



Agriculture Workgroup Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2026
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 224 286 695 273 56 | **Passcode:** Yr6DU2PK

Call: +1 202-991-0477,,525278615# US | **Conference ID:** 525 278 615#

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

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov).

Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

Purpose: To address one key discussion point and one decision item related to Phase 7 of the Watershed Model and better understand a water quality monitoring system in an agriculturally intensive part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This meeting will also be the platform for introducing the slate of nominees for the workgroup's vacant membership and leadership positions.

Agenda

I. Welcome, roll call, review meeting minutes 10:00 – 10:05 AM

Roll call of the governance body and meeting participants. All meeting attendees must share their name and affiliation using the meeting “Chat” function.

Requested Action: Approval of minutes from the December AgWG meeting.

Speaker: Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

Materials: [December AgWG Meeting Minutes](#)

II. AgWG Vice Chair and At-Large Member Nominee Introductions 10:05 – 10:25 AM

The AgWG leadership and staffing team has received 8 nominations for the workgroup's 6 at-large member vacancies and 1 nomination for Vice Chair. The nominees will be able to use this time to introduce themselves to workgroup participants prior to AgWG members voting to determine the group's next Vice Chair and cohort of at-large members.

Note: All workgroups have been instructed to pause their normal processes for voting on the approval of new members/chairs until new co-chairs have been selected for the CBP's Goal Teams and further instruction has been communicated. It is still appropriate to move forward with nominee introductions at this time, but the vote that will ultimately determine how vacancies will be filled will be delayed until further notice.

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides, List of Nominees, Nominee Bios

III. E3 Scenario Refresher 10:25 – 10:40 AM

The E3 scenario is the Everything, Everywhere, (by) Everyone scenario in the watershed model and represents the best possibility of the watershed's ability to control pollutant loads. It is essential to determining the overall controllable loads within the Bay to inform planning target development. Sector workgroups will be asked to provide input on data inputs for this scenario. Auston will provide a brief overview of the E3 scenario to prepare the AgWG members to respond to a request for feedback at an upcoming AgWG meeting.

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Auston Smith, EPA-CBPO

Materials: Presentation

IV. Phase 7 Load Sources – Finalizing Mapping 10:40 – 11:00 AM

In December, Jess Rigelman provided an initial matrix outlining how BMPs have been mapped to Phase 7 Load Source Groups. The AgWG was asked to consider this preliminary mapping and provide any feedback. Discussion at the December meeting centered largely around agricultural BMPs on solar land uses. Following the meeting, the matrix was updated based on member feedback. The AgWG is asked to review and approve this updated matrix, before the WTWG votes on its final approval.

Note: To view the Agriculture Sector mapping, click the "Ag" tab in the matrix spreadsheet. Columns marked with an X indicate the BMP eligibility on a particular load source, and highlights represent changes that have been made. In summary, the revised matrix includes grass buffers, land retirement to ag open space, tree planting, land retirement to pasture, narrow forest buffer, and narrow grass buffer as agricultural BMPs that map to solar land uses.

Requested Action: Approval of the updated Load Source Mapping Matrix with six listed BMPs mapping to solar land uses.

Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Materials: Presentation, Updated Matrix

V. Water Quality Monitoring in York County, Pennsylvania 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

At the July 2025 AgWG meeting, a series of presentations were delivered under the umbrella “An Overview of Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Monitoring” to help the workgroup, which traditionally focuses more on water quality modeling than monitoring, better understand the partnership’s work in the monitoring space. This month, the workgroup will hear from Jeff Hill and Natalie Schmer about the ongoing, substantial water quality monitoring effort spanning much of York County, Pennsylvania. Jeff and Natalie will provide an overview of the USGS York County water quality monitoring network, including how it came to exist, its current status, and intended future uses of the data it produces.

Requested Action: None; discussion only

Speaker: Natalie Schmer, USGS; Jeff Hill, York County Conservation District

Materials: Presentation

VI. Wrap-Up and Adjourn 12:00 PM

Lead: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

- Announcements:
 - **New! CBP Communications Office Webinar: Data to Decisions: Using the METRIC Tool to Measure Watershed Progress**
 - The CBP’s Communications Office will host a webinar on February 8th from 12:00-1:00 PM to explore the Monitored and Expected Total Reduction Indicator for the Chesapeake (METRIC) Tool, an innovative resource enhancing our understanding of Chesapeake Bay watershed health. The METRIC Tool allows users to look at data collected from non-tidal monitoring stations and compare what is being observed with what the partnership models are showing. This information can help in assessing the impact of best management practices (BMPs) and such changes in the watershed, like land use, in reducing nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment at the local level. Currently, the tool offers comparisons for 92, 80, and 78 non-tidal monitoring stations for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, respectively.
 - To register to attend, use the following link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i2-drgbDThCdr3nofBsbQ
 - **Bay in the Balance 2026 Conference**
 - As the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort continues beyond 2025, revised outcomes of the watershed agreement and new efforts to facilitate greater engagement of the agricultural sector provide a unique opportunity for the agricultural community to come together to shape the future trajectory of agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay in meeting water quality goals. This conference will provide a collaborative forum where motivated leaders throughout the watershed’s agricultural and conservation community can collectively identify new, innovative solutions that can help agriculture meet water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.
 - This event has been rescheduled and will now take place March 2-4th, 2026, at the Wyndham Conference Center and Hotel in Gettysburg. For more information on the event and to register, please visit the following [site](#).
 - **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings 2026**

