



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

June 2026

Agenda

1 **Cross-partnership Collaboration:
Workforce Workgroup**

2 **Phase 7 Ag E3 Scenario Update
and Work Session**

3 **Partnership Updates**



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Cross-partnership Collaboration: Workforce Workgroup



Context

- Ag conservation technical assistance (CTA) workforce capacity is a barrier to conservation practice implementation
 - Core theme of Bay in the Balance Conference
 - Agriculture Advisory Committee 2025 EC Recommendation #5: Cultivate Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development
 - Invest in workforce and leadership pipelines for farmers, agronomists, animal scientists, and conservation professionals
- Revised Governance and Management Framework Sec C(1)(e): “Identifying areas of alignment across outcomes and workgroups where goal teams can support collaborative efforts” is a Goal Team responsibility
- What is the partnership’s role in expanding capacity of the CTA workforce?



Presentation



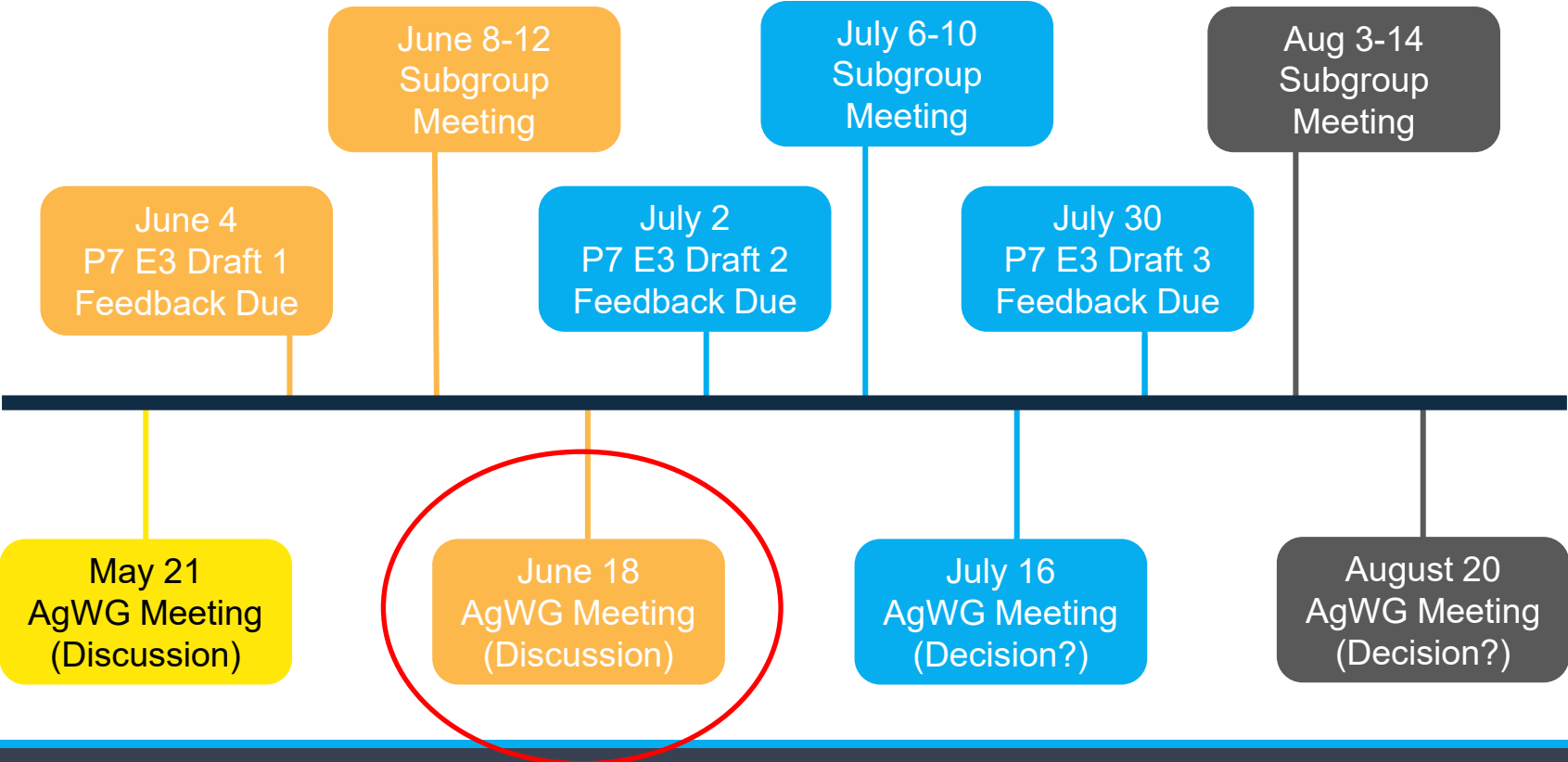


Discussion



Phase 7 Ag E3 Scenario Update and Work Session

Proposed AgWG E3 Timeline



Latest Developments

- Last Ag E3 Small Group work session – 6/10
 - Focused on land use change BMPs (buffers, wetland restoration, land retirement, tree planting, alternative crops)
 - Phase 6 ag E3 scenario established 15% as limit for ag land that could be converted to other land uses
 - Changed forest/grass buffer assumptions; maintained P6 assumptions for other land use change BMPs
 - Group requested to see acreage implication of these percentages with draft P7 land use data

Today

- Review latest version of P7 assumptions for Land Use Change BMPs
- Discuss P7 assumptions for collection of remaining BMPs
 - Defer cover crops, manure injection/incorporation, stream restoration, shoreline erosion control, manure transport to next ag E3 Small Group meeting

