

5th Management Plans Work Group Agricultural Subgroup Meeting

March 3, 2020



Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Recap of previous Agricultural Subgroup meetings and the 5th Management Plans timeline
- III. Discussion of new concepts for the 5th Management Plans Agricultural Conservation Programs:
 - A. Modifications to existing programs
 - B. New programs
- IV. Closing Remarks



Recap



Timeline

4MP

Phoenix
AMA
Adoption

Pinal AMA
Adoption

Santa Cruz
AMA
Adoption

2019

2021

2022

2023

MPWG

Drafting
Plans

Adopting
Plans

5MP



MANAGEMENT PLANS WORK GROUP

A.R.S. § 45-563 (A)

“The director shall develop a management plan for each initial active management area for each of five management periods... and shall adopt the plans only after public hearings... The plans shall include a continuing mandatory conservation program... designed to achieve reductions in withdrawals of groundwater.”

ADWR-led stakeholder forum for the development of the 5th Management Plans

Goals:

- * Assess existing conservation programs
- * Update existing management strategies
- * Develop new management strategies

5MP Agricultural Subgroup Goals & Strategies

Goals

- * Assess existing conservation programs
- * Update existing management strategies
- * Develop new management strategies

Strategies

- * Data Analysis
 - * Comparison of programs
- * Develop concepts
 - * Changes to existing programs
 - * Potential new conservation programs

Recap of Previous Agricultural Subgroup Meetings

September 5, 2019 Meeting

- * Overview of Base and BMP Agricultural Conservation Programs
- * Overview of available agricultural data
 - * Annual Reports
 - * Other Sources/Potential Sources
- * Discussed potential additional analyses and data
 - * Need for data re: actively irrigated acres

November 18, 2019 Meeting

- * Overview of BMP Program
- * Data Analysis
 - * Available data shows that the BMP program is not achieving conservation equivalent to the Base Program.
- * Review of each BMP
 - * Potential to collaborate with NRCS
 - * Concern re: tailwater quality
 - * Potential to collaborate with Cooperative Extension for data on slopes



Agricultural Conservation Program Concepts for the 5th Management Plans



Agricultural BMP Program

A.R.S. § 45-568.02(G)

“The director shall include... a best management practices program... in lieu of complying with an irrigation water duty and a maximum annual groundwater allotment. The program shall be designed to achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program].”



Modifications to BMP Program

Concept

- * Introduce Tiers for BMP Points Targets
 - * Similar to tiers in Municipal Non-Per Capita Program based on number of connections

TBD

- * Method for creating tiers
 - * Units
 - * AF/acre
 - * Total acreage
 - * Other?
- * Setting tier cut-offs
- * Setting points targets for each tier



Alternative Agricultural Conservation Programs

A.R.S. § 45-568.02(F)

“The director may include in the adoption of, or a modification to, the management plan for the fifth management period additional alternative agricultural conservation programs that the director determines achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program]...”



Potential Alternative Conservation Program: Integrated Farm Program

Concept

- * Allow multiple IGFRs under the same owner/operator to combine reporting/allotments, with a “cut to the aquifer” percentage reduction of the total combined allotment.
- * Similar to provision allowing contiguous turf facilities to combine allotments

TBD

- * Geographic limitations
 - * Contiguous/Irrigation District
- * “Cut to the Aquifer” Percentage
- * Process for joining/leaving
- * Management of flex credits



Next Steps for Agricultural Subgroup

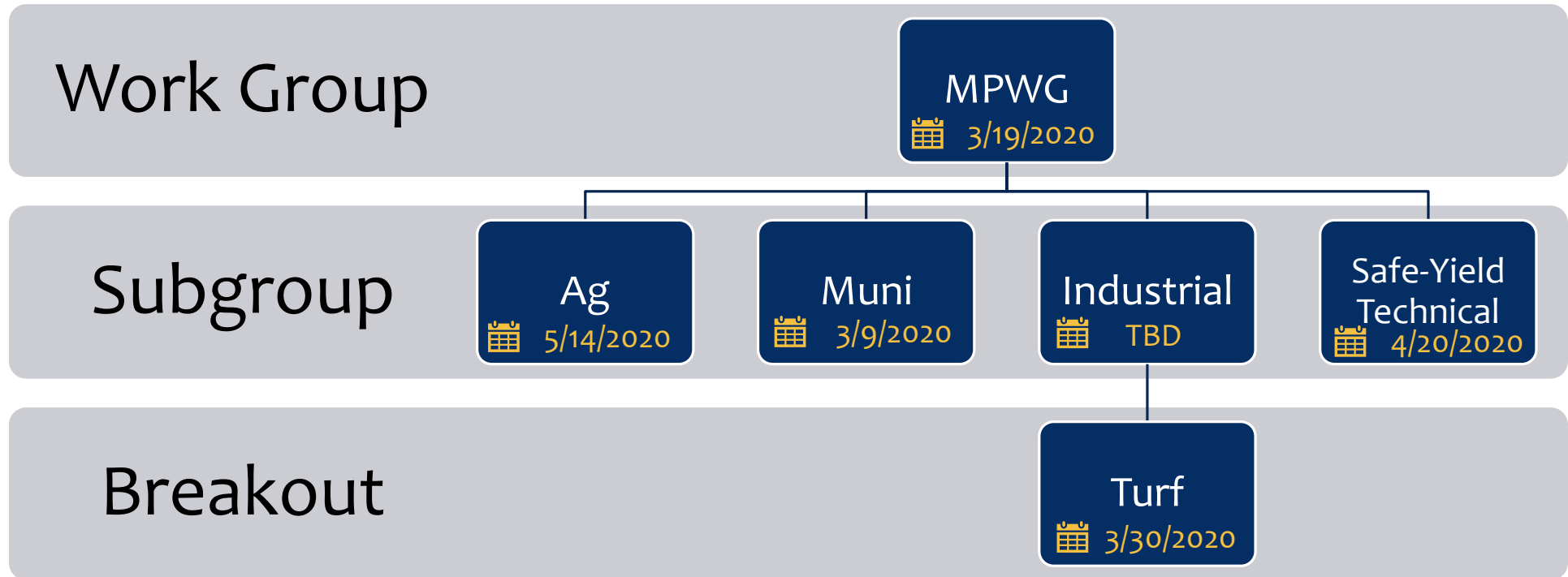
- * From today's discussion:
 - * Input on these concepts and "TBD" items
 - * Incorporate feedback & consider additional details
 - * Consider individual AMAs
- * Other items:
 - * Further evaluation of changes to individual BMPs/new BMPs
 - * Consideration of any additional new concepts



Closing Remarks



Upcoming MPWG Meetings



Questions?

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Management Plans Work Group:
new.azwater.gov/5MP

Full Text of Management Plans:
new.azwater.gov/ama/management-plans

