



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

May 2026

Agenda

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**E3 Scenario
Development Update**

2

**Thinking in Systems –
Agriculture and the
Chesapeake Bay**

3

**Clean Water Goal Team
Updates**



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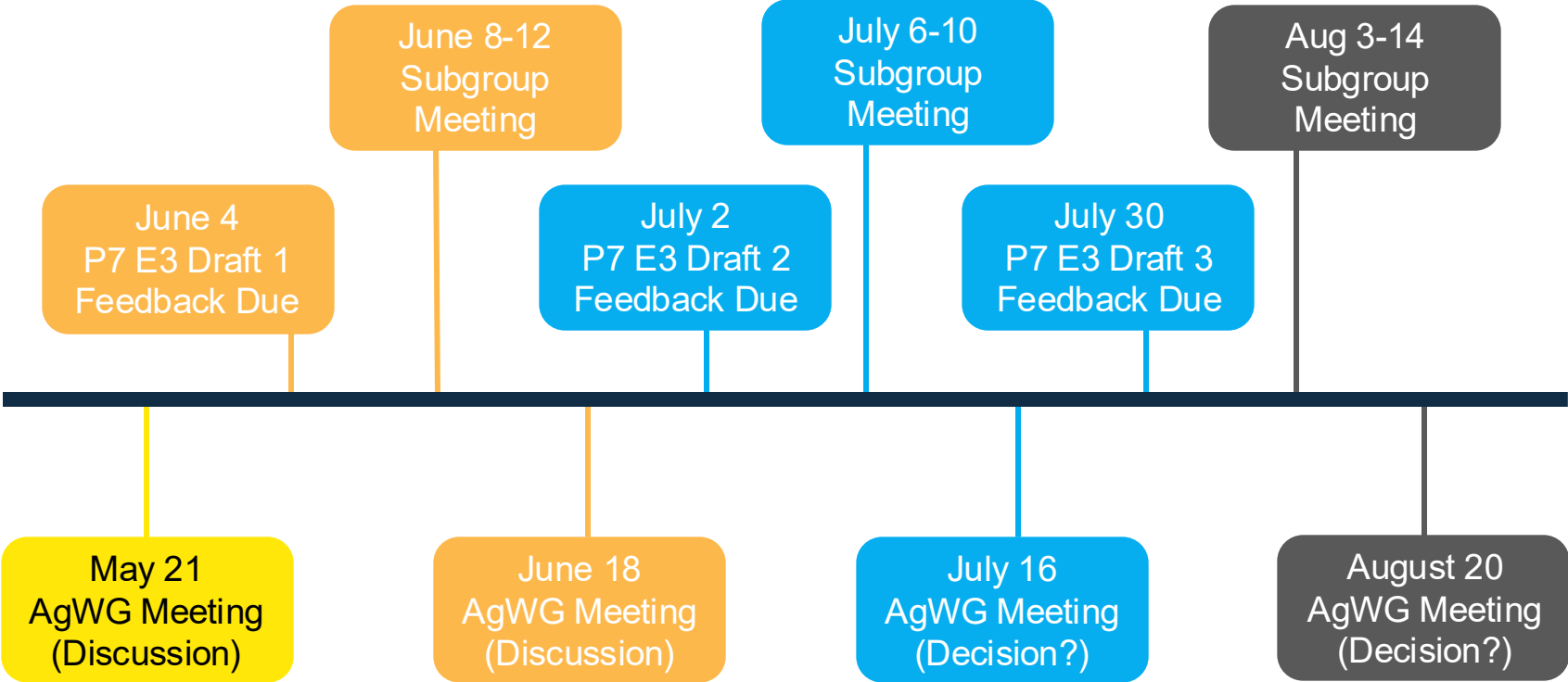
E3 Scenario Development Update



Formal Request from Clean Water Goal Team (CWGT)

- Email sent to source sector workgroup leadership on 5/15 detailing the specific ask being made of the groups
- At the August 24th CWGT meeting, sector workgroups must deliver a presentation outlining the following:
 - Their sector's past E3 assumptions
 - The revised (as needed) E3 assumptions for Phase 7 (NOTE: assumptions should be made in percentages rather than acres)
 - Relevant justifications to support any new assumptions
 - Thoughts on an appropriate Scenario Base Year (2010, or updated to 2022)
- At the September CWGT meeting, the workgroups will deliver this presentation, with changes suggested by the Goal Team incorporated, for the CWGT to formally approve

Proposed AgWG E3 Timeline





Ag E3 Scenario Work Sessions

- Purpose:

- Enable a subset of AgWG members and participants with deep institutional knowledge to outline initial P7 E3 assumptions for the full AgWG to review and discuss

- Meeting Frequency

- Between workgroup meetings at a cadence we collectively deem necessary to meet the timeline set by the Clean Water Goal Team

- This group will not:


- Make final decisions – that responsibility remains with the full workgroup
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Plan for May


- Review past E3 assumptions spreadsheet
 - “How did we get here?”
 - Key focus areas from meetings related to P6 ag E3 development
- Review P6 → P7 changes
- Review preliminary E3 input from other workgroups (USWG; FWG)
- Scope the work that needs to be done – what do you need to see to develop...
 - an initial assessment of assumptions not requiring changes?
 - an initial assessment of assumptions that *will* need to be changed?
 - initial thoughts on Scenario Base Year – either 2010 or 2022?
- Another “work session” before May AgWG meeting: useful, or not?

