

April 2026 WTWG Topic Brainstorming for Future WTWG Meetings

Background: At the April 2, 2026 WTWG meeting, WTWG members and interested parties were asked to provide their responses to the following Mentimeter Question: What topics or issues would you want to see the WTWG work on in 2026 [or subsequent years] (in addition to those instructed by the CWGT, MB/PSC, others)?

Responses have been summarized by major category below, and a complete list of Mentimeter responses and additional comments are provided as reference.

If there are additional topics of interest you would like to be discussed at future WTWG meetings, please reach out to Auston Smith (Smith.Auston@epa.gov) and Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov).

Mentimeter Responses Summarized by Key Themes:

- 1. Reporting and Verification Improvements/Efficiencies (8 related responses)**
 - a. Consider improvements and efficiencies for reporting/verification including but not limited to increased innovation for the verification of BMPs, incorporation of implementation scale monitoring, and increased access to aggregated BMP implementation data.
- 2. Increased Coordination with Federal Partners (6 related responses)**
 - a. Increase coordination between federal partners (notably EPA, USDA, USGS, USACE) to help improve BMP reporting and verification for numeric progress. In particular, consider enhanced collaboration with NRCS to help improve provided data sets and ensure verification beyond credit lifespans.
- 3. WTWG Processes (4 related responses)**
 - a. Continue to coordinate, collaborate, and communicate with other partnership groups. In particular, partner with those working on the habitat outcome on the habitat tracker and enhance communication between the Clean Water Goal Team and WTWG as needed, such as on the topic of the allocations of loads for WIP 4 or the equivalent.
- 4. BMPs & BMP Protocols (5 related responses)**
 - a. Consider the development of innovative new BMPs and work to address draft BMPs as updates to the BMP Expert Panel protocol and the BMP quick reference guide are ongoing.
- 5. Specific Technical Areas of Interest (3 related responses)**

- a. Continue to explore areas of specific technical interest to WTWG members and interested parties including: manure treatment technologies; supply chain linkage of ag commodity production and environmental/social value-added; and submission of conservation tillage and cover crop BMP data from the remote sensing pilot project.

Complete List of Mentimeter Responses:

- Efficiency in reporting for jurisdictions to lighten their load
- Increase and explore use of innovative solutions and technology for BMP verification in additional sectors, such as developed/urban stormwater.
- Increase manure treatment technology implementation and verification, as well as quantify freshwater mussel stocking and AMD remediation projects, to inform nutrient reduction modeling for WIP 4
- Increase access to aggregated BMP information
- Initiate watershed-wide remote sensing efforts for BMP verification
- Continue implementation-scale watershed monitoring to evaluate BMP efficiency
- Expert Panel rewrite to provide more detailed but condensed timeline with scientific rigor
- Ensuring modeling work is focused on aspects that are most relevant to implementation and achievement of on the ground outcomes
- Work with EPA and NRCS to enable Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and other federally-funded projects to be reportable for Chesapeake Bay numeric progress.
- Working on approving backlog of Draft BMPs
- Innovative BMP's and solutions to ag, stormwater and flooding issues
- Continue to submit conservation tillage and cover crop bmp data from the remote sensing pilot project, utilizing the most up to date tech available.
- Explore further coordination with EPA, USDA, and USGS for increased BMP verification and accounting
- How the WTWG can best support in achieving the set priorities and ensure clear communication to and from the goal teams: set priorities, work toward attainment, sunset.
- Continue to look into ways to verify NRCS BMPs once their lifespan has ended.
- Support the decisions for allocation of loads for WIP4
- How to improve reporting of NRCS datasets
- Encourage the use of remote sensing and machine learning modeling to connect BMP implementation with water quality monitoring at the local level on up

- Discuss what our role with Habitat tracker and other habitat outcomes will be integrated with CAST and WQ
- Evaluate ways to improve/streamline the expert panel process for new BMPs
- Supply chain linkage of ag commodity production and environmental/social value-added - goal: durable funding via value-added premiums.
- Updates/requests for CBP BMP Guide