

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for the

BRITISH COLUMBIA NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

The British Columbia Nutrient Management Working Group (BCNMWG) exists to facilitate the environmentally and economically sustainable use of crop nutrients in BC agriculture.

AUTHORITY

The BCNMWG has its authority from the *Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment*. The BCNMWG reports jointly to the *Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment* and the *Canada-British Columbia APF Environment Chapter Working Group*.

MEMBERSHIP

The BCNMWG will be comprised of members from:

- BC Agriculture Council (as represented by its commodity groups)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Environment Canada
- Union of British Columbia Municipalities
- Ad hoc members as approved by the Partnership Committee and the BCNMWG

OBJECTIVES

The BCNMWG is to provide a forum for exchange of information on nutrient management issues. Specific objectives are:

- **Research:** To facilitate research that leads to the development of leading edge technical information on nutrient management practices.
- **Communication:** To foster effective communication on nutrient management issues between members of the committee and other interested parties.
- **Consultation:** To serve as a forum for consultation on current and emerging nutrient management issues, as directed by the Partnership Committee or as identified by BCNMWG members.
- **Solutions:** To find and promote workable solutions with respect to nutrient management
- **Coordination:** To promote the coordination of initiatives of industry, government and communities that address nutrient management issues.
- **Timeliness:** To encourage timely and reasonable responses to nutrient management issues.

SCOPE

- BCNMWG will review materials and provide direction to the Nutrient Management Planning process as a component of the Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Planning Program
- BCNMWG will build on existing partnerships and relationships between parties to find solutions to issues and to facilitate improved communications at all levels.
- BCNMWG will develop an annual work plan to outline priority issues, activities, deliverables and performance measures.
 - BCNMWG will provide leadership to the coordination of the 2005 Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study
 - BCNMWG will coordinate the timely release of Manure Spreading Advisories.
- BCNMWG will provide direction in terms of research and monitoring priorities pertaining to nutrient management.
- BCNMWG will maintain a list of current nutrient management issues and initiatives requiring monitoring, discussion or action by the committee, its members, or the Partnership Committee.
- BCNMWG does not have a specified role in drafting policy or regulations pertaining to nutrient management.

COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

- The committee will meet 3 to 4 times per year, or as required.
- The chair shall be determined by the BCNMWG and shall be rotated periodically from within BCNMWG membership.
- The BCNMWG may establish sub-committees, as considered necessary by the Working Group.
- BCMAFF will be responsible for providing the meeting venue and administrative support to the committee (meeting notices, minutes, etc.).
- Member organizations determine who their representatives will be. Alternates are acceptable.
- The level of participation by guests is at the discretion of the chair but will not include a role in decision-making.

REVIEW

The BCNMWG will review these Terms of Reference annually and forward any desired changes to the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment for approval.

June 6, 2005