



Agriculture Workgroup Meeting Agenda

September 17, 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).

- 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 share updates on recent AgWG decisions, learn about an effort to gather BMP implementation data from producers, and discuss management strategy and workplan development for the Clean Water Goal.

Agenda

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Review Meeting Minutes

10:00-10:10 AM

Caitlin will open the meeting and request participants share their name and affiliation using the meeting “Chat” function. Caitlin will then ask Workgroup members to approve the August meeting minutes.

Requested Action: Decision – Approval of [August 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)

Speaker: Caitlin Grady, AgWG Chair

Materials: [August 2026 AgWG Minutes](#)

II. AgWG Membership Update

10:10-10:25 AM

At the August AgWG meeting, the group approved a process for conforming to the partnership's new 15-voting member structure. We will use this time to share the complete, updated list of nominees for at-large member positions (due COB 9/10). We will also use this time to provide direction for how signatory members will execute their vote to ultimately decide the 6 at-large members and their alternates. Note that there will be no vote held before the September meeting (as originally proposed) – this change was made to ensure signatories have adequate time to review new nominees.

Requested Action: None

Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides; Updated List of Nominees for AgWG At-Large Positions

III. E3 Scenario Update

10:25-10:40 AM

The Clean Water Goal Team reviewed Phase 7 E3 Scenario assumptions proposed by each source sector workgroup at their August meeting. At their September meeting, the Goal Team will address remaining questions and decide whether or not to approve those assumptions. Eric will provide a brief overview of the anticipated presentation and discussion flow for this topic at the Goal Team meeting, including discussion surrounding the differing AgWG and Forestry Workgroup proposals for select land use change BMPs.

Requested Action: None

Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides; [AgWG Phase 7 Recommended E3 Scenario Inputs](#); [Forestry Workgroup Phase 7 Recommended E3 Scenario Inputs](#)

IV. Virginia Farm Voluntary Agricultural BMP Survey and Producer Survey Verification Framework Proposal

10:40-11:00 AM

Mark Dubin, Voluntary Agriculture BMP Consultant with the Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia Tech, will provide the workgroup with a brief introduction of the Virginia Farm Voluntary Agricultural BMP Survey which was initiated in June of 2025 to identify and report voluntary as well as crediting-lifespan expired cost-shared agricultural BMPs across Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In his technical assistance role with the project, Mark identified a verification methodology gap in the CBP Partnership's Verification Framework under the [Producer Survey Recommendation Report \(Revised 2018\)](#). Mark will describe the verification gap and illustrate a potential solution for workgroup consideration.

Requested Action: None

Speaker: Mark Dubin, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Materials: Presentation; [Producer Survey Recommendation Report](#)

**V. Management Strategy and Workplan Development
for the Clean Water Goal**

11:00-11:40 AM

At the most recent meetings of the Clean Water Goal Team, updates have been provided on the draft Management Strategy for the Clean Water Goal. Approval of the Management Strategy will be sought at the Goal Team's September meeting. With a Management Strategy in place, the Goal Team will assign the responsibility of developing workplans to the workgroups under the Clean Water umbrella.

While we will not yet have all of the details for this assignment by the September AgWG meeting, we are allocating time to discuss the draft Management Strategy and any preliminary information on workplan development that has been communicated to the AgWG leadership and staffing team. Important to this conversation will be the AgWG's prioritization document, which will be referenced repeatedly in the drafting of our workgroup's workplan.

Requested Action: None

Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides, [Draft CWGT Management Strategy \(08.21.2026\)](#), [Draft CWGT Management Strategy \(09.15.2026\)](#), [AgWG Prioritization Document](#), [September 28-29 CWGT Meeting Materials](#)

VI. Wrap-Up

11:40-11:45 AM

Eric will provide final updates before the meeting adjourns.

Requested Action: None

Speaker: Eric Hughes

Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides

VII. Adjourn

11:45 AM

○ **Announcements**

○ **Upcoming Clean Water Goal Team Office Hours**

- The Clean Water Goal Team will be hosting an [office hours](#) on Tuesday, September 15th from 12:30pm-2:00pm. This is an optional office hours session for the Clean Water Goal Team to ask questions and further discuss the Hydrologic & Critical Period, Scenario Base Year and other topics of interest ahead of decisions at the September 28-29 CWGT meeting. Time will also be made to walk through the differing recommendations between the AgWG and FWG proposals for the E3 Scenarios. Those interested in attending can access the virtual meeting information on the agenda (to be posted to the [calendar page](#)) and/or reach out to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov).

