

Ag Workgroup Status Report

Workgroup: Ag Workgroup

Status Report Date: October 17, 2006

Team Leader(s): Cedric Karper

Team Members in Attendance:

Kelly Ireland, USDA, NRCS
George Wolff, Wolff Strategies
Brenda Shambaugh, PACD
Joel Rotz, PFB
Jenny Guiling, WRI
Michael Hubler, Dauphin CD
Chuck Farley, LRHA
Keith Ashley, PBA
Doug Beegle, PSU

DEP:

Duke Adams Doug Brennan

Issue (s) Addressed:

- Calculation Spreadsheet
- Retirement of Agriculture land
- Edge Of Segment Option

Status Report:

The Ag Workgroup met for their 9th meeting on October 17.

Calculation Spreadsheet

Jenny Guiling of World Resources Institute presented a draft version of the calculation spreadsheet that is being developed by WRI for DEP. The spreadsheet was also presented to the Technical Subcommittee of the Agricultural Workgroup on October 12, Jenny has worked to incorporate their comments and suggestions. The spreadsheet has been developed to incorporate the Calculation Methodology that has been recommended by the Workgroup. It is anticipated that the spreadsheet will become part of the DEP Nutrient Trading Website and will be available to the agricultural community to submit with proposals for credits during the “interim” Trading Program. The calculations from

the spreadsheets will be programmed into NutrientNet for use in the final trading program, so that proposals can be submitted online through the website.

Retirement of Agriculture Land

Since the September 21 Agricultural Workgroup meeting several discussions have been held with the interested parties on this topic. The following language was presented to the Workgroup today and will be submitted to the Steering Committee for adoption into the final Nutrient Trading package at the Nov. 1 meeting.

The Trading Program is not intended to accelerate loss of productive farmland. Therefore, credits will not be generated under this policy from the purchase and idling of whole or substantial portions of farms to provide nutrient credits for use offsite.

Individuals are eligible for nutrient credit generation when converting one land use to another, where the post-construction reduced nutrient loading can be established.

EOS Option

The Technical Subcommittee addressed this issue and has recommended that for the initial Nutrient Trading Program, the EOS ratio be applied evenly across a watershed segment, regardless of stream distance. The Workgroup agrees with this recommendation and will continue to research the issue in an attempt to calculate nutrient loads on individual farms.

All Recommendations for the Steering Committee from this meeting and all previous meetings are being compiled into one final document for incorporation into the package to be presented at the November 1 meeting.