



# Staffer Updates

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September 22, 2025

"Waterways Wanderer," 2025 Maryland Natural Resource Photo Contest Winner.

Photo by Christopher Michael



# Agenda at a glance

- Announcements & Updates
  - Staffer Updates (including Decision Tracker and Workgroup Updates)
- Approval of Near-Term Milestone Schedule (**Decisional**)
- Revised Watershed Agreement Updates
- Hay High and Pasture High - Land Use Loading Rate Ratios
- Land Use Aggregation to Phase 7 Land Uses
- BREAK
- Phase 7 CAST Land Use/Load Sources
- Urban Nutrient Management Panel Update
- Flex time: Other Phase 7 Updates & Follow-Up

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Revised *Watershed Agreement* public feedback period ended September <sup>1st</sup>

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MB Retreat: Sept 30-Oct 2, MB Meeting: Oct 9, PSC Meeting: Oct 28, (Hold) Joint MB/PSC Meeting: Nov 6

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**Business,  
News &  
Reminders**

EC meeting set for December 2 from 9:30am – 12:30 pm at National Aquarium, Baltimore

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Phase 7 Office Hours: all recordings and Q&A notes are now posted

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Reminder to check agenda for more announcements or reminders you may not want to miss!

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# Phase 7 Decision Tracker Updates

Posted version: September 18

Recent updates and remaining decisions are listed here. Some completed items may not be included.

Reminder: Phase 7 Model Development Project Page is a repository for files like the decision tracker

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/projects/phase-7-model-development>

Topic	July	August	September	Recent Materials	Notes
Animal Population Data					The original plan was to be done by Sept. This is one of the items that is extended.
BMP Excess		*AMT (Interim meeting 8/27) * WQGIT (8/15 Office Hours)	<b>AMT (9/12)</b> *WTWG (9/4) <b>WTWG (10/2)</b>	<a href="#">June AMT Presentation</a>	At the September AMT meeting, the group decided not to alter the default conversion of Animal Units excluded per 1000 linear feet of fencing. A recommendation of changes to buffer widths for exclusion fencing practices was made and will be sent to the WTWG for a decision.
Broiler Nutrient Updates					The original plan was to be done by Sept. This is one of the items that is extended.
CSO Loads		*WWTWG CSO Small Group (8/28)	<b>WWTWG (9/25)</b>	<a href="#">Map Viewer</a>	WWTWG will review and approve the CSS Area data layer at the September meeting.
Inorganic Fertilizer	<b>AMT (Via Email)</b>	*AMT (8/8)		<a href="#">July AMT Presentation</a>	Prior to September, the AMT decided on the scale of a new fertilizer data set. The original plan was to be done by Sept. This is one of the items that is extended. Post September, the AMT will continue to explore sources, processing, and replacement of inorganic fertilizer data.
MS4 Area Data Layer	*USWG (7/15)		<b>USWG ( *9/16 and via email)</b>	<a href="#">Map Viewer</a>	A draft layer was presented at the Sept USWG meeting. Revisions will be made and a preliminary layer will be approved by email. Updated data from VA DEQ can be included for an updated layer before model calibration by Jan 23rd, 2026.
Urban Nutrient Management Updates			*WTWG (9/4), *USWG (9/16), *WQGIT (9/22)	<a href="#">Sept USWG Briefing</a>	This item has been extended beyond September, likely for approval in November.

Topic	July	August	September	Recent Materials	Notes
Land Use Loading Rate Ratios for Hay High and Pasture High	*AMT (7/11)	*AMT (8/8) * WQGIT (8/15 Office Hours) *AgWG (8/21)	<b>AMT (9/12)</b> <b>*WQGIT (9/22)</b>	<a href="#">July AMT Presentation</a>	The AMT decided on loading rate ratios at their September 2025 meeting. Note: At the September meeting, the AMT also agreed to rename the land uses from Managed Hay and Managed Pasture, to Hay High and Pasture High, respectively.
Boat Pump Outs		<b>WWTWG (Via Email)</b>		<a href="#">Boat Pump-Out Rationale Documentation</a>	The workgroup decided to not pursue a Boat Pump Out BMP.
Land Use Aggregation to Phase 7 Land Use		*WQGIT (8/18 Office Hours)	<b>LUWG (9/17),</b> <b>*WQGIT (9/22)</b>	<a href="#">Sept LUWG Presentation</a>	The LUWG tentatively approved the aggregation at the Sept meeting, pending one missing vote.
Land Use Back-Cast Methods	<b>LUWG (Via Email)</b>	*WQGIT (8/18 Office Hours)	<b>LUWG (9/17)</b>	<a href="#">July Back-Cast Methods Office Hours Presentation</a>	Methods were approved via email in July. The decision as confirmed at the September meeting.
Phase 7 CAST Load Sources		*WQGIT (8/18 Office Hours, 8/25)	*WTWG (9/4) <b>*WQGIT (9/22)</b>	<a href="#">Sept WQGIT Presentation</a>	<a href="#">See also: P6 and P7 Land Use Crosswalk with Loading Rate Ratios</a>

# Workgroup updates

Full workgroup updates provided in later slides; please consult posted slides at your convenience

# Workgroup Updates (source sectors)

open to Chairs or Coordinators to add more

## Wastewater

CSO small group met with modeling team, Boat Pump-out BMP tabling approved, Sep 15 WQGIT Office Hours briefings.

Next meeting: September 25, 10am - noon

## Forestry

New/updated: [Riparian Forest Buffer](#) and [Tree Canopy indicators](#) , New [county and municipal-scale tree canopy status and change fact sheets](#), and the [State of Chesapeake Forests Storymap](#).

