

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday July 28th, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM Eastern Time
Location:

Link: [Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 276 520 141 757
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Meeting materials: [Calendar Link](#)



Written announcements or reminders (CTRL + click to jump ahead within document)

Agenda

Topic	Start time (duration)	<u>Item Title</u> <i>Item description</i>	Speaker(s) or presenter(s) Materials
	1:00	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u> <i>We will use Teams for roll call purposes, so please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the participants list. If not, please enter your correct name & affiliation in the chat box. If multiple participants are joining through the same location, please enter your names in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.</i>	Greg Sandi, MDE, WQGIT Vice-Chair
	(15 min)	<u>Announcements & Verbal Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinator Updates – Jeremy Hanson, CRCWorkgroup UpdatesForestry Workgroup Chair Update and Introduction<ul style="list-style-type: none">Decision: The WQGIT will be asked to confirm Nanci Sonti, USFS, as the new Forestry Workgroup Community Co-Chair	Materials: Presentation

WQGIT
Planning

1:15
(60 min)

Phase 7 Decisions Planner/Topics for Office Hours

Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator, will present the working decision planner developed by WQGIT leadership to map out upcoming relevant Phase 7 decisions as requested by WQGIT members. WQGIT members will deliberate which of the identified items they feel should be decided on at WQGIT meetings or be briefed on. Subsequently, participants will be asked to consider to what extent the WQGIT wants to amend its schedule for August and September, i.e., by holding optional office hours for informational Q&A or briefings, or extending/adding WQGIT meetings for decision-making purposes.

[Pre-meeting] ACTION requested: We will provide some initial options in a discussion memo a week in advance for your consideration, reaction and feedback. Alternatives and suggestions are welcome, especially in advance of the call.

Please note: A number of HOLDS for August and September will be sent out as calendar invites to WQGIT members and Phase 7 track leads. We will remove or confirm these events following this July 28 call based on the WQGIT's preferences and availability. Once confirmed, the events will be shared to the full WQGIT distribution list and added to the CBP events calendar.

Decision TBD. We need the WQGIT's preferences to inform the schedule and next steps by the end of the call. We will poll the group for its preferences during the call and pose decisions according to the preferences, as needed. If there is desire for extended or additional (decisional) meetings in August or September to meet the decision schedule, then we will seek a WQGIT decision to amend the schedule. We do not need a decision to add non-decisional meetings (i.e., office hours) to the calendar based on the participants' preferences.

Jeremy
Hanson, CRC,
WQGIT
Coordinator

Materials:
Draft decision
planner (July
15 version);
discussion
memo;
Presentation

2:15
(10 min)

Break

Progress

2:25
(30 min)

2024 Progress Review

Auston Smith, EPA will review 2024 Progress results. The full scenario data is available on [CAST](#), and the Modeled Load Reduction Indicator is available on [Chesapeake Progress](#).

Informational, with questions and discussion encouraged.

Auston Smith,
EPA

Materials:
Presentation

**Phase 7
model
development**

2:55
(30 min)

Phase 7 CAST Segmentation - Land-River Segments

Members voted over email following the [June WQGIT meeting](#) on the preferred option for Land-River Segments to be used in Phase 7 CAST. With no "stops" or "holds" registered, the

Andy Fitch,
USGS

WQGIT currently has consensus to use Option B (New Shoreline Version) for segmentation in Phase 7, with registered disagreement on minimum size thresholds and a desire to continue discussing how to treat BMPs in small segments or “slivers.”

Andy will summarize the updated work based on the WQGIT’s conversations. The group will discuss lingering concerns and a constructive path forward for addressing “slivers” within the methodology.

[Pre-meeting] ACTION requested from WQGIT members: Please check the vote tracker for any errors or omissions. Contact Petra for corrections or amendments in advance of the meeting. Hearing nothing, we will assume your vote is accurate as entered. In the spirit of flexibility and minimizing the burden for members: For members with no alternate, a missing vote is considered the same as a “stand aside.” For members present in June who did not reach out with revised or corrected votes, we default to their June 23 vote.

Assuming there are no changes that impact consensus, this is the pending decision that will be confirmed by WQGIT Leadership at the meeting:

Decision: The WQGIT has consensus to use Option B (New Shoreline Version) for segmentation in Phase 7, with registered disagreement on minimum size thresholds and a desire to continue discussing how to treat BMPs in small segments.

Materials:
WQGIT Vote
Tracker –
Land River
Segments
06.23.25

3:25	Recap of Actions and Decisions	Petra Baldwin, CRC
3:30	ADJOURN	

Written announcements or reminders

- **Announcements or opportunities**
 - The [draft revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) is now available for public feedback until **Monday, September 1, 2025**. Feedback can be submitted via email to comments@chesapeakebay.net. You can find the [press release](#), [FAQs](#), and a [communications toolkit](#) on the Planning for 2025 and Beyond [webpage](#).
 - CBP is hosting a series of webinars on the draft revised Watershed Agreement including [Clean Water for a Healthy Bay: Exploring the Revised Goal](#), which covered the Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Outcome. All are recorded and posted on [CBP’s YouTube channel](#). The Clean Water Goal webinar recording is [available here](#).
 - The Chesapeake Bay Program [announced](#) the latest data release from the High-Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data Project and the Hyper-Resolution Hydrography Project. A webinar discussing this data was held on June 25th, which you can [watch here](#). To explore and download the Land Use/Land Cover and Hydrography data with the web viewer and share your use case, please visit lulc-viewer.cicapps.org. New products from this data release include the below:

- A new Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) dataset representing 2021/2022, updates the 2013/2014 and 2017/2018 High-Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data and Change Data. Download the data and documentation [here](#).
- A new Hyper-Resolution Hydrography Dataset, identifying the location, dimensions, and connectivity of streams, ditches, and other waterways. Download the data and documentation [here](#).
- **2025 Chesapeake Watershed Forum Request for Poster Session Proposals is now open until Friday, August 1, 2025.** The Forum Planning Committee is soliciting proposals for posters for the Friday, November 7, Poster Session at the 2025 Chesapeake Watershed Forum held on November 7-9 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Learn more about the Forum and proposal guidelines [here](#).
- **This month's CRC Roundtable was "Pavement and Paddleboards: Swimmable Urban Waterways"**, which explored how groups are working towards making the fishable and swimmable waterways described in the Clean Water Act a reality. Their successes and the challenges that they face hold important lessons in environmental restoration that we can all learn from. Visit the Roundtable page to [learn more](#) and view the recording once it is posted.
- **The CBP Strategic Engagement Team has kicked off a four-part training series, "Strategically Strengthen How We Work Together."** The next session, Weave The Network: Moving Towards Deeper Coordination and Communication (Part 1) is on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**. These training series will focus on applying network theory principles, identifying critical partnership connections and developing practices and tools that will help us work better together as a partnership. Learn more about the training series [here](#) and register [here](#).
- In case you missed it: Check out this recently published article in *Frontiers in Marine Science* titled **"Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay: lessons for other ecosystems"** authored by many familiar partners. The article is open access and available at <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2025.1581261>

This meeting will be recorded for internal purposes. Current EPA policy does not allow for distribution of the recordings.

Closed Captioning will be available for this meeting. To turn on closed captioning, click on the "More Actions" button. Next, hover over the "Language and Speech" button, and click "show live captions". If you have any other accessibility concerns, please contact Petra Baldwin (Baldwin.Petra@epa.gov).

Acronyms

BMP: Best Management Practice
 CAST: [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#)
 CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program

CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium
 EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

MDE: Maryland Department of the Environment
 USFS: U.S. Forest Service
 WQGIT: [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)