- The Agricultural Advisory Committee has set their dates for quarterly meetings in 2026 (see below). More information will be posted on the AAC page as it becomes available: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/meetings-archive/agricultural-advisory-committee>

- 2/4 Virtual Meeting
- 5/6 Virtual Meeting
- 8/5 In-Person Meeting (location TBD)
- 11/4 Virtual Meeting

- **2026 AgWG Meeting Dates**

- Our meeting schedule for 2026 has been sent out to AgWG Members and Interested Parties distribution lists. Please note that the February meeting has been canceled and the March meeting has been rescheduled to March 4th from 1:45-4:45.
- The group will meet for a hybrid meeting on March 4th, immediately following the conclusion of the Bay in the Balance Conference. Additional details will be shared with the group as they become available.

- **MDA Agroforestry Position Opening**

- MDA's Resource Conservation's Healthy Soils Program is seeking a contractual Agroforestry Specialist. This position is described as a "contractual position is to advance the State's climate mitigation efforts through increased agroforestry practice adoption and enhanced natural carbon sequestration across the state, consistent with EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant awarded to the department. The position will support the delivery of the Maryland Healthy Soils Program which involves a working knowledge of soil health principles and methods related to the planning and implementation of conservation practices that achieve soil health benefits."
- This position may be located in MDA Headquarters, the Patuxent Regional Office, or the Frederick Regional Office. To learn more about this position and to apply, visit the [job posting](#).
- The deadline to apply for this position is January 22, 2026.

- **2026 Mid-Atlantic Agroforestry Conference**

- The [2026 Mid-Atlantic Agroforestry Conference](#) will take place on June 4-5, 2026, in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. The agenda will include farm/site tours, panel discussion, and resource guidance and statuses. Read more at [Penn State Extension's conference announcement](#). Registration will open in early 2026.

- **PASA Sustainable Agriculture Conference**

- The PASA Sustainable Agriculture Conference will take place on Feb 5-6, 2026, in Lancaster, PA. To learn more and register, visit the following [site](#).

- **NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grant Programs Requests for Proposals and Pre-Proposals**

- NFWF, EPA and CBP are soliciting proposals for the [Small Watershed Grants \(SWG\) program](#) until Thursday, April 2nd. NFWF will host an applicant webinar detailing this Request for Proposals on Monday, February 2nd at 1pm. [Learn more](#) about SWG and read the [RFP](#).
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), EPA, and CBP, are soliciting pre-proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund under the [Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction \(INSR\) Grants program](#). Pre-proposals are due by noon, February 12, 2026. For more information and to view the request for pre-proposals, click [here](#).

- NFWF in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund for the 2026 [Chesapeake Watershed Investment for Landscape Defense \(WILD\) grants program](#). Funding will be awarded through three funding opportunities: 1) WILD Implementation grants of \$75,000 to \$500,000 2) WILD Collaborative Conservation grants of up to \$200,000 and 3) WILD Planning and Technical Assistance (PTA) grants of up to \$75,000. Proposals are due 12:00PM Thursday, April 9, 2026. An [applicant webinar](#) will be hosted at 1:00PM on Tuesday, January 27th. To learn more and view the RFP, click [here](#).
- **Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Award Program RFP**
 - The [Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Award Program](#) is now open, and applications are due January 29, 2026. The goal of this research program is to answer several key restoration questions that are a barrier to watershed restoration project implementation. The Pooled Monitoring Initiative pools funding resources to answer these key restoration research questions, as outlined in the [request for proposals \(RFP\)](#). The RFP and application link are available at the following [website](#).
- **STAC At-Large Membership**
 - The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is [seeking self-nominations](#) for At-Large member positions through Monday, March 16th. Please consider submitting a nomination or sharing this solicitation with others who may be interested and well-suited to contribute to STAC's work. Questions may be directed to Meg Cole, STAC Coordinator, at colem@chesapeake.org. Learn more and submit your nomination [here](#).
- **Chesapeake Community Research Symposium Presentation and Poster Abstracts**
 - The [2026 Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) is accepting presentation and poster abstract submissions until Friday, February 13th at 5pm. Please consider submitting an abstract for one or more of the [special sessions](#). The 2026 edition of the biennial symposium will be held June 1-3, 2026, in Annapolis, Maryland. The theme of the 2026 Symposium is Chesapeake Bay Research and Restoration: Next Generation Tools for a Dynamic Future. Learn more and submit an abstract [here](#).

Next Meeting: March 4, 2026, 1:45 PM - 4:45 PM, in-person (Wyndham Conference Center and Hotel in Gettysburg) with hybrid option

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
 DLLC- Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative
 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
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SARE- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
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