Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

March 2026
Hybrid Meeting

Agenda

1. AgWG Leadership Transition
2. Strategies For Success: Collaborative Watershed Restoration
3. Bay in the Balance Takeaways
4. BREAK
5. Group Engagement Activity
6. BMPs – crediting; remote sensing-based verification

AgWG Leadership Transition

Context

- Management Board **approved new Goal Team Co-Chairs at their Feb. 12th meeting**:
  - Greg Sandi, Chief, Watershed Restoration Planning Division, MD Department of the Environment
  - Lee McDonnell, Chief, Science Analysis and Implementation Branch, EPA CBPO

- The AgWG leadership team received confirmation from the Clean Water Goal Team Co-Chairs that **workgroups are permitted to move forward with the selection process for filling leadership vacancies.**

- **The AgWG will be asked to approve Jenn Fetter, Penn State University, as the next Vice Chair of the AgWG.** With this approval, Caitlin Grady, GWU, will assume the role of Chair.

*__NOTE:__ Actions related to confirming new workgroup members are still paused. We will take the appropriate next steps to fill remaining AgWG vacancies when granted permission to do so.

Vice Chair Nominee – Jenn Fetter

- Director, Center for Ag Conservation Assistance Training, Penn State Extension

- Previous roles with Penn State Extension:
  - Senior Extension Educator and Water Resources Program Team Lead
  - Youth Development/4-H Extension Educator

- Prior to her time at Penn State Extension, Jenn was an adjunct Professor of Biology.

- In 2025, Jenn received the President's Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

- View Jenn's full bio including research grants, awards, publications, and more!

Thank you, Kathy!

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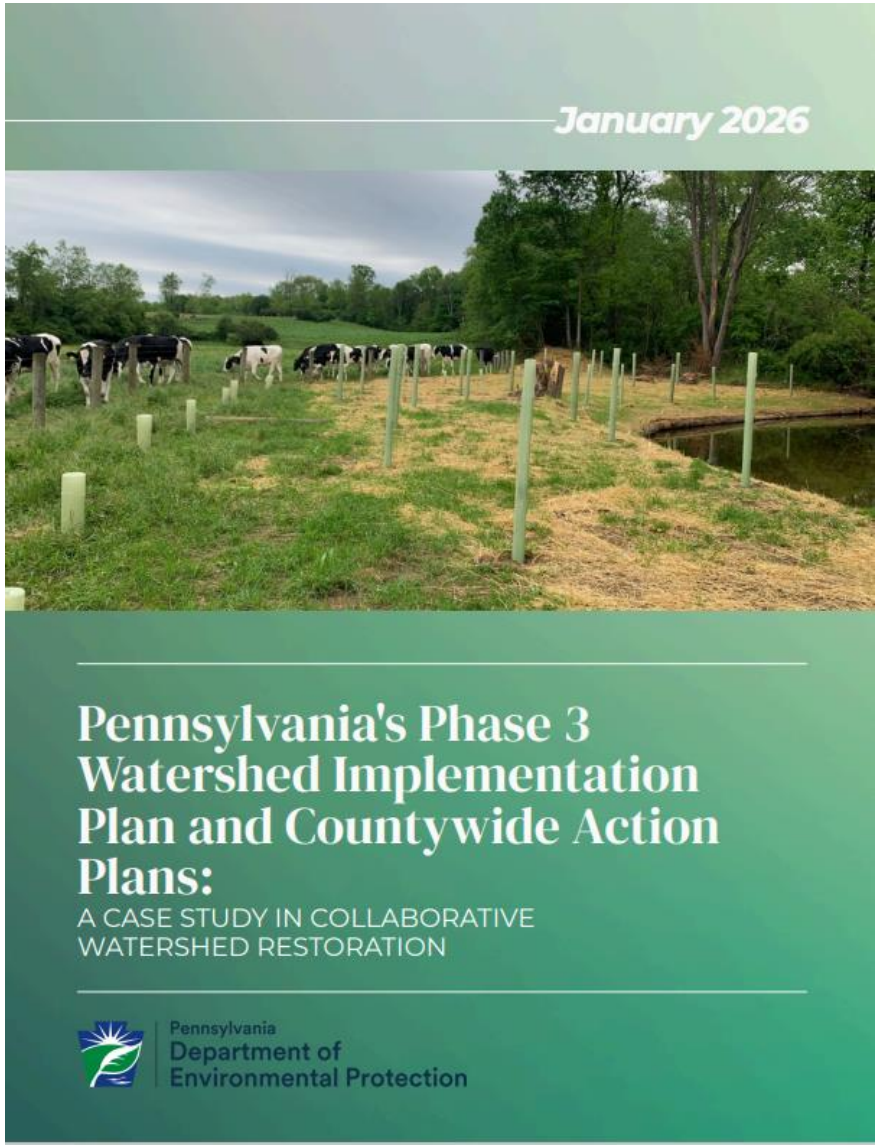
Strategies For Success: Collaborative Watershed Restoration

Overview of CAP Case Study

Kate Beats, PA DEP



Questions?

