



Agriculture Workgroup Meeting Agenda

March 4, 2026
1:45-4:45 PM

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 224 286 695 273 56 | **Passcode:** Yr6DU2PK

Call: +1 202-991-0477,,525278615# US | **Conference ID:** 525 278 615#

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov).

Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

Purpose: The first in-person meeting of the CBP Agriculture Workgroup since 2020 will serve as a Bay in the Balance “debrief”, providing an opportunity for the partnership to collectively digest key messages and takeaways from the conference. If there are Bay in the Balance action items that the partnership believes the AgWG can help advance, we will discuss them while they are still top-of-mind. This meeting will also enable us to have meaningful face-to-face connection, and we will take advantage of that to leave knowing more about each other than when we arrived. Finally, this meeting will be used to advance core partnership initiatives related to agriculture-sector BMP crediting, tracking, and verification.

Agenda

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Review Meeting Minutes

1:45 – 1:55 PM

Kathy will open the meeting with a roll call of the workgroup members and meeting participants. In-person meeting attendees will be asked to add their name and affiliation to a sign-in sheet, and

virtual participants will be asked to share their name and affiliation using the meeting “Chat” function. Kathy will then ask workgroup members to approve the January AgWG meeting minutes before providing introductory remarks.

Requested Action: Decision – Approval of minutes from the January AgWG meeting.

Speaker: Kathy Brasier, outgoing AgWG Chair

Materials: [January 2026 AgWG Minutes](#)

II. AgWG Leadership Transition

1:55 – 2:00 PM

The AgWG leadership team has received confirmation from the Clean Water Goal Team Co-Chairs that workgroups with nominees for vacant leadership positions are permitted to move forward with the selection process for filling Chair/Vice Chair vacancies. AgWG members will be asked to approve Jenn Fetter – the nominee for the open leadership position – as AgWG Vice Chair.

NOTE: Actions related to confirming new workgroup *members* are still paused. We will take the appropriate next steps to fill remaining AgWG vacancies when granted permission to do so.

Requested Action: Decision – Approval of Jenn Fetter as AgWG Vice Chair.

Speaker: Kathy Brasier, outgoing AgWG Chair

Materials: [Jenn Fetter Bio](#)

III. Bay in the Balance Takeaways

2:00 – 2:35 PM

Caitlin will provide a summary of key takeaways from the Bay in the Balance Conference and facilitate a discussion that builds upon the closing session of Bay in the Balance: *Bringing It All Together: Sharing Strategies, Defining Initiatives, and Prioritizing Action*. We will discuss the role for the AgWG in advancing any identified strategies, initiatives, and actions, particularly as they relate to the AgWG’s planning document.

Requested Action: None; discussion only

Speaker: Caitlin Grady, incoming AgWG Chair

Materials: [AgWG Planning/Prioritization Document](#)

IV. Strategies For Success: Collaborative Watershed Restoration

2:35 – 3:10 PM

Kate Beats, with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, will provide an overview of the recently published [WIP and CAP Case Study](#) from PA DEP. This resource outlines Pennsylvania’s strategy for collaborating with local communities to empower them to identify and achieve their water quality goals. The key takeaways from the report will be highlighted, and specific points of interest for the agricultural sector will be shared. Time will be allotted at the end of the presentation for the workgroup to discuss these takeaways and any questions.

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Kate Beats, PA DEP

Materials: [CAP Case Study](#)

V. BREAK

3:10 – 3:20 PM

VI. Group Engagement Activity

3:20 – 3:50 PM

This meeting will be the first time in six years that the AgWG has gathered in person. The leadership and staffing team will share 1-2 questions for meeting participants to answer in front of the group with the goal of learning about and engaging with one another. Both in-person and virtual participants will have the opportunity to share responses to questions related to their Bay-related work. The questions will be shared with the group in the first half of the meeting (no preparation will be necessary!).

Requested Action: None; discussion only
Speaker: Meeting Attendees
Materials: None.

VII. (Re) Evaluating Ag BMPs for CBP's Suite of Modeling Tools 3:50 – 4:10 PM

The AgWG is responsible for making decisions related to the crediting of agricultural best management practices in the Chesapeake Bay Program's modeling tools. To effectively act on this responsibility, we must understand which ag practices are credited and when that credit was assigned or updated. Key information from the [CBP Quick Reference Guide for Best Management Practices](#) (ag section: pages 30-103) will be summarized and shared with the workgroup. Specifically, we will see a list of ag BMPs that are currently credited, when credit was last updated by the partnership (linking to relevant source documentation), and ag BMPs previously credited or considered for credit. While this is non-decisional, workgroup members will receive a separate request to provide formal feedback on ag BMPs to consider adding to CBP's suite of modeling tools and on ag BMPs already receiving model credit that should be considered for an update based on best available science.

Requested Action: None; discussion only
Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator
Materials: Ag BMP Spreadsheet ("Crediting" tab)

VIII. Remote Sensing-based Verification of BMPs 4:10 – 4:35 PM

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office is beginning the process of soliciting partnership feedback on priority BMPs for watershed-wide remote sensing-based tracking and verification. CBPO staff are exploring opportunities to conduct watershed-wide remote sensing of BMPs with the end goal of reducing the reporting effort and associated resource expenditure shouldered by our partners. Suitability of remote sensing as a solution for the tracking and verification of ag BMPs is being assessed; workgroup members will receive a spreadsheet (also to be posted on meeting page) of agriculture-sector BMPs in CAST that includes *initial* findings from the suitability assessment (i.e., which BMPs may be candidates for this work, and which aren't). We will discuss the spreadsheet and any changes that may be necessary. While this is non-decisional, workgroup members will receive a separate request to provide formal feedback on priority BMPs and ongoing efforts related to remote sensing of agricultural conservation practices. Eric will share EPA's perspective on this effort.

