

Missouri Bootheel Nutrient Management Coalition

Conference Call

October 5, 2009

Participants: Scott Crumpecker, Kat Logan-Smith, Doug Daigle, David Dunn, Glenn Davis, Christa Jones

1. LA Shrimpers/Fishers – Ag Producers Exchange Programs. Doug Daigle explained that there is a ten year precedent for such programs. He will email us a white paper. Benefits are producers get to know each other face to face; identify common challenges; discover shared stewardship values. Both face dynamic situations. Many shrimpers have gone out of business due to combination of economic challenges and hurricanes, hypoxia too.
Scott—Some are wary of this becoming confrontational, finger-pointing.
Doug—was a concern. Chose people who were open minded, conventional producers doing innovative things. Found shrimpers/fishers not into finger-pointing. But they are concerned and want something done about the problem.
Benefits of the program include diffusing a potentially combative situation, media coverage, people better understanding the issues, stakeholders sharing their ideas.
MS is currently putting together an in state exchange.
2. CCA Training, November 18-19 or 23-24. Date not yet set. Speaker would have 45 minutes to talk, potentially about hypoxia issue—best if speaker is a stakeholder. Doug has contacts he will forward to Christa. Talk will earn credits in Soil and Water category. Could also have 45 minutes for a scientist to talk about hypoxia and then 45 minutes for stakeholder to give cultural perspective. Have Jim Steuver and ~~Al~~Allen Rowland sit in.
Need to serve gulf shrimp and fish along with ribs.
3. Corn Meeting Dec. 10, 2009. Need 15-20 minute talk around hypoxia issue. Potential interactions in the afternoon? Dinner the night before with shrimp and cornbread.
4. Beltway Cotton Conference Jan. 5-6, 2010. New Orleans. David is putting together a session on on-the-go nitrogen sensors/precision application. We would need to talk with the higher level planners to add a session.
5. MO Rice Meeting (Feb)/Soybean Meeting. ½ day meetings this winter.
6. Speaker on drainage water management would be a good session. Doug has contacts.
7. Training for NRCS/Other Technicals/Fertilizer Dealers on nutrient management and CSP. Also opportunities with Mississippi River Basin Commission.
8. David will forward events list with dates (that are set) to Christa.

9. NRCS Grant. Scott—we have a grant for \$12,500 for workshops. Plan to replicate the events we've had. Conduct a series of 4 meetings: CCA training, Malden meeting, Field Day (July), technology workshop for technical service professionals. Food portion of request denied. One year to utilize funds (by September 30, 2010).
10. MS River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative. Scott—Could it assist producers with stalk sampling? New soil test for N—developed in Arkansas. Mid-season application. Cost share with producers?

MRBI focuses EQIP funds for special watersheds yet to be selected. Start with HUC [8 then move to HUC 10-12](#).

Glenn—NRCS has not much infrastructure for doing testing. NRCS does not promote unproven technology. Glenn open to using IA's corn stalk calibration numbers. Can talk about rice stalk sampling.

Glenn—MRBI will be rolling out soon. Meeting with state technical committee to identify watersheds is this Friday. This program will be implemented as a CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative). Chosen watersheds need to have a partner who will help contact farmers and inform them of conservation practices available.

Lower St. Francis could be targeted if can get Arkansas cooperation. Little River Ditches would have all elements for selection. Both are on impaired waters list.

Selection also based on SPARROW model and on-going monitoring.

State Technical Committees will recommend watersheds to the State Conservationist, who will forward recommendations to the Chief of NRCS.

There is a separate pool of funds for cross-state watersheds.

What can our coalition do to influence the process? The fact that the coalition exists is a plus. If we can work with Arkansas on the Lower St. Francis that would up the chances of being selected. DNR is working on this. Brian Hopkins is contact.

Scott—Program could fail in this area because many farmers have met the nutrient management standard.

11. Missouri Coalition for the Environment energy conference, Dexter, November 12 at Keller Public Library. Kat will ask policy people about incentives for more erosive ground to convert to biofuel/grassland.

12. Research project on N testing? MRBI won't pay for. Do in conjunction with Arkansas research. Conservation Innovation Grant is possible fit? Probably not—have to have producers lined up ahead of time. Through CSP program? Cooperative research extension grant—not successful.

Christa—what is amount of funding needed? Need someone to do sampling is biggest expense.

SWCDs could get involved?

Can run tests at Delta Center -- \$10/sample

Cost is in collecting samples. Farmers could take their own? But they are pretty busy at that time of year.

Scott and David can talk more about this. Scott can check with Jim Stuever – chair of Stoddard County SWCD board—for possible support.

Kat—can we recruit FFA students to take samples? Good idea. Partner with FFA teachers. Scott will contact teacher at Sikeston. Would need to train students. How many samples do we need? Could get some funding from other sources.

Samples need to be confined to a watershed. Group chose Little River Ditches.

13. Next call October 26 at 1:00 PM Central.