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Bay in the Balance Takeaways

Summary of Bay in the Balance Takeaways

Caitlin Grady, Incoming AgWG Chair

Facilitated Discussion

- In-person (in pairs) and virtual participants are asked to reflect on the following:
    - Of the many topics discussed this week, which are most in line with the scope of the Ag Workgroup?
        - Which of these has the greatest opportunity to “move the needle” in the overall Bay restoration effort?
    - What role does the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership have in advancing the priorities outlined over the course of the conference?

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BREAK- 10 Minutes

While on break, reflect on the following questions for our next discussion:

- ***QUESTION 1:*** *What is one project you have led or supported in the last year related to agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that gives you the greatest sense of pride?*

- ***QUESTION 2:*** *What is one thing related to agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that you are most looking forward to in the coming year?*

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Group Engagement Activity

Get to know the AgWG…

- It’s been **six years since the last in-person AgWG meeting!**

- To get to know each other a bit more, in-person and virtual meeting participants will share their responses to the following questions:

    - **QUESTION 1:** What is one project you have led or supported in the last year related to agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that gives you the greatest sense of pride?

    - **QUESTION 2:** What is one thing related to agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that you are most looking forward to in the coming year?

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BMPs – Crediting and Remote Sensing-based Verification

(Re) Evaluating Ag BMPs for CBP's Suite of Modeling Tools

Framing

- Partnership decision-making related to CBP ag BMP crediting, reporting and verification occurs at the Agriculture Workgroup.

- Ensuring model credit is based on the best available science is an important part of accurately capturing the positive impacts of conservation actions.

- We created a resource to concisely show ag BMPs (and in some cases BMP groups) currently credited, the year credit was last reviewed, and links to source material
  - BMP Quick Reference Guide

What we're doing today

- Walkthrough of the spreadsheet

- Quick discussion of key questions
  - What is missing?
  - What needs to be revised?

- Next steps
  - Feedback "due date": **Wednesday, March 25th**

Remote Sensing-based Verification of BMPs

Bottom line up front

- "Leveraging technology to enhance BMP verification" is a listed priority of the Agriculture Workgroup
  - Remote sensing technology presents an opportunity to reduce the overall BMP tracking, reporting, and verification burden across the partnership

- We need to discuss priorities

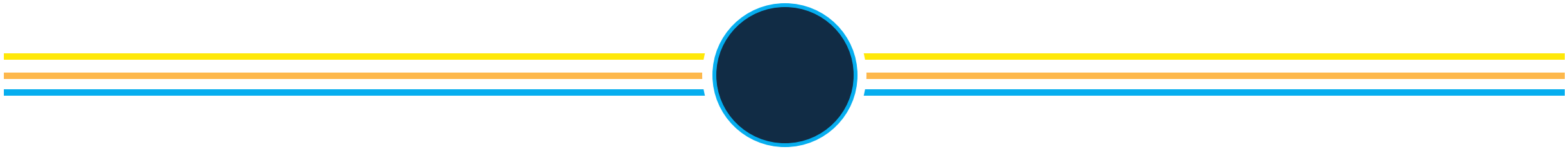
- EPA is willing to allocate resources to this effort
  - Priorities: watershed-wide approach for cover crop and tillage

What we're doing today

- Walkthrough of the spreadsheet

- Quick discussion of key questions
  - Thoughts on initial assessment – what did we get right and what did we get wrong?
  - What is the partnership's appetite for pursuing a watershed-wide approach to tracking, reporting, and verification (for specific BMPs)?
    - Which are your priority BMPs?
    - How would we quantify resources saved?

- Next steps
  - Feedback "due date": **Wednesday, March 25th**



Wrap Up & Closing Remarks

Anything else?

- Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email

Thank you!

Any questions?
You can contact me at Hughes.Eric@epa.gov

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