



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

July 2025

Agenda

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**New Business,
Announcements &
Updates**

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**AgWG Planning
Document Adoption**

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**Overview of Chesapeake
Bay Program Water
Quality Monitoring**



1

New Business, Announcements & Updates



Upcoming Events

- NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum
 - November 12-14
 - Hershey, PA
 - Overview: Kristen Hughes Evans/Kristen Saacke Blunk
- Bay in the Balance
 - December 8-10
 - Gettysburg, PA
 - Overview: Matt Royer/Marel King
- Plan: AgWG in-person after Bay in the Balance ends on 12/10 (in lieu of regular meeting on 12/18)

Other Verbal Announcements

- Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
 - Key positions announced:
 - Chair – Bill Fink, Country View Family Farms, LLC
 - Vice Chair – Bob Waring, Brandon Farms; Colonial SWCD
 - Coordinator – Jen Nelson, Resource Smart LLC; Maryland and Delaware Associations of Conservation Districts
 - Slide 9 of [meeting slides](#) lists results of survey of AAC interests
 - Tied for 2nd top interest: “Meeting/engaging w/ AgWG” and “Inventory/crediting of more on-farm conservation practices”

Other Verbal Announcements

- Beyond 2025 Public Comment Period
 - July 1 – September 1, 2025
 - Opportunity for all to provide specific feedback on the draft revised Agreement
 - Instructions and additional information can be found in [press release](#)
- Beyond 2025: Reimagining the Chesapeake Bay Webinar Series
 - 5-session series to share information on proposed changes to the Agreement
 - July 15: Clean Water for a Healthy Bay
 - Review of proposed Clean Water Goal and associated outcomes
 - Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment outcome (previously WIP outcomes)
 - Slides and recording already posted [here](#)

Vote on Adoption of AgWG Planning Document

Recap

- “Planning” document has been in development for several months
 - Outlines suite of objectives of interest to AgWG members
 - Will be used to support agenda building through 2026; can be revisited at the end of 2025-26 period
- Workgroup has had opportunity to make edits to at least two draft versions of the document
 - All changes made are tracked in documents posted alongside each “clean” version
- Vote will confirm that the group agrees to this being used to inform workgroup planning *and* to it being posted on the AgWG webpage

Decision:

