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## Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

### Meeting Agenda

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### Meeting Materials

#### Virtual Meeting Information

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

Meeting ID: 255 026 759 588

Passcode: 2MvGxh

Phone: +1 202-991-0477,,999598303# US

Calendar page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-july-2025>

#### 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 June AgWG meeting.

##### 10:05 **Upcoming Events – 5 minutes**

- NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum  
*Kristen Hughes Evans & Kristen Saacke Blunk, NFWF Field Liaisons*
- Bay in the Balance 2025  
*Matt Royer, PSU; Marel King, CBC*

##### 10:10 **Other Verbal Announcements – 5 minutes**

*Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator*

- Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
  - The AAC met on [Wednesday, June 25th, 6:00PM-7:30PM](#). At this meeting, the AAC introduced their new coordinator, Jen Nelson (Resource Smart LLC; Delaware and Maryland Associations of Conservation Districts), and elected Bill Fink (Country View Family Farms) and Bob Waring (Brandon Farms; Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District) as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.
- Beyond 2025 Public Comment Period
  - The [draft revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#), including the Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Sediment outcome (page 11), is now available for

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public feedback on the Chesapeake Bay Program website. The public comment period will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Please visit the following link to view the associated [press release](#). For more information, please visit the [Planning for 2025 and Beyond](#) website.
- Beyond 2025: Reimagining the Chesapeake Bay Webinar Series
  - The Chesapeake Bay Program will be hosting a webinar series focused on the proposed changes to the CBP Watershed Agreement, including the draft Vision and Principles, and the revised Goal structure.
  - The kickoff webinar took place on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the recording is accessible [here](#). The [July 15th webinar](#) will go over the Clean Water Goal, which will focus, in part, on the Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Sediment Outcome.
  - Additional information on the webinars in the series and the links to register can be found on the [CBP meetings calendar](#). All webinars will be recorded and made available on the Chesapeake Bay Program's YouTube [page](#).

## **AgWG Planning**

### **10:15 AgWG Planning Document Adoption – 5 minutes (vote)**

*Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator*

The group will be asked to vote to endorse or reject the planning document that has been discussed at AgWG meetings in recent months. The document would serve as 1) a guide to support agenda-building and 2) a public reference to help all interested parties better understand the workgroup's areas of interest.

**Vote Requested:** *"The Agriculture Workgroup adopts [this document](#) as a planning and agenda-building guide through 2026. The document will be posted on the AgWG webpage for members and interested parties to reference as needed."*

## **An Overview of Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Monitoring**

### **10:20 Introduction to Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Monitoring – 20 minutes**

*Peter Tango, CBPO Monitoring Coordinator (USGS)*

The AgWG is interested in enhancing its focus on monitoring data. To support this, it is important that we collectively understand the Chesapeake Bay Program's existing water quality monitoring landscape: What monitoring efforts are being led or supported by the Bay Program? How are these efforts connected to the goals and outcomes identified in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement? Peter will provide a high-level overview of CBP water quality monitoring to address these questions – and more.

### **10:40 How Monitoring Data Informs CAST – 10 minutes**

*Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting*

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There is, in fact, a link between CBP monitoring and modeling data. Monitoring data is used to set the loads in CAST; Olivia will explain how this is done and the impact that it has on model outputs. Olivia will show how the monitoring data is used to determine the loads in CAST answering the following questions: What does monitoring measure? How are source sector allocations made? How do the monitoring data get used in the model calibration?

**10:50 Overview of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Indicator and Monitored and Expected Total Reduction Indicator for the Chesapeake (METRIC) Tool – 30 minutes**

*Kaylyn Gootman, CBPO Integrated Analysis Coordinator (EPA)*

The Bay TMDL indicator combines monitored and modeled data to assess progress in reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loading in the Chesapeake Bay. It addresses questions about observed and expected reductions from management practices, considering factors like implementation lags and environmental response. The indicator uses data from CAST modeling and various monitoring sources, such as river discharge and water quality measurements, to estimate load reductions. Discrepancies between expected and observed reductions can occur due to uncertainties in modeling, natural lags, climate change, and reservoir infill effects. Efforts have been made to analyze data from Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Network (NTN) stations, with results available through the METRIC tool, a web-based application for visualizing and analyzing data. Kaylyn will discuss the monitoring and modeling data, the development of the TMDL Indicator, demonstrate METRIC usage, and highlight insights from comparing observed and modeled reductions. This discussion is timely, as METRIC will soon be updated with new data.

Link to TMDL Indicator: <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/charts/bay-tmdl-indicator>

Link to METRIC app: <https://wqs.chesapeakebay.net/metric/>

**11:20 Updates About a Study Designed to Monitor Water-Quality Conditions in Small Agricultural Watersheds – 10 minutes**

*Jimmy Webber, USGS*

Jimmy will provide updates on a study initiated in 2024 in collaboration with EPA, NRCS, and other partners. Jimmy will highlight the goals of the study and provide recent examples of engagement with local and regional partners. The AgWG will be asked to provide feedback about the type of information they want to see communicated from this study.

**11:30 Discussion – 30 minutes**

Time will be allocated for meeting attendees to ask questions of the presenters, and the AgWG leadership team will seek to understand how members would like to use the information that has been shared.

## **Wrap-up**

### **New Business, Announcements & Updates**

- **High-Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data Project and Hyper-Resolution Hydrography Project Data Release and Webinar**
  - On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the Chesapeake Bay Program [announced the latest data release](#) from the High-Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data Project and the Hyper-Resolution

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Hydrography Project. New products from the release include: A new Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) dataset representing 2021/2022, updates to the 2013/2014 and 2017/2018 High-Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data and Change Data, and a new Hyper-Resolution Hydrography Dataset, identifying the location, dimensions, and connectivity of streams, ditches, and other waterways.

- Visit the following links to view the [associated press release](#) and [recent webinar](#) discussing the new data. To explore and download the Land Use/Land Cover and hydrography data with the web viewer, please visit [lulc-viewer.cicapps.org](#).
- **International Leadership Alumni Conference 2025**
  - The 2025 International Leadership Alumni Conference will be hosted by The Pennsylvania Rural-Urban Leadership Program (RULE). The theme of this year's conference is "Rurban: Two sides of the PA Coin".
  - The conference will take place in Lancaster, PA, from September 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Speakers, travel options, and hotel accommodations are available on the [ILAC 2025 page](#), and registration information is forthcoming.
- **Other Announcements?**
  - Send to Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

12:00 **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00AM-12:30PM

#### 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