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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

September 19th, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Materials

Virtual Meeting Information

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

Meeting ID: 239 918 316 219

Passcode: BMKqhT

Phone: +1 202-991-0477,,731227393# US

Calendar page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-september-2024>

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*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the July AgWG meeting.

Innovation/Data & Modeling

10:05 Monitoring Small Agricultural Watersheds to Motivate and Evaluate Conservation Actions – 55 minutes (presentation and discussion/Mentimeter activity)

Jimmy Webber, Alex Soroka, and John Clune, USGS; Kaylyn Gootman, EPA

This presentation will provide an update on efforts that are underway with EPA, NRCS and other agencies for enhanced monitoring in small watersheds to better connect conservation practices with water-quality changes. The overall objectives of this study are to 1) build partnerships with agricultural communities, and 2) evaluate the effects of agricultural conservation practices on water-quality responses. Feedback from the agricultural workgroup is welcome to help align this research with resource managers questions and needs.

11:00 PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project Updates - 20 minutes (presentation and discussion)

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

The DEP/Resolve Hydro team will provide the AgWG with relevant updates on the ongoing remote sensing verification pilot project, and time will be allocated for addressing questions and comments from the group.

Wrap-up

11:20 New Business, Announcements & Updates

- **Agricultural Modeling Team – 20 minutes (presentation and Q&A)**
 - Tom Butler (AMT Coordinator) will provide an update on items discussed by and related to the AMT.
- **October in-person AgWG Meeting Overview – 20 minutes (discussion)**
 - Eric Hughes (AgWG Coordinator) will provide an overview of the upcoming in-person meeting of the AgWG. This will be an opportunity for members to discuss the proposed content of the meeting.
- **September Principals' Staff Committee Meeting**
 - The Principals' Staff Committee will meet on September 17th, from 9:00AM-12:00PM. Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary and Ag Action Team Chair Kevin Atticks will give an overview of the final Draft EC directive to create the Ag Advisory Committee and discuss potential funding mechanisms (9:15AM). Final approval of the directive will occur at the October PSC meeting. See the [calendar page](#) and [agenda](#) for additional information.
- **Beyond 2025 Report Public Comments**
 - The Beyond 2025 Draft Report comment period ended August 30th, 2024. A compilation of the public comments can be found through this [link](#).
- **SRBC/MDE "Pay-for-Success" Award Recipients Announced**
 - The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) announced \$11 million in funding through their "pay-for-success" model. For more information and a list of awardees, view the August 15th [SRBC press release](#).
- **Animal Agriculture and Water Quality Subcommittee**
 - The EPA Animal Agriculture and Water Quality Subcommittee met on August 9, 2024. Video recording can be accessed on [through this link](#).
- **Conservation Cornerstone: Pennsylvania Ag Plans**
 - This September 24th [webinar](#), intended for Ag professionals, focuses on key conservation fundamentals such as agricultural literacy and professional and technological skill building. The webinar series also provides a space for attendees to ask any questions. [Registration](#) is free and required.
- **Maryland Department of Agriculture: AgriSolar Summit**
 - The 2024 [AgriSolar Summit](#) will be held on Thursday, September 26 from 10:00AM-4:00PM, at the MDA's headquarters in Annapolis. The focus of the summit is on agri-voltics and agriculture with solar. Light refreshments and lunch will be served. To RSVP for the event, fill out this [google form](#).

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- **Request for Proposals (RFP): NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants**
 - Proposals for NFWF INSR Grants are due at noon on November 5, 2024. Consultation with NFWF program staff is encouraged and can be scheduled through this [link](#). For more information and to view the RFP, visit [NFWF's website](#). Contact Jake Reilly (jake.reilly@nfwf.org) or Tori Sullens (tori.sullens@nfwf.org) with additional questions.
- **Maryland Water Monitoring Council Annual Conference**
 - [MWWMC's 30th annual conference](#) will take place at the Maritime Conference Center on November 21, 2024. The theme for this one-day conference is "MWWMC @30: Celebrating Successes and Tackling Emerging Challenges". Registration information to follow.
- **Other Announcements?**
 - Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

12:00 **Review of Action and Decision Items; Adjourn**

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 17th, 2024: 8:30AM-4:00PM (In-Person and Virtual)

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