



## Agriculture Workgroup Meeting Agenda

April 16, 2026  
10:00AM-11:45AM

**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](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)).

- 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:** Continuing discussions on the development of the E3 Scenario; the review of agricultural BMPs for updates, new editions, and remote sensing suitability; and to learn about the USDA Regenerative Pilot Program. Relevant partnership updates will be shared with the group for situational awareness.

### Agenda

#### I. Welcome, Roll Call, Review Meeting Minutes 10:00-10:10 AM

Caitlin will open the meeting with a roll call of the workgroup members and meeting participants. Virtual participants will be asked to share their name and affiliation using the meeting “Chat” function. Caitlin will then ask workgroup members to approve the March AgWG meeting minutes.

Requested Action: Decision – Approval of March 2026 AgWG Meeting Minutes  
Speaker: Caitlin Grady, AgWG Chair

Materials: [March 2026 AgWG Meeting Minutes](#)

## II. Deeper Dive into the E3 Scenario

10:10-10:45 AM

Auston Smith, EPA, presented a 15-minute introduction to this topic at the January AgWG meeting. Auston is returning to the group this month to provide additional detail on the AgWG's role in E3 Scenario development and field questions from workgroup members related to past E3 decisions. As a reminder, the E3 scenario is the "Everything, Everywhere, (by) Everyone" scenario in the Chesapeake Bay 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.

Requested Action: None; informational and discussion only

Speaker: Auston Smith, EPA

Materials: Presentation

## III. BMP Review Update

10:45-11:05 AM

At the March hybrid meeting, Eric Hughes, EPA, provided the AgWG with an overview of a spreadsheet summarizing BMPs and the last time they were evaluated for credit, as well as a breakout of potential opportunities for remote sensing of agricultural BMPs. Members received a subsequent request to review this document and provide their feedback by Thursday, April 9th. Eric will give the group an overview of the feedback received so far, provide the group with an update on ongoing discussions and collaboration since the March meeting, and will inform the AgWG of next steps.

Requested Action: None; informational and discussion only (member feedback to be submitted by April 9<sup>th</sup>)

Speaker: Eric Hughes, EPA

Materials: Presentation, [Ag BMP Spreadsheet](#)

## IV. Overview of the NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program

11:05-11:20 AM

In December 2025, [NRCS launched the Regenerative Pilot Program](#), a farmer first, outcomes-based approach to conservation designed to return the agency to its core mission – helping people help the land. NRCS is investing \$700 million to specifically support regenerative agriculture, including:

- \$400 million through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#); and
- \$300 million through the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)

In this session, NRCS Chesapeake Bay Coordinator Vivian Dickson will provide a brief, high-level overview of this novel funding initiative.

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Vivian Dickson, NRCS

Materials: Presentation

## V. Wrap-Up

11:20-11:45 AM

- There is an ongoing effort to update Chesapeake Bay Program webpages. Meeting participants will be asked to provide feedback on opportunities to improve the AgWG webpage through the reorganization of existing information, addition of new information, and more.
- The latest updates from the Agricultural Modeling Team and Agricultural Advisory Committee will be shared with the group.
- Any available information from the Management Board related to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Structure and Governance changes will be shared with the group.

Requested Action: None; informational and discussion only

Speakers: Workgroup/Advisory Committee Representatives

Materials: Presentation

## VI. Adjourn

11:45 AM

Announcements:

- **New! Chesapeake Community Modeling Program: Chesapeake Community Research Symposium 2026**
  - The [2026 Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) will take place from June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Annapolis, Maryland at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The theme of this year's symposium is "Chesapeake Bay Research and Restoration: Next Generation Tools for a Dynamic Future".
  - Our very own Caitlin Grady will be presenting! View the full agenda and register [here](#).
- **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings 2026**
  - The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) has set their dates for quarterly meetings in 2026 (see below). Information will be posted on the AAC page as it becomes available:  
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/agricultural-advisory-committee>
    - Next Meeting: 5/6 Virtual Meeting
    - 8/5 In-Person Meeting (location TBD)
    - 11/4 Virtual Meeting
- **ChesapeakeProgress Feedback**
  - CBP is collecting information about users' experience with ChesapeakeProgress.com through Friday, April 10. If you have used ChesapeakeProgress in the past and would like to provide feedback about this site and inform potential product improvements, we encourage you to complete this feedback [form](#).
- **Growing with Biochar Training: A Training Event for Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic Agriculture**
  - The US Biochar Initiative and American Farmland Trust are co-hosting an event called "Growing with Biochar" for agricultural professionals in Pennsylvania and the Mid Atlantic Region. This training is a free, day-long session "designed to be a one-stop-shop for industry professionals

interested in agricultural biochar application in Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic states”. The training will take place on April 23, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Commonwealth Lounge at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA.

- To learn more and to register to attend, visit the following [site](#).
- **2026 Mid-Atlantic Agroforestry Conference- Registration Open**
  - 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. Learn more and register for the conference [here!](#)
- **PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program**
  - The PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program (CWPP) is accepting proposals until Wednesday, April 22nd. The program supports the installation of best management practices to help Pennsylvania achieve the most current TMDL limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Learn more and watch the program overview recording [here](#).
- **Chesapeake Stormwater Network Webinar- Impacts of Solar Installations in Virginia and Central Pennsylvania**
  - The CSN recently held a webinar titled “Assessing and Managing Stormwater Impacts of Solar Installations in Virginia and Central Pennsylvania”. To view the recording, visit the following [site](#), and to learn more about past or upcoming CSN webinars, click [here](#).
- **CBP Bay Barometer**
  - The Bay Program released the annual Bay Barometer. This year’s report is important as it shares progress for the final time on the outcomes in the 2014 Watershed Agreement. The full press release website also has many supporting materials, including a blog and individual jurisdictional fact sheets. The full report can be found [here](#).

**Next Meeting: May 21, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

## 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