP-4C
 - Members reviewed the draft language and added language to clarify that the practice is only for poultry.
 - Clarified roofing requirements for composter facilities.
 - Amanda Pennington made a motion to move the item forward to the full TAC. Jay Yankey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- The subcommittee decided to review the “extra” items assigned, which consisted of two items:
 - Matrix Item 7A-In practice WP-4LC, remove the part of B.2.vi that says, "or shall be converted to cropland and managed to a soil loss of T and managed in compliance with the SL-15B practice specification". As the description states, "The intent of this practice is to improve water quality by preventing manure and sediment runoff from entering watercourses and karst areas"; therefore, allowing an annual cropping system will not provide the same protection to water quality, sediment runoff, and sensitive karst areas as a perennial sod will. Soil loss to T is not acceptable on ground that has a history of heavy livestock traffic, experiencing excessive nutrient and soil loss.
 - The subcommittee decided to allow the land to be cropped to provide additional incentive for the producer to not put livestock back on the acres. This specification is still very new and the subcommittee feels it would be best to see how this works out before making changes.
 - Jay Yankey made a motion to table the item. Steve Escobar seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Matrix item 8A-Include the following NRCS Practice Standards into one or more of VACS specifications: 360 Waste Storage Facility Closure, 521 Pond Sealing or Lining - Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner, 520 Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment, and 522 Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete. The 360 Practice is used to properly demolish an existing waste storage facility, typically liquid manure pits or lagoons. The three others are options to line an existing leaking manure pit/lagoon based on the best way to line or seal them depending on environmental and soil conditions.
 - Phil Davis stated this was his suggestion and the reason was closing of pits cannot be included in the DEQ loan program unless it is part of the VACS manual.
 - Committee agreed that more research and information was needed.
 - Maybe there is a way to include items in the DEQ loan program that aren't cost share eligible in lieu of adding practices to the manual just so they can be eligible for DEQ loans.
 - Amanda Pennington made a motion to defer the item until next year. Phil Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Misc. points
 - Amanda Pennington brought to the committee several small items not on the Subcommittee matrix.

- Amanda Pennington asked for clarification on WP-4LC. Do operations that bring cows home for the winter and confine them need to take animals off all acres on their other farms?
 - The spec says “all associated acres,” which DCR interprets as meaning all acres, but the original intent was to address the specific resource concern of the home lot where cows are brought to feed during the winter.
 - The committee discussed the interpretation and agreed that clarification is needed. The committee drafted language that clarifies that for backgrounding and finishing operations, only the acres associated with concentrated feeding that contribute to the resource problem must be amended.
 - Other language issues were discussed as needing further clarification; maybe the committee should address them further next year.
 - Amanda Pennington made a motion to accept the changes and advance the item to the full TAC. Jay Yankey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Amanda asked why Standard 580 is in the WP-4B.
 - Darrel made a motion to remove the Standard from the spec. Sam Truban seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- There was a general discussion on buffer widths for loafing lots. No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

None

ADJOURN

2:15