



Delaware Nutrient Management



**The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
Minutes of the Combined Program & Education and Budget Subcommittees Meeting
Held October 09, 2007**

In attendance:

<i>Committee Members Present Programs & Education</i>	<i>Committee Members Present Budget</i>
C. Solberg, Chair	C. Larimore, Chair
T. Keen	R. Baldwin
C. Larimore	B. O'Neill
B. O'Neill	R. Sterling
<i>Committee Members Absent</i>	<i>Committee Members Absent</i>
	K. Blessing
	A. Johnson, Jr.
<i>Ex-Officios Present</i>	
W. Rohrer, Jr.	J. Hughes
<i>Others Present</i>	
G. Binford	G. Johnson
R. Coleman	L. Jones
P. Diehl	B. Malone
D. Hansen	J. Manchester
S. Hollenbeck	P. Sample

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

Call to Order/Welcome:

C. Solberg called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

B. O'Neill motioned to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2007 Program and Education Subcommittee Meeting.

C. Larimore seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Review and Act on 2007 Environmental Stewardship Program

B. Rohrer gave a brief overview of the Environmental Stewardship Program:

- In the past six years, all but one recipient has been from a poultry farm
- The program has concentrated on small operations
- Difficulty in obtaining assistance – S. Hollenbeck performs much of the necessary work

This year, perhaps the Commission would like to go in another direction. The Commission could recognize companies, individuals, alternative use projects, private consultants, brokers, etc. for the award. By recognizing one of these entities, the application and field visit processes could be done away with. There was a general discussion regarding the Environmental Stewardship Program.

- Criteria could be a general outline, or 1 or 2 specific elements
- There could be a nomination committee to supply 5 or 6 nominations
- The Commission should recognize entities other than farmers that have contributed to the success of the Nutrient Management Program
- Would alleviate the possibility of diluting the award – out of 700-800 farmers, only 15 have been recognized – a lot of farmers don't want to be recognized

After discussion, it was decided:

- There would be 1-3 nominations from the poultry industry
- There would be 1-3 nominations from the general farming industry
- There would be 1-3 nominations from the non-farming industry
- Criteria for the award needs to be drafted

C. Larimore moved to adopt the plan as discussed with 3 different categories as well as a lunch time meeting to take place during Ag Week.

B. O'Neill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Solberg gave the floor to C. Larimore, Chair of the Budget Subcommittee at 5:50 p.m.

Call to Order/Welcome:

C. Larimore called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

B. O'Neill motioned to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2006 Budget Subcommittee Meeting.

R. Sterling seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Review and Act on University of Delaware Certification Budget

G. Binford came forward with a budget request for the University for FY08. He also reported on the status of programs for FY07 (handout attached). Summary:

- There were 81 programs held
- 152.25 continuing education credits were available
- 2,173 attended various programs

Mid-Atlantic Crop School is not included in these figures

He also went over the budget request (handout attached). Summary:

- The request is identical to last year, with the exception of hiring 2 extension associates
- Supplies and travel have been fixed at the same amount for 3 years
- Certification classes are held twice a year

R. Baldwin noted that while he feels the University offers tremendous value and a great service, 32% for supplies and travel is larceny.

R. Baldwin motioned to accept the proposal from the University of Delaware for the FY08 budget.

R. Sterling seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Rohrer explained that there is still \$26,000 open from FY07 to be used toward a Research and Demonstration project. He said that B. Malone is interested in completing a Poultry Litter Revitalization project, and that G. Binford and G. Johnson have some other ideas for projects as well.

G. Binford outlined two projects that he could initially considered pursuing:

- Look at PSNT data as a function of weather
 - Tony at Conservation District has years of data (soil tests over years and amounts of rainfall)
 - Does not require funding – he can use existing crew
 - Will go forward and use this winter to pull data and complete analysis
- Look at distribution of Phosphorus in soils
 - Sims has a significant amount of data from the 90s
 - There is a lot of data for high Phosphorus soils, and samples go down several feet
 - There is also data available for several soil types

Given his evaluation of the projects, he recommends the Commission consider alternative projects.

G. Johnson provided a handout (attached to these minutes) and outlined his project for consideration:
Recovery of Nutrients from Derelict Poultry House Pads

- Nutrients remaining in the pads, especially N, are a recoverable resource.
- Over 2,000 structures currently in production in Delaware
 - The number of derelict houses is estimated to be 500-1,000 in Delaware
 - It is estimated that in the next 10 years, an additional 500-1,000 will go out of service in Delaware
- The goal of this project is to develop the information base to make recommendations on how to implement management strategies for these poultry house pad sites to limit N losses.
 - Best management practices then can be recommended and implemented on the ground
 - For each 10 derelict poultry houses remediated, it is estimated that between 75,000-150,000 lbs. of nitrogen can be recovered, thus not ending up as nitrate in the ground water
 - If recommendations from this research are put into place and remediation occurs on 50% of all derelict poultry house pad sites, nitrogen losses can be reduced by 7,500,000 lbs.

Mr. Johnson went on to explain that he would require generous amounts of labor funding, as well as funding for plant and soil samples. He also said that the nursery industry may be interested in the end product as a salt dressing.

C. Larimore requested that G. Johnson provide the Subcommittee with a budget for his project.

B. Malone provided a handout (attached to these minutes) and outlined his project for consideration:
In-House Composting of Litter: A Nutrient Management and Production Opportunity for the Poultry Industry

- There are several downfalls to current litter-manure disposal practices
 - Lack of consistent and timely supply of litter for land application in accordance with nutrient management plans
 - Disruption and potential loss of markets for alternative litter uses
 - Difficulties in planning budgets for litter transport programs
 - Exacerbates waste storage structure capacity issues
 - Increases the need for temporary field stockpiling
 - Deteriorates litter quality
 - Detrimental effects on poultry health and productivity

This project evaluates in-house composting of litter between flocks using the aerator/windrowing equipment.

- It is hopeful this procedure will:
 - Extend litter life
 - Eliminate the need to remove (and associated spillage) and store caked litter
 - Allow annual partial cleanouts (cut centers from houses) that sequence with proper timing of litter application

- Potentially improve the physical (friable with no clumps), chemical (reduce nutrient solubility or release rate) and biological (reduce human and poultry pathogens) characteristics of litter

He went on to explain the actual process required, and provided the Subcommittee with a proposed budget of \$9,271.00.

C. Solberg motioned to accept B. Malone's proposal.

B. O'Neill seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

J. Manchester asked about the status of M. Guo's study, as it may be another use for litter. B. Rohrer explained that he is trying to get it published. B. Coleman added that he is looking at the *Journal of Material Science*.

Public Comments: NONE

Next Meeting: NONE

Adjournment: Chairman Larimore adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Approved,

Approved,

C. Solberg, Chair
Programs and Education Subcommittee

C. Larimore, Chair
Budget Subcommittee

BRR/psd