INTERAGENCY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 29, 2004

Attendees

NCDACS	NCSU	NCDSWC	NRCS
R. Reich	J. Havlin	C. Pierce	L. Price
D. Hardy	D. Osmond	V. Cox	R. Hansard
	D. Crouse		

Discussion Items

1. Vernon Cox demonstrated the changes to the NC Nutrient Management software that incorporate the closure of lagoons, and the handling of the nutrients and metals removed from the lagoon.

   ACTION: DSWC agreed to update or modify the software to handle the conversion from lbs/ton to lbs/1000 gal in the waste analysis, since dry samples are reported per unit weight (rather than volume). NCSU would provide a methodology to Vernon Cox for making this conversion.

   ACTION: DSWC agreed to look into the possibility of developing self-paced training materials that could be posted on a website for handling training needs when updates to the software are made.

2. John Havlin discussed the overall proposed project for studying and assessing the lateral movement of subsurface P through buffers. This project will include several phases, including a shorter term effort to collect soil test P on transects through the field and buffer. Transects will be studied on approximately 40 sites, most identified from sites where PLAT is currently being run as a result of letters from DWQ requiring a P assessment prior to the next permitting cycle. The results of this effort should produce a report this summer/early fall that will assist in identifying site characteristics where a low probability of subsurface P reaching surface water exists. This information will be incorporated into PLAT and nutrient management planning procedures as soon as possible to reduce deep sampling where appropriate. A longer term phase will take a more in-depth look at the hydrology of sites, collecting more extensive soil and water samples from a number of monitored sites. This phase will probably take several years of monitoring.

   ACTION: NCSU will finalize a more formal proposal outlining the sampling framework and protocol, and budget requirements.

   ACTION: NCSU will provide to Carroll Pierce some protocol for site selections that can be used to assist in identifying potential sample sites.

3. Deanna Osmond discussed recent updates to NCANAT and the distribution procedures for new versions. Another version is soon to be released. It was discussed that the use of email and a listserve to ensure that both agency staff and private sector consultants are informed on the need to update the software is the best alternative for communicating changes. It was further agreed by the INMC that

a single list serve for all nutrient management issues would be an effective tool. This single list could be used to communicate to all individuals on issues associated with NCANAT (PLAT and NLEW), nutrient management software, nutrient management-related databases, upcoming training, and other related topics.

ACTION: It was agreed that INMC members would provide the list of email addresses for those it wanted to include. (e.g. NRCS will provide a list of email addresses for District and Area Conservationists, as well as TSPs)

ACTION: NCSU also agreed to look into the possibility of offering, through an introductory screen, the option of doing a software update each time NCANAT is started.

4. Carroll Pierce discussed some questions that are starting to arise in the field where PLAT is being run. It was agreed that offering some optional field based training to nutrient management planners would be a good way to handle many of the questions. A list of questions was distributed, and included questions regarding: (1) how to handle the drain spacing issues, (2) the eligibility of ponds in downstream settings, (3) the policy of wetlands in buffers, (4) guidance on subdividing fields based on soils, drainage, STP, slope, and other in-field variations, (5) dealing with perimeter ditching, (6) receiving slopes in the coastal plain landscapes, (7) the use of historical data to compute source P assessment, (8) deep sampling guidance, (9) policy for when PLAT must be re-run, and (10) sampling depth policy.

   ACTION: NRCS agreed to develop a draft set of FAQs from these questions, and distribute for review by INMC.

   ACTION: It agreed that field training should be offered to agency and private technical specialists on collecting PLAT field data. Carroll Pierce and Roger Hansard will take the lead on organizing these sessions.

5. There was discussion on the continued need to make sure that, for soil samples submitted that will be included in a nutrient management plan, adequate information is provided to uniquely identify the field. This is increasing in importance with the ability of planners to automatically import soil test data from the NCDACS website. The best way to code samples to ensure a unique entry for every field in a county is the use of FSA tract and field number. Existing NCDACS sampling forms and boxes easily accommodate the entry of this information. It was agreed that any opportunity to notify producers and consultants of this guidance would be explored by all agencies.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2004 at 1:00 pm.