

Attending

Area I:

Area II: Claire Hilsen, Greg Wichelns, David Massie, Luke Longanecker

Area III: Brandon Dillistin, Marian Moody, Leslie Anne Hinton, Jim Tate, Michelle Carter, Jim Wallace

Area IV:

Area V: Dave Sandman, Charlie Wootton, Michael Tabor

Area VI: Cole Charnock, Meaghann Terrien

DCR: Barbara McGarry, Scott Ambler, Roland Owens, Darryl Glover, Blair Gordon, Amy Walker

1. Types of RMP development payment submittals

Barbara McGarry explained the 3 payment mechanisms for payment for RMP development

- I. RMP Development contracts
- II. RMP-1 and RMP-2 VACS funded through statewide set-aside
- III. RMP-1 and RMP-2 VACS funded from District's individual allocations

2016 RMP Development contracts have been completed. A new 2017 CB RMP Development contract has begun, with a lifespan of January 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018. There has been a recent uptick in applications for RMP-1 from the statewide set-aside, likely associated with the announcement that at the end of the current program year, the remaining balance in the statewide set-aside will remain, but will be available for RMP-2 practices only. The decision to dedicate statewide set-aside RMP VACS funds to the RMP-2 practice is one effort being made to encourage implementation of RMPs.

2. Demonstration: Entering RMP-1 and RMP-2 VACS statewide set-aside applications into the module

Roland Owens provided a demonstration titled "Instructions for entering RMP-1 and RMP-2 Statewide Budget VACS Applications" which has been posted at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/rmp> under the header "Resources for Soil and Water Conservation Districts"

He advised to create a new contract for a participant for any RMP-1 and RMP-2 applications and that the contract should include only RMP practices. Any other practices should be in another separate contract.

When these practice applications are entered into the module and funding availability is confirmed, the application should be treated as other VACS applications and have the District Board review the application for approval.

3. RMP Operational Support, RMP Development contracts & RMP VACS funding

Darryl Glover informed Districts that RMP Operational Support Funds for Review of RMPs have been increased and may continue to be adjusted until additional support can be provided in the form of increased Operational funds. Such need should be documented in the Budget Template process, as the administration of the program is a part of the Operational grant agreement. Administration of the program includes conducting inspections required for certification.

There were concerns expressed by District staff about time of year regarding receipt of recent or upcoming RMP-1 applications. In the case that approved RMP-1 practices are not complete and paid by the end of the program year, according to the practice spec, RMP-1 applications are eligible for carryover as an RMP-1 practice. There is the possibility that RMP-1 applications will be reviewed for approval by a District Board and also approved for carryover in the same Board meeting.

There were also concerns from District staff that the time of receipt of applications and submittal of plans conflicts with other job duties at this time of year or require inspections to be completed during a season not conducive to field inspections. For example, in corn fields, a staff person cannot conduct an adequate review when corn reaches substantial height due to limited visibility.

Regarding the workload associated with certification inspections, Darryl assured the group that there is no expectation by DCR that Districts conduct NMP implementation verifications.

It was asked by District staff, with the knowledge that the remaining statewide set-aside will be dedicated to only RMP-2 practices and that efforts are being made to encourage RMP implementation, should RMP-1 applications be accepted now, or reserve that funding for RMP-2 practices in the upcoming program year(s)?

Districts expressed concerns about RMP-1 and RMPs-2 practice applications being received outside of a District's cost-share sign-up period and not being subject to their ranking criteria. Some Districts have a cost-share signup window, and thus, how can the District accept an RMP-1 VACS practice application outside of their cost-share signup period?

DCR responded that the statewide set-aside practices are not subject to a signup period. As advertised and stated in the 2017 VACS training, the RMP-1 and RMP-2 statewide set-aside practice funds are available on continuous signup, first-come, first-served basis until all available funds are exhausted.

When a District is reviewing an application for RMP-1, RMP-2, or any BMP included in an RMP, funded with the District's individual VACS allocation, the applications are subject to the District's secondary consideration and ranking process. As the guidelines of the VACS manual state, a District should prioritize BMP practices included in an RMP.

There was a question about the purpose of the RMP VACS statewide set-aside. DCR responded that Districts had requested a set-aside, so that they did not have to rank RMP-1 applications that should already be given priority. The RMP VACS statewide set-aside applications are not competitive, but available to interested participants on a first-come, first-served basis, until funding is exhausted. There was a statement that such a system, in which the application is not subject to ranking, means that essentially the plan developer determines which applications get funded. Another District expressed that the plan developers were selecting participants and that the participants may not have a full understanding of the RMP program. DCR will take this issue into consideration, but don't see the issue as a problem at this point. This is a similar situation to that of the NM-1A practice.

4. RMP certification – how to address voluntary BMPs

There have been many questions from Districts, particularly as they are beginning to conduct certification verification inspections, about how a required RMP practice can be voluntary. Scott Ambler explained that the term voluntary only refers to VACS cost-share or tax credit status, and has nothing to do with whether the RMP requires this particular practice. He used the example below to describe that the VRMPSE-3 is a required practice in the RMP as stream exclusion is always required in an RMP; however, the participant did not or does not intend to utilize VACS funding or tax credit incentives to install the stream exclusion. The RMP participant is also maintaining Continuous No-till Forage Production System without receiving any VACS or tax credit incentive AND without it being a required practice included in the RMP. The benefit of including all voluntary practices in the RMP, whether required or not, is that the practice is now included in the Tracking Program and the associated nutrient reductions will be reported.

ID: RMP-41-15-0000
Type: Resource Management Plan
District: HEADWATERS

Participant: Monster Dairy, Cookie C
Monster
Phone: (540) 888-8888

Address: 41 Dough In,
Weyers Cave, VA 24431



[View Event Log](#)

Details
Participants
BMPs
Spatially Related BMPs
Land Units Summary
Soils Summary
Related Plans
Schedule
Inspections
Attachments

BMP/Schedule Item	Implementation Date	Status	Required	Actions
Cover Crop to meet "T" in field 2 behind corn	September, 2015	Planned	Yes	—
Implement cropping scenario from RUSLE2 to meet "T"	September, 2017	Planned	Yes	—
Nutrient Management Plan update	January, 2015	Currently Impleme	Yes	—
SL-6: Stream Exclusion With Grazing Land Management	Currently implemented	Complete	Yes	—
VRMPSE-3: Voluntary Stream Exclusion for RMP Program	Currently implemented	Complete	Yes	—
VSL-15B: Voluntary Continuous No-Till Forage Production System	June, 2015	Proposed	No	—
VSL-8B: Voluntary Small Grain cover crop for Nutrient Managemer	April, 2015	Proposed	No	—
VWP-3: Voluntary Sod waterway	Currently implemented	Complete	Yes	—
WQ-1: Grass filter strips	Currently implemented	Complete	Yes	—
WQ-1W: Filter Strips/Wildlife Option	September, 2015	Proposed	No	—

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