Ag P6 E3 Assumption Development – Key Meetings

- [April 20th, 2017](#)
- [June 29th, 2017](#)
- July 13th, 2017 (signatories meeting; no link)
- [July 20th, 2017](#)
- [August 17th, 2017](#)
- [August 24th, 2017](#)




Relevant P6 → P7 Changes





BMPs Revised/Added, 2017-2025

- Alley Cropping
 - Silvopasture
 - Wetland Creation/Restoration
 - Agricultural Stormwater Management
 - Ag Ditch Management
 - Animal Mortality
- 

Revised Outcomes


● Healthy Forests & Trees

- ~~○ Conserve tree canopy within communities by reducing the rate of loss of existing canopy and **planting and maintaining 45,000 acres of trees by 2040** to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long-term.~~
- Conserve riparian forest by reducing the rate of loss of existing buffers and **planting and maintaining 7,500 acres of buffers annually** to achieve no less than 71.5% riparian forest cover by 2040 and 75% riparian forest cover over the long-term.
 - Buffer acres potentially on ag land: 135,000
- Achieve a net gain in forests over the long-term by reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses by 33%, permanently protecting a total of 9 million acres of forested land, and planting, maintaining and managing **202,000 acres of new forests** by 2040.
 - Tree Planting acres potentially on ag land: 67,000



Revised Outcomes

- Wetlands


- **Restore or create at least 3,000 acres** and enhance 15,000 acres of tidal wetlands by 2040, focusing on habitats that support populations of waterbirds and represent healthy wetlands across the watershed.
 - **Restore or create at least 3,000 acres** and enhance 15,000 acres of nontidal wetlands by 2040, focusing on habitats that support populations of waterbirds and represent healthy wetlands across the watershed.
- 



E3 Input from USWG/FWG




Urban Stormwater Workgroup

- Draft P7 E3 Scenario unchanged from what was presented at April AgWG meeting
 - Align efforts for:
 - Stream Restoration
 - Riparian Forest Buffers
 - Tree Canopy/Planting
 - Met 5/13 to share next steps
 - Review [Draft Developed E3 Assumptions](#)
- 



Forestry Workgroup

- FWG's June meeting will be used to discuss E3 assumptions
 - Align efforts for:
 - Riparian Forest Buffers
 - Increase to “cropland/pasture within 300 feet of streams”? FB are creditable out to 300ft from streams.
 - Tree Planting
 - Meeting 5/18 to discuss further
- 



Ag E3 Small Group Meetings



Small Group Work Sessions 1 and 2

- Participants: Signatory representatives and others with P6 E3 experience proposed by signatories
 - Clint Gill, Alisha Mulkey/Elizabeth Hoffman, Greg Albrecht, Kate Bresaw, Seth Mullins/Hunter Landis, Cindy Shreve/Matt Monroe, Mark Dubin (VT), Bill Keeling (VA DEQ)
- Session 1: 5/14
 - Level-setting; substantial discussion around
 - Animal Mortality
 - Buffers
 - Nutrient Management
- Session 2: 5/19
 - Further discussion on data needs to support E3 decisions



Spreadsheet Walkthrough





Next Steps



“Homework”

- Any points made today will be incorporated into the spreadsheet, which will be shared as the *final* May 21st version of the document
- Take two weeks to review the spreadsheet, which includes the draft set of P7 ag E3 assumptions
 - NOTE: This has a heavy Virginia influence as DCR/DEQ submitted comments on 5/20; however, nothing is final
 - INPUT ON DRAFT 1 DUE: Thursday, June 4
- We will plan to reconvene as many members of the Ag E3 small group as possible the following week to discuss the feedback we received
 - Feedback will be incorporated and shared with the full workgroup to allow at least several days to review before the June AgWG meeting



