

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Robert Waring

Brandon Farms

Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District





Brandon Farms, Dunnsville VA

American Farmland Trust

Regenerate VA Healthy Soils Grant

Reservoir Distillery: healthy soils-healthy grains

2024 Case Study

Virginia Tech

VA NRCS CIG grant

Colonial SWCD

Virginia Ag BMPs

Cover Crops, No-till, WFA (Whole Farm Approach NM)

Satellite Imagery for the VA Ag Cost Share (VACS) Program

BMP Verification for Bay Model Credit

Quantifying cover crop biomass for inclusion into WFA

Agricultural Advisory Committee

William Fink, Chair AAC

Robert Waring, Vice-Chair AAC

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Jen Nelson, Coordinator AAC

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Ag Advisory Committee Meeting, Gettysburg PA

The AAC met in person on August 28, with several site visits the day prior

AAC members were familiarized with how agriculture is represented in the model, as well as the protocols that are in place to get credit for new BMPs or existing BMPs. Discussions involved how nutrient values are determined and applied in the model.

We developed a set of comments regarding the draft revised Chesapeake Bay Agreement:

- Many of the comments were a reflection on the fact that, while ag is responsible for 50% of the remaining nutrient load reductions, the ag community was absent from the agreement itself.
- The group also thought that it was important to recognize that the success of the ag sector to meet its goals is dependent on economically viable farms, and desired that strategies to meet water quality goals consider the impact on farm profitability.

Ag Advisory Committee Meeting, Gettysburg PA

The AAC decided to set up three subcommittees, one of which is a Technical Subcommittee.

- At the start, the purpose of that group is to help the AAC to work through some of the questions and issues that were identified during the meeting. They'll work with the Ag Modeling Team and Ag Workgroup, determine how to facilitate exchange of information between different entities, and would consider how soil health practices should be included in the model.
- Over time, this same group will look at new technologies that have the greatest potential to impact water quality and policies or strategies to advance those practices, as well as how to move the conversation in the ag community from a yield-driven approach to a profit-driven approach.

Governance and Communications

Ag Advisory Committee partnerships & collaboration

The AAC is looking forward to working with the Ag Workgroup and Ag Modeling Team and our goal is that the Ag Advisory Committee would be a complement to your work. One comment from our August meeting is that if, through greater understanding and communication, AAC can get to a place where they endorse the Model, that would be powerful to the ag community.

Some of you may have heard from our members already, as we've tried to point people to their state representatives in order to better understand, on a state-by-state basis, where things are working and where they're not with regards to agriculture being accurately represented in the model. Likewise, we're available for any questions that you all have for how something works in agriculture in the real world.

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NFWF Chesapeake Ag Networking Forum, PA

Penn State Bay in the Balance, PA