



# Delaware Nutrient Management



## Meeting minutes- February 3, 2015

### The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

#### **In attendance:**

*Commission Members Present: Bill Vanderwende, F. Kenneth Blessing, Jessica Inhoff, Scott Webb, Ken Horeis, Mark Adkins, Jim Elliott, Chris Bason, Lisa McCormick, David Baker*

*Ex-officios Present: Ed Kee, David Small, M. Lau*

*Commission Members Absent: Laura Hill, Richard Sterling, Robert Baldwin, Bud O'Neill*

*Others Present: V. Clark, H. Armstrong, J. Baker, B. Coleman, B. Ashby, S. Kepfer, M. Cart, A.E. Dill, S. Riggi, B. Coverdale, L. Torres*

***This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.***

#### **Call to Order/Welcome:**

Chairman Vanderwende called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance and reminded those seeking education credits to sign the sign-in sheet.

#### **Discussion and Action Items:**

*Discussion of Report from the Technology Subcommittee Meeting from 12/29/14- Ben Coverdale*

- There was a discussion for general permit
- The committee came to a consensus to proceed with the general permit
- Lauren Torres, Ben Coverdale, Brian Ashby (DNREC) and Brian Churchill (DNREC) all worked together on doing revisions on the CAFO general permits based on comments from the EPA
- As long as there are not any issues, it should be sent to EPA for them to review
- Ken Blessing commended all the different agencies for coming together and ironing these things out. He is appreciative of DNREC coming in to help out.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the Full Commission Meeting minutes of September 09, 2014. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion and Action Items:**

*Presentation on DuPont/Pioneer Encirca Farm Data Service- Chris*

- A video and power point presentation were given on a program for managing nitrogen in soil
- It is a Nitrogen Management Service to create a time window of how much nitrogen is in soil and how much is being used by corn in various stages of growth
- It would validate how nitrogen will be utilized in specific fields, soil depth, water holding capacity, yield target for each field and decision zones. It would pin point growth stages and harvest schedules ahead of time
- They stated that Pioneer started in 1995 and has done testing on over 20 million acres

- They did a study with the USDA and University of Missouri using topography maps and it showed that 60% more accuracy than the old public soil maps that everyone is using.
- They want to use yield target for certain fields and add weighted productivity values to decision zones and come up with yield target by decision zones instead of entire field averages
- They say with this program that you can sign into the program daily to check the nitrogen levels depending on real time weather data, this way farmers aren't wasting nutrients and in the end will help farmers make informed decisions
- They have tested it on a local farm and found that the prescription nitrogen that was used only in the middle and not on the side dress produced 222 bushels of corn and the side dress without the prescription nitrogen only produced 207 bushels of crop
- They are making sure that they put it down when the crops need it which is different times every year which makes them unique

**Questions asked by the Audience were:**

- What is the cost to the farmer?
- With weather stations, is it really locally or is the weather station only receiving some of the information?
- Can you project out the changes in the climate with the data you collect?
- Would you pro-rate the cost at any point?
- Does it stay private at the farm level? Or is information shared with any other grower?
- Is the information you're using based on soil in the mid-west or soils here on the shore?
- Are the maps generated before or after the farmer signs up for the program?
- What does Lidar have to do with the soil maps?
- Will there be a challenge on Delmarva soil that hasn't been irrigated?

**Discussion and Action Items:**

*Report on Chesapeake Bay Ag Workgroup- Nutrient Management Panel*

- Larry Towle will brief on this topic at the next meeting

**Administrator's Report:**

- Bob Coleman outlined the Administrator's Report (a copy of which is attached to the original minutes).
- Bob Coleman stated that there were 3 informal complaints from December through now
- 2 of the complaints were for field staging and stock piling
- 1 was for improper composting
- Bob Coleman has met with the farmers and their neighbors with satisfaction results
- 2 of them will be kept open for monitoring

**Next Meeting:** The next regular Full Commission meeting will be March 03, 2015 at 7:00 pm. He cautioned that the meeting may be cancelled if there are no actionable items, and there will be notification of such cancellation.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Vanderwende adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Approved,

B. Vanderwende, Chairman  
 Delaware Nutrient Management Commission  
 LT/mab