Land Use Change BMPs

- Forest Buffers
 - Phase 6: 100% of cropland within 30m of streams and rivers that are unbuffered
 - Phase 7: 70% of cropland within 20m of streams and rivers that are unbuffered
- Grass Buffers
 - Phase 6: N/A
 - Phase 7: 30% of cropland within 20m of streams and rivers that are unbuffered
- Forest Buffers on Fenced Pasture Corridor
 - Phase 6: 100% of pastureland within 30m of unbuffered streams and rivers
 - Phase 7: 85% of pastureland within 20m of unbuffered streams and rivers
- Grass Buffers on Fenced Pasture Corridor
 - Phase 6: N/A
 - Phase 7: 15% of pastureland within 20m of unbuffered streams and rivers

Land Use Change BMPs

- Wetland Restoration
 - Phase 6: 1% of available cropland and pasture
 - Phase 7: 1% of available cropland and pasture
- Land Retirement to Ag Open Space and to Pasture
 - Phase 6: 7% of available cropland and pasture
 - Phase 7: 7% of available cropland and pasture
- Tree Planting
 - Phase 6: 1% of available cropland and pasture
 - Phase 7: 1% of available cropland and pasture
- Alternative Crops
 - Phase 6: 1% of row crop
 - Phase 7: 1% of available row crop acres



Spreadsheet Walkthrough



Partnership Updates

Focus Areas

- Clean Water Goal Team June Meeting
- Clean Water Goal Team Worksheet: AgWG Response
- Governance and Management Framework
 - Revised GMF to be approved by PSC on June 30th

Clean Water Goal Team (CWGT) June Meeting

- CWGT June meeting will be hybrid, with in-person participation at MD Dept of Environment (1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230)
- Meeting theme: Reset and re-center - How do we best engage each other so that we're all informed?
- Two-day meeting:
 - Day 1 – “Our shared understanding of the RENPS timeline and the knowledge and decision steps to get there.”
 - Day 2 – “Our new structure and governance framework under the revised *Watershed Agreement*, discussions on how best to operate as a Goal Team, and initial Management Strategy considerations.”

Clean Water Goal Team (CWGT) June Meeting

- Day 1 – “Our shared understanding of the RENPS timeline and the knowledge and decision steps to get there.”
 - Overview of upcoming CWGT decisions
 - Planning Targets
 - Tiered Implementation
 - Scenario Base Year (for planning targets)
 - Hydrologic & Critical Period

Clean Water Goal Team (CWGT) June Meeting

- Day 2 – “Our new structure and governance framework under the revised *Watershed Agreement*, discussions on how best to operate as a Goal Team, and initial Management Strategy considerations.”
 - Goal Team Operations
 - Role of the Goal Team
 - Goal Team (and Workgroup) Decision Making
 - Goal Team Structure
 - Goal Team (and Workgroup) Membership
 - Management Strategies
 - Management Approaches

“Outcome Starting Thoughts” Worksheet Response

- Management Strategies for each Goal will be contained within 6-year Strategic Plan
 - Outline means for accomplishing outcome and its targets
 - Separate Workplan for each Outcome will state specific activities partners will collaboratively undertake to implement Management Strategies over one- to three-year period
- Worksheet: “Outcome Starting Thoughts for CWGT Management Strategy”
 - Within CWGT, Workgroup-to-Outcome ratio is not 1:1 as in other Goal Teams (exception: Toxics)
 - Multiple groups supporting RENPS and WQSAM
 - CWGT solicited feedback on elements related to Management Strategy development from WG leadership to inform discussion at June meeting

“Outcome Starting Thoughts” Worksheet Response

- Responses from all groups available at [this link](#) (posted to June CWGT meeting page)
- Identified key gaps/challenges, possible tasks, and potential Management Approaches
- Gaps:
 - Inorganic N fertilizer application and opportunities for manure/animal population management within the CBW
 - Understanding economic impacts/ROI of conservation actions on farmers
 - Intensification of ag production
 - Streamlining conservation funding and mode of delivery
 - BMP verification; specifically, reverification of NRCS-/FSA-funded practices

“Outcome Starting Thoughts” Worksheet Response

- Tasks

- Pulled from and added to 2025-2026 Planning Document

- Management Approaches

- Sector workgroup involvement in development of next iteration of WIPs (sharing what worked well – and what didn’t – in Phase 3)
 - Develop workplan on timeline identified by CWGT
 - CWGT finalizes and delivers updated method for crediting new BMPs and updating existing BMP model credit
 - CWGT defines how to structure engagement across Workgroups and Goal Teams
 - CWGT/PSC defines roles of and relationship between Ag Advisory Committee and Ag Workgroup regarding priority setting and acting on said priorities
 - CWGT defines strategy for handling ag-based modeling discussions and decisions

Governance and Management Framework (GMF)

- Encourage review of the [revised GMF](#)
 - PSC will vote to approve on June 30th
- Overview of what has changed planned for July meeting
 - Presentation on relevant changes delivered at CWGT June meeting before we discuss
 - CWGT June meeting will provide additional insight into interpretation of revised membership and decision making
- Relevant sections include:
 - Organizational Structure (p.8)
 - Goal Teams; Workgroups; Action Teams (p.15-21)
 - Public Meeting Procedures (p.27-28)
 - Decision Making (p.28-31)

Anything else?

- Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email

Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at Hughes.Eric@epa.gov



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