2

Thinking in Systems





Presentation





3

Clean Water Goal Team Updates



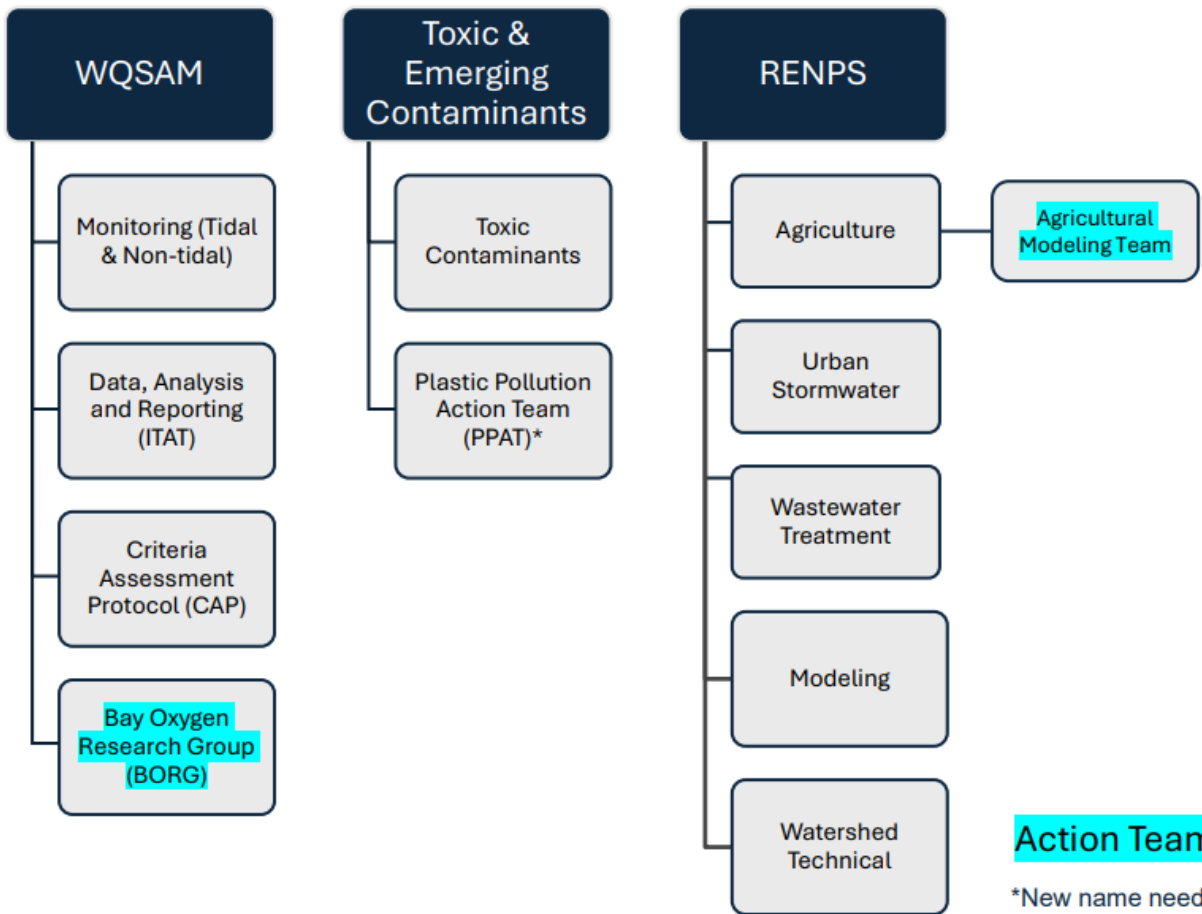
Clean Water Goal Team: Revised Strawman

Sunsetting Workgroups

- Federal Facilities Workgroup (integrated into Watershed Technical Workgroup and Federal Management Committee)
- Milestones Workgroup
- Hypoxia Collaborative Team (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Non-Tidal Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Data Integrity Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)

Workgroups Moving to Healthy Landscapes GT

- Forestry Workgroup
- Land Use Workgroup



Version Date: May 18th, 2026.


For May 18th, 2026 CWGT meeting discussion.

Workgroup Membership

- “Workgroup Assessment” was due to CWGT by May 11
 - WHO is currently serving on each workgroup
 - For workgroups not currently following a 15-member (9 signatory, 6 at-large) model, provide steps you would take to conform to the 15-member model
 - Candidates for 6 open positions would be current at-large members and those nominated during most recent call for nominations
 - Signatory members would vote to fill 6 spots from the pool of nominees
 - Others would be welcome to continue to participate as interested parties
 - One at-large member from: academia, agribusiness/industry, conservation districts/TA providers, conservation/environmental NGOs, and USDA



Management Strategy Development

- CWGT shared a worksheet with Workgroups for completion
 - DUE: Tuesday, June 2nd
 - “Over the summer, workgroups can consider their respective appetites to iterate or dive deeper into the Management Strategy elements as appropriate”
 - Gather additional input or themes to bring to the CWGT June in-person meeting for their consideration
 - Starting point for CWGT discussions to help construct a Management Strategy over the summer; will be an iterative process
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Management Strategy Development

- The ask: Situation Analysis & Challenges
 - Questions about messaging around where we are and how far we've come
 - Specific tasks, needs, or priorities that we are thinking about for the coming months/years
 - What are key gaps or challenges?
 - Top challenges facing your sector across the watershed?
 - Brainstorm management approaches
 - Management approaches: general approach needed to fill existing gaps and identify the partnership's role in that approach. These are the [overarching] actions that the program will undertake to address the challenges to goal and outcome attainment.

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

