



Land Use Work Group April Office Hours

April 28th, 2026
1:00pm - 3:00 pm

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

Minutes

I. Review of Changes

Lead: Sarah McDonald

Decisions: N/A

Actions: N/A

Discussion notes

- **Cassandra Davis:** Does the smooth version match what we are seeing in the Ag census?
 - **Thomas Butler:** The smooth version is the census, but it is processed and put into CAST. So it still trends from the census, but it just eliminates interannual variability
 - **Cassandra Davis:** Okay that makes sense, I could see overtime if it goes with this trend these crop areas being replaced by pasture, as long as it matches up with what the census is showing that makes sense to me.
- **Bill Keeling:** for VA, I cant see looking at VA Ag as one conglomerate because it is different regionally; I don't get much from a statewide presentation
 - **Sarah McDonald:** in the county scale data that you have looked at on the viewer, the blue lines are the corrected data and it is still an improvement, right?
 - **Bill:** I would say it is more representative than the previous modeling attempts, so overall yes the corrected data is better.
- **Dave Montali:** In regard to the WV solar fix, I think the fix adds consistency between phase 6 and 7 for that early period whereas the original data was very different and could have been bad relative to loads. So I am good with the fix.
- **Carl Friedrichs:** Why do data from 2021 and 2022 for solar tend to be identical and tend to indicate a sudden stop in growth in solar?
 - **Sarah McDonald:** The 2021-2022 data is derived from our high res maps, so those did not get altered unless the reported data said there was no utility scale solar in those years. So for example if the EIA data said that utility scale solar didn't exist until 2023, then we would have updated the 2021 data, but if the reported data said any date prior to 2021 or 2022 then we would have kept what we mapped.

- o **Carl Friedrichs:** But it looks like there was a steady growth from year to year in the corrected line, there was steady growth and then it goes flat. PA keeps growing, maybe it is a VA thing
- o **Sarah McDonald:** For our high res maps, some of the states are mapped from 2021 imagery and some use 2022 imagery. For the states we only map up until 2021, we decided to keep what we mapped the same for 2022 until our next round of data in a few years. So for some states, 2022 is identical to 2021 for use in CAST for this initial process.

II. Time Series Data Review and Q&A

Lead: Sarah McDonald (USGS)

Decisions: N/A

Discussion Notes: N/A

Attendance

1. Sarah McDonald, USGS
2. Jackie Pickford, USGS
3. Julia Fucci, CRC
4. Lori Brown, DE
5. Cassandra Davis, NY
6. Normand Goulet, VA
7. Samuel Canfield, WV
8. Richard Turcotte, WV
9. Nathan Stephans, MD
10. Ben Alexandro
11. William Keeling, VA
12. Thomas Butler, EPA
13. Auston Smith, EPA
14. Dave Montali, WV
15. Kristy Woodall, VA
16. Michel Sheffer, MD
17. Carl Friedrichs, VIMS
18. Young Tsuei, DC
19. Arianna Johns, VA
20. Deb Sward, MD
21. Michaela Kuykendall, MDA
22. Marel Kind, CBC
23. Caroline Kleis, CRC