

## S Minnesota Nutrient Efficiency Coalition

### Conference Call

October 5, 2009

Participants: Brian Williams, Roger Wilkowske, Wayne Anderson, Jerome Lensing, Tim Gieseke, Warren Formo, Bruce Henningsgaard, Adam Arndt, Dawn Bernau

1. Tim Gieseke updated the group on his work.
2. Brian Williams gave background on the proposed awards program. CCA group was concerned about the sustainability of the program and how to make sure it is a credible program. Brian met with the coalition subcommittee to discuss both the awards program and the potential for a nutrient management conference this winter. The conference would build on Brian's annual meeting for producers, and be expanded to a day long meeting.  
AM: 2 main speakers, panel with farmers  
PM: breakout sessions

Wayne: still room to go ahead on awards program—could it be objective built around measures of nutrient efficiency? Also sustainability issue

We can do meeting now, emphasize on effects on the environment as well as new technology

Roger: this meeting was in our original plan, producers need to know about managing nutrients as well as how nutrients move in the environment

Brian: We need inputs as to who speakers might be

Bruce: Good to get someone dynamic for lunch—need to know about regulations and nutrients in our environment

Roger: lunch speaker – do we need to look at impaired waters? Gulf? What are trends?

Bruce: Yes—include Chesapeake Bay and other examples

Brian: Could present local water quality data

Land management and nutrients and environment—what are farmers expected to do?

Brian—budget draft

Meeting room \$1000 Verizon Center Mankato. Could hold 400 people.

Direct mailer in 17 counties \$2000

Speaker costs \$2000

Registration fee-- \$10/person

Total cost ~\$6500

Results from survey of last year's participants: want info on drainage

Keystone group—ways to define sustainability for ag on national scale

Grant from USDA for Brian's nutrient management initiative would help defray costs for this conference

Speaker ideas?

Put "N Losses" in same group as "N Prediction"

Roger: past, present, and beyond—need to acknowledge progress made – but there are gains to be made economically and environmentally

Brian: Hybrids? Genetics? For better nutrient management

Jerome: We're beginning to see corn industry is working on—some work in Waseca—Gyles may incorporate in his presentation

Could add something with respect to sulfur

    New needs on soil fertility

        Need good set of soil samples

Brian: Need to tie to AFREC. Could talk to Bruce Montgomery about poster presentation(s) (soil fertility research)

Roger: feature different watershed groups? Posters? Table for literature?

Wayne: good idea to include watershed projects as posters

Dawn has poster she could present

Build in more time for breaks

Date: February 10, 2010

Brian: Parking vouchers will be provided to participants

Paul Fixen—IPNI good speaker.

Ag and the World's Food Supply. Big picture. Clif Snyder—Hypoxia Task Force Jim Baker or Bill Herz

Speaker/program ideas to Brian

Managing manure management breakout. Dawn suggests Jeff King (NRCS) or he may have good ideas.

Target audience is farmers and their advisors.

Brian's newsletter went out to 43 counties.

Brian and George will keep working on agenda and Brian will work with subcommittee.  
Send Brian ideas or changes. Let Brian know who are the innovative farmers for the farmer panel.

Could do a survey at the conference about the proposed awards program.

Brian can share last year's survey results.

Asked crop consultants about trends.

3. Awards program. CCAs meet again in February. Need draft to show them. Needs to be more objective than subjective. Maybe recognize a group of people rather than one?

Next meeting: November 16, 2009