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## Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

### Meeting Agenda

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:15 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-august-2025>

#### Workgroup Areas of Focus

**Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation**

**Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments**

#### Intro & Announcements

##### **10:00 Overview of Updated Meeting Security Practices – 5 minutes**

*Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator*

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office is strengthening its meeting security protocols in response to recent instances of malicious actors disrupting public video conference calls. We ask that meeting attendees please remain patient as staff implement the following changes:

- Meeting links will no longer be available in the "location" field on the website calendar pages; please refer to agendas and outlook calendar invitations for meeting information.
- Meeting participants will now join with their cameras and microphones off.
  - If you wish to speak, please raise your hand, and Caroline will give you microphone access. You will then be able to mute/unmute as you normally would for the rest of the call, so please continue to be mindful of your microphone.
- Presenters/WG Leadership will be given normal microphone, camera, and screenshare access for the duration of the call.
- We will collect votes via chat for decisional items where we need to go member by member, and anyone who wishes to ask questions or register a comment should use the raise hand feature.
- If an intentionally disruptive participant joins the call, we will do our best to remove the individual as quickly as possible and lock or end the meeting. Caroline will then share a new meeting link with those on the distribution list.

##### **10:05 Welcome, roll call, review meeting minutes – 5 minutes**

*Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair*

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- Roll call of the governance body and meeting participants - *Please enter name and affiliation under “Participants” or in “Chat” box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the July AgWG meeting.

## **AgWG Planning & Documentation**

### **10:10 Overview of Updated AgWG Actions and Decisions Log – 15 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

*Caroline Kleis, AgWG Staffer*

The AgWG has maintained a tracking document for the group’s official actions and decisions since January of 2022. The group’s actions and decisions prior to 2022 are captured in meeting minutes and other materials posted on individual meeting webpages, but this means that they aren’t easy to reference. To enhance AgWG transparency and allow members and interested parties to more easily see what the workgroup has done over time, Caroline has spearheaded an effort to update the tracking log with actions and decisions from *every* AgWG meeting. Our record of actions and decisions will now span approximately 15 years. Caroline will share her work with the group and solicit feedback on possible next steps to be taken.

## **Accounting & Reporting**

### **10:25 Review of Agroforestry EPEG Report Recommendations – 30 minutes (presentation, discussion, and vote)**

*Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator; Katie Brownson, Forestry Workgroup Coordinator (USFS)*

Eric will provide an overview of the recommendations in the [Agroforestry EPEG Report](#) on the crediting of alley cropping and silvopasture for Phase 7 of the watershed model. The EPEG seeks consensus approval from the AgWG on these recommendations. The recommendations have been approved by the Forestry Workgroup and Watershed Technical Workgroup (conditional on AgWG approval) and, if approved by the AgWG, will be elevated to the WQGIT for final consideration.

**Decision requested:** *“The AgWG approves as proposed the recommendations specified in the Agroforestry EPEG Report.”*

### **10:55 Crediting New and Revisiting Existing BMPs – 20 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

*Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator*

In an attempt to build on momentum generated by the Agroforestry EPEG, workgroup members will be asked to provide feedback on 1) other novel BMPs to be considered for credit in the Bay Program’s modeling tools and 2) BMPs that are currently credited but should be updated.

## **Data**

### **11:15 Following up on Monitoring – 15 minutes (discussion)**

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*Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator; Jeff Hill, York County Conservation District*

At last month's AgWG meeting, the group heard from a team of CBPO-based and external partners involved in water quality monitoring. The discussion will be continued briefly this month with interested workgroup members sharing ideas for next steps in AgWG engagement with the monitoring side of water quality.