○ **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.
 - 8/13 Virtual Meeting from 9:00-2:00

- Agenda items included an overview of the Bay Program governance and structure, a conversation/Q&A with Goal Team Chairs, a discussion on opportunities for AAC members to engage within the partnership, updates from the AAC Subcommittees, and a discussion on the 2026 AAC Recommendations to the Executive Council. You can view the associated materials on the [AAC August calendar page](#).
 - 11/4 Virtual Meeting from 10:00-2:00
 - The AAC will tentatively meet again on 11/4 to finalize EC recommendations.
- **Clean Water Goal Team Meetings 2026**
 - The Clean Water Goal Team meets monthly on the 4th Monday from 1:00-4:00 PM. The Clean Water Goal Team calendar and additional information is available on their webpage, linked [here](#).
 - The next Clean Water Goal Team meeting will be hybrid, from September 28-29th. An agenda and meeting materials will be posted to the [calendar page](#) as they become available. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) and respond to the following [RSVP form](#) ASAP.
- **GMF Webinar Materials and Recording**
 - The Chesapeake Bay Program Governance and Operations (GO) Team recently hosted a [webinar](#) outlining key parts of the Governance and Management Framework on July 28th. To view the associated presentation, click [here](#).
 - The webinar recording is now available. You can view the [recording](#) on the Chesapeake Bay Program YouTube channel. Additionally, a FAQ document has been compiled and posted to the calendar page, accessible [here](#).
- **EPA Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC); [Notice of Public Meeting](#)**
 - The FRRCC provides independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to the Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.
 - The next meeting of the FRRCC will be held virtually Friday, September 11, 2026, from approximately 11:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Time.
 - Watch meeting live starting at 11am ET: [YouTube Live Streaming Link](#)
- **[DE NRCS Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs](#)**
 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to put Farmers First through a historic investment in conservation on agricultural lands through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a result of the conservation funding provided by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.
 - While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers in Delaware should apply by **Oct. 16, 2026**, to be considered for fiscal year 2027 funding. Programs include:
 - [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#)

- [Agricultural Management Assistance \(AMA\)](#)
 - [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)
 - [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
- NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through the [Regenerative Pilot Program \(RPP\)](#), which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP.
- **[PA NRCS Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs](#)**
 - The Pennsylvania NRCS is accepting applications for conservation programs through **October 1, 2026**. While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers in Pennsylvania should apply by October 1, 2026, to be considered for fiscal year 2027 funding. Programs include:
 - [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#)
 - [Agricultural Management Assistance \(AMA\)](#)
 - [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)
 - [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
 - NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through the [Regenerative Pilot Program \(RPP\)](#), which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP.
 - Additionally, producers can also apply to participate in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project by October 1, 2026. Those interested should contact their local USDA Service Center.
- **[NY NRCS Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs](#)**
 - The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New York is announcing that the fiscal year (FY) 2027 sign-up deadline for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and EQIP Initiatives including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), and Working Lands for Wildlife Golden-Winged Warbler (WLFW-GWWA) is **September 18th, 2026**
 - While applications are accepted on a continuous basis, NRCS uses application cutoff periods to assess and rank applications based on their potential conservation impact. All applications need to be received by September 18th, 2026, to be considered for this first round of funding for FY 2027. Applications received after this date will be held and considered for subsequent rounds of funding, as funding permits.
- **[VA NRCS Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs](#)**
 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to put Farmers First through a historic investment in conservation on agricultural lands through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a result of the conservation funding provided by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act. While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested

agricultural producers in Virginia should apply by **October 30, 2026**, to be considered for fiscal year 2027 funding. Programs include:

- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#)
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
- NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through the [Regenerative Pilot Program \(RPP\)](#), which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP.
- Additionally, producers can apply to participate in a [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#) project by October 30, 2026.
 - RCPP 2462 - Virginia Headwaters Restoration Initiative (Trout Unlimited)
 - RCPP 2381 - Preserving Working Farms and Securing Urban Ag (Capital Region Land Conservancy)

Next Meeting: October 15, 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
CWGT- [Clean Water Goal Team](#)
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 – [Policy Steering Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SARE- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts
UMD - University of Maryland
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USGS – United States Geological Survey
USFS – United States Forestry Service