



Agriculture Workgroup Meeting Agenda

December 18, 2025
10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 255 026 759 588 **Passcode:** 2MvGxh

Call: +1 202-991-0477,,999598303# US | **Conference ID:** 999 598 303#

[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 provide an overview to workgroup members and interested parties on critical developments related to the Chesapeake Bay Program that have occurred since the October AgWG meeting, share key proposals related to Phase 7 of the watershed model, and discuss future AgWG activities and initiatives.

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 October AgWG meeting.

Speaker: Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

Materials: [October AgWG Meeting Minutes](#)

II. Program Updates

10:05 – 10:25 AM

Because the Workgroup last met on October 16th, the leadership team has chosen to shift program updates – normally presented at the end of AgWG meetings – to the top of the agenda. Eric will highlight relevant items for the group’s awareness, and there will be time to address questions that the group may have. This will ensure the workgroup starts 2026 with the same level of understanding of recent events and developments.

- Timeline Changes
 - o 2025 Progress
 - o Bay in the Balance
- Personnel Changes
- Ag Group Updates
 - o AMT
 - o AAC
- Executive Council and Beyond 2025 Update
 - o Revised Watershed Agreement
 - o Structure and Governance
- AgWG Membership
 - o 2 at-large member nominees needed

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides

III. Phase 7 Load Sources: Preliminary Mapping to BMPs and Load Source Groups

10:25 – 10:50 AM

Jess will deliver a presentation on the mapping of Phase 7 load sources to BMPs and Load Source Groups. This presentation was first delivered at the November meeting of the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG). Before voting on the proposal, the WTWG would like the topic to be shared with the AgWG for awareness and to give members the opportunity to provide comments or concerns.

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Jess Rigelman, J7 Consulting

Materials: [Presentation](#); [mapping matrices](#)

IV. Allocation of Feed Space Acres for Phase 7

10:50 – 11:15 AM

Sarah will deliver a presentation on the methodology that will be used to allocate feed space acres in Phase 7 of the watershed model, explaining how this differs from the methodology used in Phase 6. This presentation was first delivered at the December meeting of the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG). Before finalizing their vote on the proposal on December 18th, the WTWG would like the topic to be shared with the AgWG for awareness and to give members the opportunity to provide comments or concerns.

Requested Action: None; presentation and discussion only

Speaker: Sarah McDonald, USGS-CBPO

Materials: [Presentation](#)

V. Next Steps: BMP Efficiency Evaluation and Remote Sensing-based Verification

11:15 – 11:40 AM

Workgroup members and other meeting participants will be asked to share priority BMPs for efficiency evaluation (i.e., which BMPs are “missing” from the Bay Program’s suite of modeling tools, and which are currently credited but in need of an update) as well as candidate BMPs for remote sensing-based tracking and verification.

Requested Action: None; discussion only
Speaker: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator
Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides

VI. Reflections from Chesapeake Ag Networking Forum

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

Several AgWG members and frequent participants attended the Chesapeake Ag Networking Forum in Hershey in November. This will be an opportunity to reflect on what was shared at the forum and how the topics discussed may inform the efforts of the AgWG in the coming year. During this time, the AgWG leadership team will solicit questions and directions related to the AgWG’s top priorities (including but not limited to: tracking ag industry trends; leveraging technology to enhance BMP verification; evaluating credits for a broader array of BMPs; and assessing innovative BMP implementation programs) to achieve Bay Program goals. These questions may be addressed internally (CBP partnership) and/or shared externally (LGUs, USGS, etc.).

Requested Action: None; discussion only
Speaker: Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair
Materials: Coordinator Updates Slides

VII. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

12:00 PM

Lead: Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

- Announcements:
 - **2026 AgWG Meeting Dates**
 - Our meeting schedule for 2026 will be released soon! The dates will be shared with AgWG Members and Interested Parties distribution lists.
 - **2025 Executive Council Meeting**
 - The Chesapeake Executive Council met on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland. At this meeting, the Executive Council approved and adopted the [revised Watershed Agreement](#). Additionally, the Executive Council approved recommendations to streamline and simplify the partnership’s [structure](#) and [governance](#). The Chesapeake Bay Program will implement these revisions and regularly report progress to the [Principals' Staff Committee](#) for their final approval expected by July 1, 2026.
 - Also submitted to the Executive Council were recommendations from the Advisory Committees, including the Agriculture Advisory Committee. To view the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendations, click [here](#).
 - All materials, including the final revised Watershed Agreement are posted and available on the [Executive Council calendar page](#). View the Bay Program press release [here](#).
 - **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](#).
- **AgWG Call for Nominations**
 - The AgWG is now accepting nominations for a Vice Chair and 6 at-large members for the March 2026 – February 2028 term. Please send all nominations to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) and Eric Hughes (Hughes.Eric@epa.gov) by COB, December 30th, 2025. All nominations should include the following: Contact information (name, affiliation, email), and a short C.V., resume, or bio (addressing the nominee's background).
- **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](#).
 - Two online information sessions will be held at the following dates and times:
 - [Register for December 12, 2025, from 12 pm to 1 pm \(EST\) Info Session](#)
 - [Register for January 6, 2026, from 12 pm to 1 pm \(EST\) Info Session](#)
- **American Farmland Trust- Grants for Virginia Farmers**
 - Grants opened on December 1, 2025, for two opportunities (Healthy Soils and Farm Vitality) under American Farmland Trust's Regenerate Virginia Initiative. To learn more, apply, and review FAQs, use the following [link](#).
 - Q&A Office Hours sessions will be offered at the following dates and times:
 - [Monday, Dec. 1st at 1 p.m.](#)
 - [Monday, Dec. 15th at 7 p.m.](#)
- **National Directory of Agroforestry Nurseries**
 - The Agroforestry Coalition is launching a national directory to connect farmers, foresters, and land stewards with nurseries growing trees and plants for agroforestry. The directory will be open-source, transparent, and inclusive — highlighting nurseries of all scales, types and regions that are helping plant a more resilient future.
 - Nurseries that grow and share plant material for agroforestry are encouraged to add their nursery information by December 31, 2025. The first public release will go live in January 2026.
 - To add your nursery, use the [Agroforestry Nursery Entry Form](#)

- To refer others, use the [Referral Form](#)
- For nurseries in Pennsylvania, PA DCNR hosts a webpage listing native plant nurseries, [Where to Buy Native Plants](#). This page has been updated with a fresh survey of nurseries. The initial survey of PA native plant nurseries has closed, but nurseries are still able to opt into this list. If you would like to submit information to be added to this list, please reach out to Chris Firestone (cfirestone@pa.gov). The next update is planned for February 2026.

Next Meeting: January 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
 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