TRC Conference Call
Meeting Notes

April 25, 2016

Attending

Area I:
Area II: Claire Hilsen
Area III: Keith Burgess, Brandon Dillistin, Danny Withers, Jim Wallace, Etta Lucas
Area IV:
Area V: Dave Sandman, Jonathan Wooldridge
Area VI: Cole Charnock
DCR: Blair Gordon, Barbara McGarry, Scott Ambler, Roland Owens
Others:

Module Updates:

Roland commented on several module updates, one being the ability to merge land units. He spoke about the map export capability. When a user makes changes in visible layers in the Table of Contents, those changes will be respected in a map export versus the previous functionality which limited changes to visible layers to those set up in a template. The next phase is an approximate 3-week period of bug fixes, with a push of enhancements due in May.

Closeout of '15 grants

Regarding the 2015 calendar-year Chesapeake Bay plan-writing contracts, all Districts have received RMP Operational Support for review of plans in the '15 grant/contract. As of the April contractor reports, payment for plan-writing has been issued for all plans, with the exception of 2 plans which should be approved this month.

Status of '16 grants

Regarding the 2016 grants, the CB portion of the contract requires that plans be submitted before June 30. The workload for the CB portion is shifting, so DCR can't say with certainty which Districts will receive plans for review. No '16 contract plans have been submitted yet.

Outside Chesapeake Bay (OCB) plans must be approved by December 31. These plans will likely not be submitted in the next few months, although one has been submitted.

Voluntary BMP specs:

A new set of voluntary BMP specs will be included in the '17 BMP manual. In the past, there have not been a separate spec for cost-shared/tax credit and voluntary practices. Beginning this year, a separate voluntary BMP spec has been and may contain some modification from the

counterpart cost-share/tax credit practice specification. Most voluntary specs still refer to an NRCS standard, but some don't.

RMP cost-share set-aside

A set-aside has been included in the proposed cost-share budget. Last year, there was a set-aside for the RMP-2 only in the CB watershed. This year, an additional $150,000 is proposed to be added to the set-aside balance, to make the total just over $209,000. This set aside will apply to both RMP-1 and RMP-2 practices, in both the CB and OCB watersheds.   District may still use any of their allocation to fund these practices. The approval procedure for statewide set-aside funds will change, with an enhancement for tracking the balance of such funds now being available in the tracking program. This will be discussed further at upcoming June/July VACS training.

RMP section of the budget template

Budget template documents will soon be distributed to Districts. The RMP section of the document will have some changes this year. The RMP section is broken into 2 parts: forecasted RMPs to be reviewed and forecasted RMPs to be inspected. The instructions contain much more detail and advise to use the RMP timelog to help determine the time associated with plan review and inspection. RMP Operational Support for plan review will continue to be available until current funds are expended, but it is intended for the RMP review costs to be included in Operating Funds in the future.

Stream School

It had previously been discussed that DCR planned to provide a stream school to teach a stream determination protocol to SWCD staff involved in RMP review. Wishing for the protocol to not conflict with existing DEQ protocol used for CBPA purposes, DCR has been meeting with DEQ and working with DEQ regarding stream protocol which can be used in the RMP program. Stream school will be offered, but not as quickly as had previously been discussed.

June TRC Conference Call

The TRC conference call date in June conflicts with a scheduled VACS training. The May meeting will be held as scheduled. The June meeting is cancelled, but will resume in July.

Questions/Comments

One question was asked about the how Districts will conduct the Nutrient Management verification associated with an RMP verification. DCR responded that some DCR NM Specialists are conducting verifications now, but DCR is working to make sure that NM verification dovetails with the RMP verification inspection process and limits duplication.