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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

October 17th, 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-october-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 September AgWG meeting.

Innovation

10:05 **Improving nutrient management recommendations: the “Zero N” Project – 40 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

Hunter Frame, Virginia Tech; Kristen Hughes Evans, Sustainable Chesapeake

Building on progress farmers and conservation partners have made in expanding the adoption of cover crops and no-till, practices that improve soil health and soil organic matter, Chesapeake Bay area land grant university nutrient management specialists are launching a regional effort to incorporate nutrient contributions from cover cropping systems and soil organic matter into nutrient recommendations, especially for corn. This effort builds on work led by Charlie White (Penn State University) with the goal of improving nutrient management recommendations. If successful this project will increase farm profits, improve water quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cropping systems throughout the Chesapeake Bay region.

CBP Assignments

10:45 Planning for the Future of the Agriculture Workgroup – 65 minutes (presentation and discussion)

Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair; Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator; Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator

As the Agriculture Workgroup has discussed in recent months, the Chesapeake Bay program will experience change in the year 2025 (and beyond). The opportunity is ripe for AgWG members and participants to, over the course of several months, identify a plan for the future of the group. What topics should the AgWG explore? What deliverables should the group produce? Kathy will introduce an effort, spanning several months, to outline a plan for the future of the AgWG. Eric and Jeremy will provide background information to help provide context for the discussion. Come prepared with ideas to share!

Wrap-up

11:50 New Business, Announcements & Updates – 10 minutes

- **Agricultural Modeling Team**
 - Tom Butler (AMT Coordinator) will provide a brief verbal update on the group's latest activities.
- **2025-2026 At-Large Membership**
 - The terms of 6 at-large members expire in the coming months
 - Call for nominations will be distributed after the October AgWG meeting
 - Self-nominations and renomination of members with expiring terms are accepted
 - Please submit all nominations to Caroline Kleis (kleis.caroline@epa.gov) and Eric Hughes (hughes.eric@epa.gov)
 - Include nominee name, affiliation, email address, and short resume, C.V., or bio
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Webinar**
 - Please join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an overview of how the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) can be used to fund the implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs). State CWSRF programs can provide low-interest loans and grants to farmers, conservation districts and others for projects that reduce runoff, enhance soil health, and manage waste more effectively in cropland and animal feeding operations. After an overview of CWSRF program funding for agricultural BMPs, the Washington Department of Ecology will share how their CWSRF program finances BMPs, and the Spokane Conservation District will describe how they have used the CWSRF for their Farmed Smart Certification and Direct Seed Loan Implementation Program.
 - [Register here.](#)
- **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

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Jake Reilly (jake.reilly@nfwf.org) or Tori Sullens (tori.sullens@nfwf.org) with additional questions.

- **Maryland Water Monitoring Council Annual Conference**
 - [MWMC's 30th annual conference](#) will take place at the Maritime Conference Center on November 21, 2024. The theme for this one-day conference is "MWMC @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, November 21st, 2024: 10:00AM-12:00PM (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