## **Modeling**

### **11:30 Agriculture Land Use Loading Rate Ratios – 30 minutes**

*Hunter Landis, VA DCR; Scott Heidel, PA DEP; Tom Butler, AMT Coordinator (EPA)*

In February, the Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) voted to implement two new agricultural land uses: managed pasture and managed hay. The AMT later established a subgroup to determine how these new land classes load nitrogen relative to their unmanaged classes. Proposed loading rate ratios for these land classes have not received consensus approval at the AMT; however, another attempt at a vote will be made at their September meeting (following further discussion). As this item may be elevated to the AgWG, representatives of the AMT are proactively presenting background on the topic to support a vote from the AgWG in September, if needed.

## **Wrap-up**

### **12:00 New Business, Announcements & Updates**

- **AMT Updates – Tom Butler, AMT Coordinator**
- **WTWG Updates – Auston Smith, WTWG Coordinator**
- **AAC Updates**
  - The Ag Advisory Committee will meet again on [August 28th from 9:00AM-4:00PM](#) at the Adams County Soil Conservation District Office in Gettysburg.
  - For more information, or if you'd like to be added to the interested parties list for the AAC, contact Jen Nelson ([jen.nelson@resourcesmartllc.com](mailto:jen.nelson@resourcesmartllc.com)).
- **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Informational Phase 7 Office Hours Sessions**
  - The WQGIT will be hosting a variety of informational office hours sessions focused on key Phase 7 topics. Session dates and topics are below:
    - **Fri 8/15 1:00-2:30pm** - BMP Excess, Land Use Loading Rate Ratios
    - **Mon 8/18 1:00-2:30pm** - Land Use Topics: Back-Cast Overview, Land Use aggregation, CAST Land Uses
    - **Mon 9/15 1:00-2:30pm** - Wastewater Topics: Exfiltration method, CSO Loads, Septic/Sewer Model, SSO Loads, Boat Pump-Outs
    - **Thu 9/18 2:00-3:30pm** – Held for remaining or parking lot topics, if needed.
  - Please note office hour topics and schedules are subject to change as these items are discussed at their respective workgroups. All office hour sessions will be posted to the Chesapeake Bay Program [Meetings Calendar page](#).
- **Bay in the Balance 2025 Conference**

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- This event will take place December 8-10 at the Wyndham Conference Center and Hotel in Gettysburg. For more information on the event and to register, please visit the following [site](#).
- Please note: Given that many AgWG members will be participating in this conference, AgWG leadership intends to schedule an in-person AgWG meeting on the afternoon of December 10<sup>th</sup> after the end of Bay in the Balance, in lieu of the workgroup's December meeting currently scheduled for 12/18.
- **2025 NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum**
  - This conference will take place November 12-14 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. If you'd like to stay informed on next steps for Forum developments, please fill out this [Google form](#). Registration and lodging information is anticipated by the end of August.
  - For additional details, feel free to reach out to Kristen Saacke Blunk: [kristen@headwaters-llc.org](mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org), Kristen Hughes Evans [kristen@susches.org](mailto:kristen@susches.org), or Natasha Rathlev [natasha@susches.org](mailto:natasha@susches.org).
- **Louisa County, Virginia, Department of Community Development Agricultural Development and Land Conservation Coordinator Position Opening**
  - Louisa County is currently hiring for an Agricultural Development and Land Conservation Coordinator. The position description is available [here](#), and additional information, including the application, can be found on the [job posting](#). The position is open until filled.
- **Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) Nominations**
  - The Office of Pesticide Programs is seeking nominations for the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC). To view the request for nominations, visit the [Federal Register entry](#). For additional information on the PPDC, click [here](#).
  - The deadline to apply is August 21<sup>st</sup>, however applications will be considered through September 12<sup>th</sup>. Nominations should be submitted electronically via email to [chang.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:chang.jeffrey@epa.gov).
- **Beyond 2025 Public Comment Period**
  - The [draft revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#), including the Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Sediment outcome (page 11), is available for 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>. For more information, please visit the [Planning for 2025 and Beyond](#) website.
- **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, September 18th, 10:00AM-12:00PM

#### Acronym List

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)

BMP – Best Management Practice

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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