



Delaware Nutrient Management



The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Minutes of the Technology Meeting Held February 20, 2007

In attendance:

<i>Committee Members Present</i>	<i>Others Present</i>
T. Keen, Chair	B. Angstadt
K. Blessing	D. Baker
J. Manchester	M. Browning
B. Vanderwende	B. Coleman
	P. Diehl
<i>Committee Members Absent</i>	K. Foskey
R. Baldwin	S. Hollenbeck
R. Sterling	J. Kasper
C. West	S. Kepfer
	J. Schneider
<i>Ex-Officios Present</i>	T. Sims
W. Rohrer, Jr.	

*This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.
02/13/07 meeting was postponed due to inclement weather.*

Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman T. Keen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

B. Vanderwende motioned to approve the December 12, 2006 Technology meeting minutes. Motion seconded by J. Manchester, and passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Discuss the Effect of Soil Phosphorous Concentration on Nutrient Runoff Contribution:

T. Keen turned the meeting over to J. Manchester, who led a discussion dealing with excess levels of phosphorous in Delaware soils. He acknowledged that Delaware has made some progress in this area since the inception of the DNMC, but not enough. He made the following suggestions:

- The Commission should identify and focus on those areas with the highest concentration of phosphorous.
- Increase the amount of irrigation used. He suggested that a task group be established consisting of grain farmers, DNMC, DNREC, DEDO, conservation districts, lending institutions, Universities, and irrigation equipment dealers to identify parameters for an irrigation subsidy program.
- A subsidy could be given to farmers using commercial fertilizers to offset the additional costs associated with the decreased use of poultry litter.
- Determine if increasing the amount of aluminum and iron content in soils is effective in lowering Phosphorous content of the leachate.

- Dr. T. Sims pointed out that many studies show that water treatment sludges are very effective in reducing phosphorous levels; however, this method will not be cost effective in covering large areas of land.
- Determine the cost of importing 175,000 tons of bauxite for land application to reduce Phosphorous in soils.
- Decrease phosphorous application by lowering phosphorous content in poultry litter.
- Better utilize phosphorous content in poultry litters by adding nitrogen in some way.
- Grow more grain crops.

Mr. Manchester presented a list of 10 tasks to B. Rohrer, which is attached to the meeting record. The other Commissioners noted that Mr. Manchester has several good ideas to reduce phosphorous concentration. However, they felt that the task list is impractical in that the staff is not a research facility, and the core issues are being overlooked.

J. Manchester motioned that we take this concept of a task group on the Irrigation Subsidy Program to the Full Commission.

There was no second to the motion, the motion did not carry.

J. Manchester requested another meeting of the Technology Subcommittee for further discussion prior to the next Full Commission Meeting.

Public Comments: NONE

Next Meeting: March 13, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairman Keen adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Approved,

Tony Keen, Chair
Technology Subcommittee

BRR/psd