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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

March 20th, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:15 PM

[Meeting Materials](#)

Virtual Meeting Information

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 255 026 759 588

Passcode: 2MvGxh

Phone: +1 202-991-0477,,999598303# US

Calendar page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-march-2025>

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

Intro & Announcements

10:00 **Welcome, roll call, review meeting minutes – 5 minutes**

Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

- Roll call of the governance body
- Roll call of the meeting participants - *Please enter name and affiliation under “Participants” or in “Chat” box*
- Welcome: Christi Hicks, interim Acting Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, NRCS
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the February AgWG meeting.

Innovation/Data & Modeling

10:05 **PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project: Methodology Report Presentation - 55 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

Tom Howard, Resolve Hydro; Ashley Hullinger & Scott Heidel, PA DEP

Tom will present the PA DEP Draft Methodology Guidance for Remote Sensing Verification of Conservation Tillage BMPs. This document will serve as a BMP-specific supplement to the CBP's broader remote sensing guidance document. There are no decisions associated with this item for the March meeting, but we will discuss the next steps in bringing this guidance forward for a vote. As always, the group will be encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback.

Innovation

11:00 Soil Health Outcome Proposal – 55 minutes (presentation, discussion, and pulse-check) *Beyond 2025 Phase 1 Climate Small Group Representative(s)*

During Phase 1 of the Beyond 2025 process, the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee convened several small focus groups around key pillars of the partnership's work to provide input on the post-2025 priorities of the Bay Program. These small groups produced recommendations for the Steering Committee. The Climate Small Group drafted [recommendations](#), several of which included the action item/strategy of pursuing a CBP Soil Health outcome. Now in Phase 2 of Beyond 2025, the partnership is undertaking a review of all 31 of the outcomes listed in the 2014 Watershed Agreement and considering the possibility of adding new outcomes. The Management Board has requested information related to novel outcomes be brought forward at their March 27th meeting. The Climate Small Group has developed a two-pager outlining key considerations for a soil health outcome, which, as currently written, has a focus on agriculture. WQGIT leadership has recommended the Small Group representatives bring the outcome to the AgWG for an initial presentation, with a request that feedback from the group is captured and shared with the GIT and/or MB. Discussion will be an important part of this agenda item. No official vote will be requested, but input will be sought on whether or not soil health deserves consideration by higher-level partnership bodies as a possible outcome.

AgWG Planning

11:55 Review of AgWG Priorities Spreadsheet – 20 minutes (presentation and discussion) *Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator*

Eric will present the spreadsheet containing the list of priorities identified by the AgWG during the initial part of the group's planning effort (10-2024 – 02-2025). Our focus will be on the "2025 Snapshot" sheet which highlights the group's current areas of interest and will be used to build our 2025-26 "roadmap"; however, other sheets in this document will continue to grow, as we seek to use this file as the repository for past (and future) AgWG-related action items/directives. A request will be made of the group to provide input on the document ahead of our April meeting.

Wrap-up

12:15 New Business, Announcements & Updates

- **Agricultural Modeling Team**
 - Tom Butler, AMT coordinator, will share recent AMT activities.
- **Agricultural Advisory Committee**
 - The AAC has been established and will be having its kickoff meeting on March 27th, 1-4pm. Meeting information can be found [here](#).
- **Watersheds Selected for Maryland's Whole Watershed Act Grant Funding**
 - On March 6th, 2025, Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that five watersheds have been selected to receive grant funds under the Maryland Whole

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Watershed Act. The selected watersheds include Antietam Creek, Baltimore Harbor, Newport Bay, the Severn River, and the Upper Choptank River. Click [here](#) to view the news article from Maryland Department of Natural resources and to learn more about the Whole Watershed Act.

- **STAC Publication- “Tiered Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL: A STAC Prospectus”**
 - STAC recently released the “Tiered Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL: A STAC Prospectus”. This document serves as one of multiple anticipated outreach products resulting from the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report and further describes what a tiered approach to Bay TMDL implementation might look like. For more information and to download the report, please see the following [link](#).
- **Other Announcements?**
 - Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email.

12:15 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: **Thursday, April 17th, 10:00AM-12:30PM**

Acronym List

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)
AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)
BMP – Best Management Practice
CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)
CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)
CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
CTIC – Conservation Technology Information Center
CVN – Conservation Validation Network
EPA - [United States] Environmental Protection Agency
FSA – Farm Service Agency
MLRI – Modeled Load Reduction Indicator
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
ORISE – Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals’ Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts
WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)
UMD - University of Maryland
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USGS – United States Geological Survey
USFS – United States Forestry Service