

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