Next meeting: October 8, 9-11am

## Agriculture

At Sept meeting heard updates from the AAC, discussed crosswalk of NRCS and CAST BMPs, and heard remote sensing efforts for cover crops.

Next meeting: October 16, 10am – noon

## Urban Stormwater

At Aug meeting heard updates on UNM Panel, MS4 Phase 7 data layer, and Vulnerability Assessment Guidance tool. MS4 layer to be approved by email.

Next meeting: October 21, 10am – noon



# Workgroup Updates (others)

open to Chairs or Coordinators to add more

## Watershed Technical

At Sept meeting, heard updates on UNM panel, Phase 7 CAST land uses, and BMP excess. Also approved the 2025 NEIEN Appendix.

Next meeting: October 2, 10am – noon. [Agenda](#) is posted.

## Toxics

Held office hours for initial discussions about current priorities and future directions of the workgroup.

Next meeting: October 21, 9-11am (Joint with Local Leadership Workgroup)

## Federal Facilities

Caroline will now be the staffer for this group moving forward.

Next meeting: October 14, 10am – noon

## Land Use

At Sept meeting, approved bare shore classification update and approved the Phase 7 land use aggregation. Discussed LUDS outcome and reviewed draft time series data for 1985-2022.

Next meeting: December 17, 1-3pm (tentative, Joint meeting with other groups in proposed Healthy Lands Goal)

## Milestones

Met Aug 29 and approved the Near-Term Milestones schedule, reviewed and shared feedback on EPA Expectations document.

Next meeting TBD

# Workgroup updates – more details

## Agriculture

- The AgWG met on September 18th and heard an update from the Agricultural Advisory Committee, discussed a crosswalk resource of NRCS and CAST BMPs, and heard about efforts to remotely sense cover crops in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Next Meeting: October 16th from 10-12
- The AgWG canceled their November meeting and they rescheduled their December meeting, so that the group can meet in person immediately following the Bay in the Balance Conference.

## Forestry

- The Riparian Forest Buffer and Tree Canopy indicators have been updated on Chesapeake Progress. See the CBP Press release on the indicator updates for a summary.
- New county and municipal-scale tree canopy status and change fact sheets are now available.
- The State of Chesapeake Forests Storymap has been updated with the latest high-res land use/land cover data.
- Next Meeting: October 8th from 9-11

# Workgroup updates – more details

## Urban Stormwater

- USWG met on September 16 and heard updates on the Urban Nutrient Management Expert Panel, MS<sub>4</sub> data layer for Phase 7, and the Vulnerability Assessment Guidance tool. Members were not ready to approve the MS<sub>4</sub> data layer, and will vote by email on an updated data layer incorporating feedback.
- The decision process for approving the UNM Panel recommendations has been extended to November 2025.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday October 21 from 10-12

## Wastewater Treatment

- The regular WWTWG August meeting was canceled. The CSO Small Group met to wrap up discussions with the modeling team on validating data for the phase 7 model and to give feedback on the CSS Data Layer, which will be presented to the workgroup for approval at the Sept meeting.
- Workgroup members approved the Boat Pump-Out Tabling Rationale Summary via email.
- Briefings on main wastewater Phase 7 inputs were presented at the WQGIT Office Hours on Sep 15.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, September 25 from 10-12

# Workgroup updates – more details

## Watershed Technical

- Met on September 4th and heard presentations on UNM Expert Panel updates, Phase 7 CAST land uses, and an informational overview of BMP excess. The group voted to approve the 2025 NEIEN Appendix for use in 2025 annual progress submissions.
- Note: At the previous WQGIT, we noted a voting member had voted a 1-stop on the proposed methodology for handling cover crop excess, and consensus was not reached at the August meeting. However, after additional discussions, this voting member updated their vote to a 4, and the methodology passed by consensus.
- Next Meeting: October 2nd from 10-12. The agenda is posted to the calendar page.

## Toxic Contaminants

- TCW held office hours in September with workgroup members to start initial discussions about current priorities and future directions for the workgroup. This discussion will continue more deeply after the revised Watershed Agreement is finalized.
- Next Meeting: Joint meeting with Local Leadership Workgroup on Tuesday, October 21 at 9-11am.
- The regularly scheduled meeting on Oct 8 is canceled.

# Workgroup updates – more details

## Federal Facilities

- With Marilyn's departure, Caroline will now be staffer for this group moving forward
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14th from 10-12pm

## Milestones

- The workgroup met Aug 29 to review and give feedback on the EPA Expectations for Near-Term Milestones as well as approve the Near-Term Milestones Schedule for recommendation to the WQGIT.
- Next Meeting: TBD

# Workgroup updates – more details

## Land Use

- The LUWG met on September 17th. At this meeting, the group heard an update on the LUDS outcome and discussed potential next steps for the LUWG. The group approved an update to the June 2025 bare shore decisional item, which now states that all bare shore (tidal and non-tidal) that is not classified as construction will be moved to the Phase 7 water class. The LUWG also approved the aggregation of the High resolution LULC data to the 16 phase 7 mapped classes (pending one outstanding vote). The group walked through a [web app viewer](#), put together by USGS, to show draft time series data from 1985-2022. The LUWG will continue their review of this data.
- The LUWG is tentatively working towards a joint meeting with those under the proposed Healthy Lands Goal in December. Additional details will follow.
- Next Meeting: December 17 from 1-3 (Tentative Depending on Joint Meeting Date)