Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee

Meeting #9 (September 2015)
Nonpoint Plan Update

- Finalized and Submitted to EPA-July 20, 2015.
- EPA approved the plan-August 21, 2015.
- Recommended management measures/practices (BMPs) guidance development.
BMP Guidance

- What is the Target?
  - Meeting the water quality standards.
  - We are looking to take the same technology based approach that we have used in the point source context.
  - 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.
- Satisfy both our 319 and CZARA requirements.
- Not a new regulation - Not about mandating BMPs or BMP implementation.
Process

• Must be Inclusive:
  • Goal-Bring together different perspectives.
  • Producers, technical assistance providers, sister agencies (WSCC, WSDA, DOH, etc), environmental groups, tribes, and other stakeholders.

• Science Based.

• But also want people with practical on the ground experience (BMP guidance must be implementable).

• **We Want Feedback from Stakeholders!!!!**
Next Year

Work with Stakeholders to Develop the Process

- October 2015-January 2016-Outreach to Stakeholders.
- Winter/Early Spring 2016-Develop a Draft Process for Stakeholder Review.
- Finalize Process-Early Summer 2016.
- Submit to EPA/NOAA-Summer 2016.
- Start Process in Fall 2016.
Questions

Contact:
Ben Rau, Nonpoint Pollution Program Coordinator
Department of Ecology, Water Quality program
ben.rau@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6551