

SERA-17 Annual Meeting Notes (October 25, 2012)

1. NRCS initiatives and perspectives on evaluating and updating existing P Indices, Chris Gross
 - a. discussed the reason for the P Indices and the new NRCS 590 standard (more understandable and more effective for the producers and the environment, as well as more defensible)
 - b. New CIG grants will help determine if the P Indices are working
 - c. NRCS is working with SERA-17 to improve the P Indices
2. Using Models to Evaluate P Indices, Nathan Nelson
 - a. Discussed availability of long-term (30 year data)
 - b. Defined the type of information used to develop most P Indices - long-term
 - c. Considered the types of data that could be used for validating P Indices.
 - d. Evaluate the models against long-term averages
 - e. Models lack many P routines, including leaching
3. Report: SERA17 White Paper on Using Models to Evaluate P Indices, Andrew Sharpley
 - a. P Index is a risk assessment tool for planners, not a model and there appears to be growing confusion about what this tool is
 - b. Paper discusses loss pathways, time-scales, baseline management scenarios and methods to be used in comparing indices with model outputs
 - c. The paper is near finalization and will be placed on the SERA-17 website shortly
 - d. Extensive discussion on the NRCS expectations for the P Index and defining reasonable expectations for role of a P Index
4. What is Next for P Indices and SERA-17's role
 - a. Six P Index CIGs were funded by NRCS. Three are regional projects (southern, Heartland, and Chesapeake), two are state specific (WI and OH), and one is an overall synthesis of the projects.
 - b. Three of the projects (southern, Heartland, and Chesapeake) briefly described the strategies that each was using to compare models to each other, compare models calibrated and uncalibrated, and compare models to P Indices.
 - c. Peter Kleinman reported that ARS has initiated a project to fully calibrate models based on data from four locations in the US as part of an effort to improve the P routines in the models and to support efforts to evaluate and update P Indices.
 - d. Peter Kleinman and Andrew Sharpley plan on using conference calls to help promote communication among the modelers in the entire CIG project.
 - e. David Radcliffe suggested that an Excel template be developed to facilitate sharing data from runoff studies.
5. Update on Information Exchange Activity
 - a. The Information Exchange Activity involves USEPA and NRCS personnel and several members of SERA-17. There is a monthly conference call to discuss pending issues

relative to P loss, such as winter spreading of manures. Different SERA-17 members have presented concepts to the exchange.

6. Discussion on topics of interest to the SERA-17 membership.
 - a. Attendees met in small break-out groups to discuss and list topics of interest. These topics were then presented to the entire group and ranked. The top 3 topics were then selected for further discussion that may lead to presentations next year or further work areas for SERA-17.
7. Format of the meeting was discussed
 - a. A survey will be sent to all SERA-17 members to obtain feedback relative to the format of the annual SERA-17 meeting.
 - b. Noted that this meeting had the highest turnout of recent SERA-17 meetings. The meeting format was substantially shorter than past meetings making some discussions seem rushed. Seeking format that allows people to attend and provides the opportunity for SERA17 to meet its objectives.
8. Outgoing/Incoming chairs
 - a. Andrew Sharpley nominated and unanimously approved as incoming chair.
 - b. Deanna Osmond took over the chair of SERA-17 for 2013. She thanked John Lory for his excellent leadership during 2012.
9. Meeting Adjourned