INTERAGENCY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES – January 31, 2003

Attendees

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

Discussion Items

1. Deanna O. discussed the changes to PLAT over the last month. The Source section of the tool has been modified to improve the defensibility of this part of the model. The remaining efforts are pulling together some additional documentation to verify the attenuation factors associated with both soluble and non-soluble forms of phosphorus potentially transported from fields from manure applications. The scheduled date for release of PLAT is March 12, 2003 at the next SWCC meeting. The next PLAT Tech Comm. Meeting is February 4.

2. There was further discussion on the requests to re-evaluate the N factors for cotton. The INMC has two separate requests to address the values currently used in the Nutrient Management software. It was discussed that part of the solution may be to clarify the role of professional judgement in adjusting the N factors in the planning process. The use of petiole monitoring to justify a change in rate should be encouraged. There was also some discussion regarding the need to clarify the role of the planner's judgement in assessing soil inclusions and the effects of soil texture. A letter from Billy McLawhorn was reviewed, as well as the original request from NRCS area 3 field offices. Both NCSU and NCDA members agreed that there was no sufficient data to justify any changes to the databases at this time.

   ACTION: Deanna agreed to prepare draft responses fpr these requests focusing on the discretion of the specialists, and the need for additional data to justify making changes to the N factors.

3. Vernon C.'s efforts to obtain input from the various specialists on forage and specialty crops was discussed. We now have data from Jim Green. Deanna will work with Vernon to get input from the NCSU specialists needed.

4. Vernon demonstrated the prototype screens implementing a simplified approach to nutrient management planning for inorganic fertilizer plans. These screens allow field data for all fields to be entered on a single screen, and produce a single table with recommendation rates for all potential crops. This change eliminates the requirement to go through a time consuming plan edit when crop rotations are changed. With a few additional suggestions, the group agreed screens look good and accomplish the objectives discussed at the last meeting. Additional enhancements could include a simplified single-screen process for entering general info regarding the farm, and some way to identify the first year planned crops by field, with a print out to allow producers to document planned crop rotation.

ACTION: Vernon agreed to visit with Andy (CES) and Natalie (DSWC) on the interface to verify that we are meeting their goals.

5. The request from the 1217 committee was discussed. It was agreed that the first issue posed to the INMC should be tabled, as there is really no additional technical information to add over and above what has already been provided. The second issue on cover crops is being investigated by some researchers at NCSU. John Havlin asked that the INMC post-pone a response until some additional work on the question has been completed.

6. The group discussed the tracking system (a database at DSWC) to track individuals training with respect to the required courses for nutrient management certification. NCSU is continuing to seek records for those who attended the early nutrient management training and their test scores. In the past, some agency staff did not always take the test at the end of the class.

7. Deanna mentioned that the RYE database is now up on the NCSU website. Vernon mentioned that there may be about 12 remaining counties that have incomplete soil legends in the nutrient management databases.

   ACTION: Lane and Deanna agreed to follow up.

8. Next meeting was scheduled for March 3, 2003, from 8:15 am – 10:30 am at NCDACS.