Requested Action: None; discussion only
Speaker: Eric Hughes (on behalf of EPA)
Materials: Ag BMP Spreadsheet ("Remote Sensing" tab)

IX. Wrap-Up and Adjourn 4:35 – 4:45 PM

Speakers: AgWG Leadership and Staffing Team

- Caroline Kleis, AgWG Staffer, will review action items from the day.
- Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator, and Tom Butler, AMT Coordinator, will highlight ag-related decisions taking place around the partnership.
- Caitlin Grady, incoming AgWG Chair, will speak to salient topics on the horizon for the AgWG (e.g., offering clarity on partnership structure and governance, if possible) and provide closing remarks to summarize our collective experience with Bay in the Balance and the in-person AgWG meeting.

Announcements:

- **New! Upcoming Chesapeake Stormwater Network Webinars**
 - The Chesapeake Stormwater Network is hosting a series of upcoming webinars on the following topics:
 - Updating Urban Fertilizer Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed- February 24th
 - Reimagining Watershed Management- Creative Funding Models for an Inclusive Future- March 3rd
 - Assessing the Effectiveness of Green Stormwater Infrastructure for Addressing Stormwater Management Goals at the Watershed Scale- March 10th
 - Assessing and Managing Stormwater Impacts of Solar Installations in Virginia and Central Pennsylvania- March 19th
 - For the full list of upcoming webinars and to learn more or register for these webinars, click [here](#).
- **Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee Solicitation for Nominations**
 - The EPA issued a call for nominations for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) on January 16, 2026. Nominations should be submitted to FRRCC@epa.gov by March 2, 2026.
 - The FRRCC is described as “an advisory body that will address specific topics of unique relevance to agriculture as identified by the Administrator, in such a way as to provide thoughtful advice and useful insights to the Agency as it considers environmental policies and programs that affect and engage agriculture and rural communities.”
 - Members may represent farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; allied industries, including farm groups, rural suppliers, marketers, and processors; academia and researchers; state, local, and tribal government; and nongovernmental organizations.
 - For more information and to apply, visit the following [site](#).
- **METRIC Webinar**
 - On February 9th, the Chesapeake Bay Program hosted a webinar, “Data to Decisions: Using the METRIC Tool to Measure Watershed Progress.”
 - The [METRIC Tool](#) allows users to look at data collected from the Non-Tidal Network of monitoring stations and compare what is being observed with what the partnership models are showing.
 - The webinar recording is now available. You can watch the recording [here](#).
- **Rooting DC 2026**
 - The 2026 Rooting DC event will take place on March 7, 2026, from 9:00AM-4:00PM at Eastern Senior High School in DC.

- This free event “provides education and community building around urban agriculture and food systems, with the goal of cultivating personal, community, and environmental wellbeing.”
- The event includes interactive workshops on a variety of interesting topics and an exhibitor hall of local businesses, non-profits, and government entities from across the metropolitan region.
- To learn more and to register, please use the following [link](#).
- **STAC At-Large Membership**
 - The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is [seeking self-nominations](#) for At-Large member positions through Monday, March 16th. Please consider submitting a nomination or sharing this solicitation with others who may be interested and well-suited to contribute to STAC’s work. Questions may be directed to Meg Cole, STAC Coordinator, at colem@chesapeake.org. Learn more and submit your nomination [here](#).
- **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings 2026**
 - The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) has set their dates for quarterly meetings in 2026 (see below). Information will be posted on the AAC page as it becomes available:
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/agricultural-advisory-committee>
 - ☐ Next Meeting: 5/6 Virtual Meeting
 - ☐ 8/5 In-Person Meeting (location TBD)
 - ☐ 11/4 Virtual Meeting
 - The AAC held their last meeting on February 4th. Materials for the February AAC Meeting are available [here](#).
- **NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grant Programs**
 - NFWF, EPA and CBP are soliciting proposals for the [Small Watershed Grants \(SWG\) program](#) until Thursday, April 2nd for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. NFWF will host an applicant webinar detailing this Request for Proposals on Monday, February 2nd at 1pm. [Learn more](#) about SWG and read the [RFP](#).
 - NFWF recently released the 2025 grant slate for the INSR and SWG programs. Visit the following links to view the grant recipients for the 2025 [INSR](#) and [SWG](#) grants.
- **2026 Mid-Atlantic Agroforestry Conference**
 - The [2026 Mid-Atlantic Agroforestry Conference](#) will take place on June 4-5, 2026, at the Special Events Building, Ag Progress Days site in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. The agenda will include farm/site tours, panel discussion, and resource guidance and statuses. Read more at [Penn State Extension's conference announcement](#). Registration will open in early 2026. Please sign up for the [Woods and Wildlife Newsletter](#) to stay informed of conference information.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2026 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

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
DLLC- Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative
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
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SARE- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
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