INTERAGENCY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES – November 19, 2002

Attendees

NCDACS	NCSU	NCDSWC	NRCS
R. Reich	D. Osmond	C. Pierce	L. Price
D. Hardy	K. Shaffer	V. Cox	
B. Walls			

Discussion Items

1. **The Committee discussed the current status of the 590 and PLAT release. The final release will be delayed until further work on PLAT completed. The expected release will be in the Jan – Mar 2003 timeframe.**

2. **The final changes to the 590 standard were discussed.**

   ACTION: NRCS will adjust the P-I levels that require PLAT be run on fertilizer-only plans to match the identified levels by soil group, rather than using a single P-I level. This change will be postponed until after NCSU completes a sensitivity analysis on the various PLAT factors.

3. **The Committee discussed remaining issues that need to be resolved relative to the databases supporting PLAT and the Nutrient Management Software. The data that is being compiled on cotton RYE-N rates was discussed. Data from 2002 crop year on a Craven soil indicated that an additional 30 lb N resulted in a yield increase that is considered significant; however, the Committee did not think that the single year data set was sufficient by itself to change the cotton factor. Although considered statistically significant, the actual yield increase seemed marginal (eg 30 lbs).**

   ACTION: Bobby, David, and Deanna will continue to work on integrating last year's data for the same site, as well as other data from Karl Krozier to better assess whether changes to cotton are really needed. This should be addressd again at the next meeting.

   Vernon C. has been working with the NCSU horticultural specialists on getting data for vegetable crops for the nutrient management databases. We now have most of the crop information needed for forages as well.

   ACTION: Vernon C. will work with Greg Hoyt, as well as Jim Green (on P removal rates) to finalize any remaining data gaps.

   Deanna reported that Karl has assembled a single flat file that includes all the soil mapping units by county along with each mapping unit's yields adjusted for slope. The opportunities and potential problems with incorporating this file into the nutrient management software was discussed.

   Deanna reported that Karl is working on the nutrient management website, including developing an interface into some of the data files, such as the crop

yields flat file. The SMG's are already up on the site. The remaining databases will be posted once finalized.

4. **Lane discussed the status of the 633 standard and associated tables. The NCDA data has been incorportaed as separate columns.**

   ACTION: Lane will acquire the additional tables needed (beef, etc.) from Tommy Cutts and finalize by the next meeting.

5. **It was agreed that several more RUSLE-only training sessions should be set up for CES and DSWC staff.**

   [NRCS will identify dates for these sessions and notify the Committee members.]

6. **NCDACS suggested some wording changes to the standard in its reference to the use of other labs to ensure that NCDACS guidelines are used in the provision of fertility recommendations.**

   ACTION: NRCS will make the change.

7. **The issue of maintaining lists of certified individuals was discussed. It was agreed that for now, DSWC would keep track of those who had attended and passed that various nutrient management courses, as part of their certification tracking database. This could be re-visited in the future.**

8. **The Committee discussed some of the positive aspects of the nutrient management application developed by Natalie (DSWC) and Andy (CES). The Committee agreed that it would be best if there was a single software application that incorporated the positive features, especially related to minimizing data entry time for fertilizer-only plans. The committee set a meeting to discuss requirements for 8:00 – 10:00 am on Dec 17 at NCDACS.**

9. **Vernon and Carroll discussed the requests by engineers working with dairy operations for the software to better accommodate the diversity of dairies, especially related to the amount of water that must be handled and applied by the farmer. Field staff felt that there is a strong need to give the farmer a better handle on the total volume, even though N to be applied does not change much (other than from variations in the time spent in lounging areas, etc.)**

   ACTION: Vernon agreed to work on this issue, and see if a solution can be developed within the software. At some point, the Committee will ask Sam Bingham or others to come in and discuss requirements and see the possible solutions developed by Vernon.

10. **Next meeting was scheduled for December 17, 2002, from 10:00 am – 12:00 am at NCDACS.**