

Politics of Fertilizer in Virginia

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President's Executive Order

- Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act (CBF lawsuit)
- Bay Milestones (Two year goals)
- Bay Model
- TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan)
- WIP Phase II (Planning Districts, MS-4's)



Planning

Understanding allies position

- ◎ Know golf's role vs. Industry Partners
- ◎ Know government needs, 440k acres
- ◎ Meetings – Lots of meetings

Understanding other special interests

- ◎ 9 different legislative bills
- ◎ Divide and Conquer

Planning

Get your own bill!

- ◎ H.B.1831

How are you setting golf apart?

- ◎ State certified nutrient management plan (NMP)
- ◎ Best Management Practices (BMP) manual for Virginia Golf Courses

Planning



Representation & Relationships

Representation

- ◎ Superintendents
- ◎ Allied Golf Associations
- ◎ Industry Suppliers
- ◎ Lobbyist

Relationships

- ◎ Turfgrass Assoc.
- ◎ Agribusiness
- ◎ Regulatory Agencies
- ◎ Legislators



**Donna Johnson, Peter McDonough,
Delegate Ed Scott**

Being Part of the Process

Lobbying

- ◉ Coordinate w/Lobbyist
- ◉ Understand the process
 - ID Legislators- Ag, NR, Bay
 - Sub Committee
 - Full Committee
- ◉ Fact sheet - be prepared!
- ◉ Meet your Legislators!
- ◉ Attend all hearings!

Communication

- ◉ Membership awareness
- ◉ Organize email lobbying campaign
- ◉ Organize membership involvement w/lobbying at State Capital

Success

- H.B. 1831 Passes
- NMP for GC's required by July 1, 2017
- Plans must be approved by DCR within 30 days
- NMP revised every five years
- Civil penalty for violation \$250
- Prohibition of Phosphorus does not include starter fertilizer for new, repaired or renovated turf
- Also same applies when soil tests every three years indicates P deficiency

Success

- Golf Courses are exempt from local ordinances governing fertilizer use and application
- DCR will develop a cost share program by July 1, 2015
- Information collected by DCR as exempt from VA Freedom of Information Act
- Environmental Stewardship Bill

Environmental Stewardship Legislative Signing August 11, 2011 with Governor McDonnell



Moving Forward

- Establish monetary value with DCR on cost share
- Streamline NMP process
- Credit for reductions for facilities using less NMP than the VA standards and criteria fertilizer regulations allows
- Credit for total acre footprint vs. total acres managed
- Develop formula with regulatory agencies (BMP) for the nutrient credit exchange program(WIP)

What the Future Holds

What do we want our goals to be?

- ⦿ VA golf industry recognized for leading in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed milestones through BMP's that can have measurable success.
- ⦿ Securing the golfers expectations and their ability to enjoy the game.
- ⦿ Water quality monitoring program in conjunction with GCSAA, EIFG, VGCSA and VT

<http://www.vgcsa.org/bmps>

What the Future Holds

- © Enabling golfers to correctly address inaccurate assumptions about the nutrient management of their golf course.

