

Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee

Meeting #11 (March 2016)

BMP Guidance

- Identify combinations of best managements practices (BMPs) that, when implemented for specified agricultural uses, result in compliance with state water quality standards.
 - We want to set minimums but are interested in being able to provide flexibility.
 - We want the end product to be implementable on the ground.
 - Recognize alternatives that provide an equivalent level of protection.
- **Not a new regulation**-Not about mandating BMPs or BMP implementation.

Step One-Design the Process

- How will we approach this work?
 - Work with agriculture producers, stakeholders, tribal, federal and local governments, and other interested parties to collaboratively design a process to identify water quality compliant BMP combinations.
 - Ecology's goal: Design a process that interested parties and stakeholders believe is fair, inclusive and respectful.



Why Is This Step Important?

How will we get feedback/input?

- An online questionnaire will be made broadly available to interested parties to solicit advice and input.
- Ecology will meet with existing groups engaged in agriculture and water quality issues to seek input.
- Interviews with a limited number of interested parties (individually or in small groups) will be conducted to gather more detailed input.
- Targeted research into agricultural BMP development processes in other states will be carried out to help identify potential process best practices and pitfalls.

Timeline

- March 2016: Initial Conversations with stakeholder groups.
- April-July 2016: Collect feedback (Online survey; interviews; research other states; continue meeting with stakeholder groups)
- August-October 2016: Communicate what we have heard from stakeholders, release draft process and receive feedback on draft process
- November: Revisions and additional vetting of draft process; get participants “signed up”
- December 2016: Finalize Process
- January 2017: Implement Process

Questions for the Advisory Committee

- How do you want to provide feedback?
- Individual Interviews? Subcommittee? Online Survey?
- What are the right questions to ask?

Questions

- Contact:

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