**During our last Leadership Council meeting we discussed the intent of the action listed below. In following up with Pat Harris, and she had the some suggesting and comments (in red).**

**Target  the use of approved\* best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural and silvicultural lands to protect water quality.**

Best management practices (BMPs) include a variety of methods and techniques to reduce pollutant runoff from lands modified by human use.  BMP application may be targeted by APNEP and it partners to address press water quality issues. Implementation by supported by APNEP or other funds. BMPs will be promoted  through educational resources, workshops, and demonstration projects.  APNEP has facilitated BMP use by funding BMP manual updates for stormwater and silviculture, and hosting training workshops.  Support will continue by assisting partners in hosting focused workshops or offering grants during the next five years.

**Lead:**

**Action:**Targeted application of BMPs to related to APNEP focus areas

**Key Partners:**NC-SWC, VA-DSM, NC-NCFS, VA-VDOF, NC-DWR, NC Cooperative Extension, NC-DACS, NRCS. NCASWCD (NC Assn. of Soil & Water Conservation Districts) and maybe members from local districts and regional RC&Ds (Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development).

**CCMP Outcomes Supported:**2b, 3b, 3d

**Outputs:** Increased use of BMPs for agricultural and silvicultural activities

**Results:** Improved water quality and aquatic biodiversity

\*BMPs approved for state and federal cost share funding per [USDA NRCS Tech Guide IV standards](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards).

Each local soil and water conservation district determines how their annual cost share allocations are used in each county through an annual strategy plan.  That’s why I think it’s good to bring in Bryan Evans with their Association as a partner so that there’s a vehicle to collaborate with local districts to address specific issues, and to align objectives to better “target” resources.  NCASWCD is in a good position to help facilitate if needed.  As for agricultural BMPS and incentives and for the state Ag cost share programs, local districts are required to use USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS Tech Guide IV for BMPs (this is their manual of standards).  Any structural practices that are not in Tech Guide IV require an engineering seal.  Of course, I’m talking broadly in hopes of keeping the Leadership Committee from re-inventing the wheel.  The Ag Cost-Share Program is primarily focused on water quality (through reduced sediment delivery, animal waste and nutrient input for example).  Aquatic Biodiversity is not a primary objective, but I believe if one improves water quality, other benefits are achieved like improved/increased aquatic biodiversity.

I hope this makes sense.  Let me know if you have any questions.

Pat