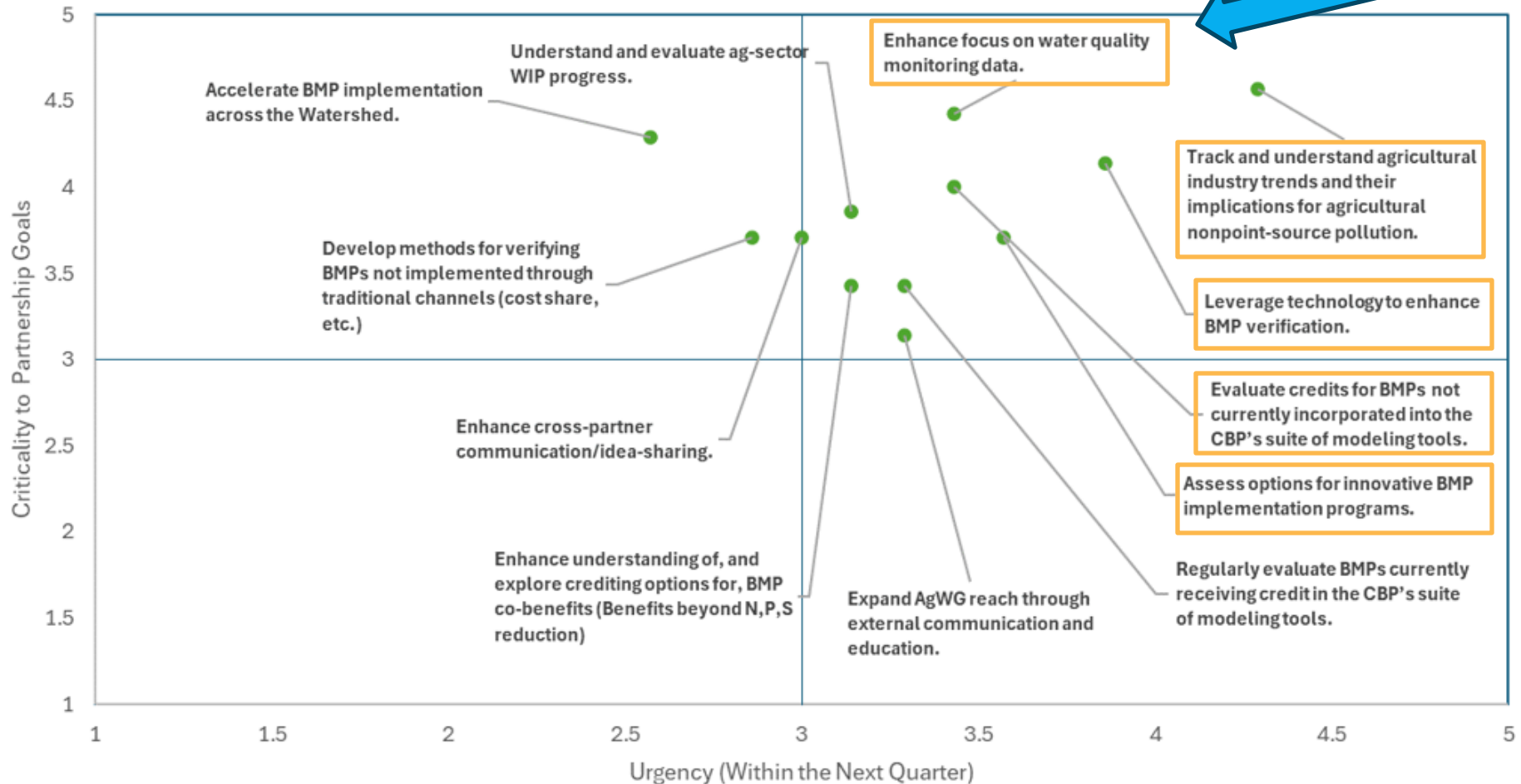
The Agriculture Workgroup adopts [the referenced] document as a planning and agenda-building guide through 2026. The document will be posted on the AgWG webpage for members and interested parties to reference as needed.

Overview of Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Monitoring

This month's focus: monitoring

- Conversations with members – and others – have revealed a keen interest in monitoring
 - “Enhance focus on water quality monitoring data” was an objective distilled from planning process
 - What does that mean to individual workgroup members?

"Urgency vs. Impact" of AgWG Objectives



Where to start?

- Goals:

- Level-set – establish baseline understanding of Bay Program water quality monitoring:
 - What monitoring is done, and where?
 - Which CBP groups discuss this material most frequently?
 - What is the current link between modeled and observed data?
- Answer: How should we enhance our focus on WQ monitoring data?
 - Where do we go next?
- Support: Share with CBPO/USGS what we are most interested in understanding through monitoring; where we feel there are gaps, opportunities.

Presentations

1) Peter Tango – Introduction to CBP Water Quality Monitoring

- What monitoring efforts are being led or supported by the Bay Program?
- How are they connected to Watershed Agreement goals/outcomes?

2) Olivia Devereux – Monitoring Data and CAST

- How is the monitoring data linked to CAST?

3) Kaylyn Gootman – Indicator Overview

- Monitoring data in action: What is the TMDL Indicator? METRIC?

4) Jimmy Webber – Small Ag Watershed Monitoring Update

- What has happened with the project since Jimmy's last AgWG talk?
- What would the AgWG like to see communicated from this study? Discussion segue.



Presentations



Prompting questions

- Considering what you've heard, how would you like to see the AgWG enhance its focus on monitoring data?
- What's missing? What additional information do you need or want to better understand the role of water quality monitoring in partnership
- What are the most critical insights that can be derived from monitoring data?
 - What research questions would we like to see answered through monitoring?
- How do AgWG members/other partners use monitoring data? How would you *like* to use monitoring data?
- Could finer-scale monitoring offer benefits to producers?

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

