

September 15, 2022
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call

Conference Call Information*

Zoom Link: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/94729390103>

Meeting ID: 947 2939 0103

Passcode: 338673

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Calendar Page:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture_workgroup_conference_call_september_2022

Google Drive Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IFHxleHmN-N13NQvff0TN21P7tJqjNc?usp=sharing>

IMPORTANT: The Chesapeake Bay Program website will be undergoing maintenance from September 5th - 18th and we will be unable to upload any new content during that time. As such, **all materials for this meeting will be distributed via email and posted on the Google Drive.** Please contact Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov) with any questions. We appreciate your understanding and apologize for the inconvenience!

*To enter the webinar, please open the webinar link first. After opening the webinar, either elect to join via computer audio or via phone call. If you select phone, **please ensure you enter the participant ID.**

**Common Acronyms can be found at the end of this agenda

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes**

Workgroup Chair

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
- Approval of [minutes](#) from the August AgWG call

Implementation

10:05 **2022-2023 Ag Networking Forum and INSR Grants (10 min)**

Jake Reilly

Planning is in motion for NFWF's watershed-wide networking forum in November. Jake Reilly, Director of Chesapeake Bay Programs, will provide a quick update. NFWF is seeking proposals on emerging topics related to conservation efforts in the ag sector for the forum. Additionally, NFWF is seeking applications for [Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction \(INSR\) Grants for 2023](#).

CBP Assignments/Data & Modeling

- 10:15 **Report out of August 29th Principals' Staff Committee Meeting (5 min)** Kelly Shenk
The CBP Principals' Staff Committee met for a [special meeting on Aug 29th](#) to discuss a path forward for CAST-21. Kelly Shenk, EPA, will report out on decisions and next steps.
- 10:20 **Agricultural Data Inputs (10 min)** Tom Butler
Tom Butler, EPA, will review nominations for the Phase 7 Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) and the confirmation/voting procedures.

Accounting & Reporting

- 10:30 **PA Cover Crop Pilot Study (30 min)** A. Cook, M. Dubin
Aaron Cook, PSU, and Mark Dubin, UMD, return to the AgWG to further discuss the *Cover Crop Enhancement Pilot Project*. PA DEP is working with PSU to match existing data from producer surveys and roadside transect surveys to enhance tracking and reporting of cover crop implementation in PA counties. The process and preliminary findings will be presented followed by discussion. A full analysis is expected for the October meeting, as well as an ask for consensus approval of the method from the AgWG.
- 11:00 **BREAK (5 min)**
- 11:05 **Forage Acres Updates (15 min)** Loretta Collins
Loretta Collins, UMD, will provide a review and next steps on the questions raised regarding forage acres representation in CAST and incentivizing winter cover on ag land uses.
- 11:20 **Crediting NRCS practices (20 min) NRCS funding Initiative** L. Tillman, V. Van Note
In [May](#), the AgWG endorsed proposed changes to the Phase 6 NEIEN appendix for select NRCS practices identified as mapping to Soil and Water Conservation Plans in the Phase 5 NEIEN appendix. The proposed changes would shift these practices from "draft" to "release" status so that they could receive pollutant reduction credit towards the TMDL. Final approval of changes in the NEIEN appendix was requested at the [August WTWG](#) meeting, however the WTWG expressed concerns related to the crediting of the individual practices. Leon Tillman, USDA-NRCS, and Vanessa Van Note, WTWG Coordinator, will summarize WTWG feedback.
- 11:40 **USDA/EPA BMP Crediting Task Force (10 min)** Leon Tillman
Earlier this year USDA [announced additional investments](#) in conservation assistance. Part of that investment will go to a new federal Task Force on Crediting Chesapeake Bay Conservation Investments. Leon Tillman, USDA-NRCS, will provide a quick overview of the expected plan for the task force.
- 11:50 **New Business & Announcements (5 min)**
- **Management Board Meeting Sep 15th - Discussion on PSC CAST Recommendations from 2:15 – 3:15pm**
 - [Meeting Webex Link](#)
 - Meeting Number: 120 002 2821
 - Password: cmGau8Vm6f3
 - **Animal Mortality Expert Panel Technical Appendix**

- Most recent draft technical appendix available [here](#)- CBPO working through revisions based on feedback. Update expected for October WTWG meeting.
- Contact Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) with questions/comments.
- **ASA, CSSA & SSSA International Annual Meeting: Nov 6-9**
 - Baltimore, Maryland
 - More information here: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>
 - July 12 – Abstract submission deadline
 - Oct 3 - Early registration deadline
 - October 14 – Standard registration deadline
- **GIT Funding Project:** Mapping Pasture and Hay
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email

11:55 **Review of Action and Decision Items (5 min)**

12:00 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 20: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom

****Common Acronyms**

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)

BMP- Best Management Practice

BMPVAHAT- [BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team](#)

CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)

CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office (houses EPA, federal partners, and various contractors and grantees working towards CBP goals)

CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed

CRC- [Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency

NEIEN- National Environmental Information Exchange Network

NFWF- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)

PA DEP- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PSC – [Principals’ Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)

PSU- Penn State University

STAC- [Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee](#)

TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load

WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)

WTWG- [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)

UMD- University of Maryland

USDA-ARS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Agricultural Research Service*

USDA-NASS- United States Department of Agriculture-*National Agricultural Statistics Service* USDA-NRCS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Natural Resources Conservation Service*