



Watershed Technical Workgroup Meeting

October 1st, 2026
10:00 AM-12:00PM

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 293 283 850 537 34 | **Passcode:** jw3xJ3G3

Call: +1 202-991-0477,,496427722# | **Conference ID:** 496 427 722#

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov).

Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

Compromised Meeting Plan: If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

Purpose: This is the monthly meeting of the Watershed Technical Workgroup. Agenda topics include relevant announcements, approval of the nominations for WTWG at-large positions, a continued discussion on CAST update frequency, an update on Expert Panel Protocol revisions, initial brainstorming for workgroup workplans, and an overview of the CWGT September presentation on the Phase 7 Model review process.

Agenda

I. Introductions & Announcements (10:00- 10:10 AM)

- Please put your name and affiliation in the chat box for attendance purposes. Thank you!
- Approval of the September WTWG Meeting Minutes- Sushanth Gupta, MWCOG
- EPA 2025 Assessment and Milestone Evaluation Release - Auston Smith, EPA
- 2026 Progress Schedule- Auston Smith, EPA
 - Federal Facility Data Reminder Email
- Reminder of Upcoming November Federal Facility Focused Meeting & Topics- Auston Smith, EPA
- Silvopasture and Alleycropping BMP [Summary Sheet](#)- Ruth Cassilly, MDA
- Other announcements?

Requested Action: Decisional- Approval of [September 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)

Lead: Sushanth Gupta, MWCOG & Auston Smith, EPA

Materials: [September 2026 Meeting Minutes](#), [Silvopasture and Alleycropping BMP Summary](#)

II. Approval of Nominees for WTWG At-Large Members (10:10-10:25 AM)

Auston Smith, EPA, will remind the group of the nominees for WTWG at-large positions, which were announced at the September meeting. Following the September meeting, the call for nominations was extended, and no additional nominations were received by 9/17/2026. Given that the number of nominees is smaller than the available at-large positions, we will seek WTWG consent approval of these nominees as At-Large members through December 2028.

Requested Action: **Decisional**- Approval of Nominees for WTWG At-Large Member Positions

Lead: Auston Smith, EPA; WTWG Nominees

Materials: [Presentation](#), [Nominee Bios/CVs](#)

III. CAST Model Update Frequency (10:25- 10:55 AM)

At the August Clean Water Goal Team meeting, the Clean Water Goal Team tasked the Watershed Technical Workgroup with investigating considerations and developing options for the frequency of future updates to CAST. The tentative timeline would be as follows: The WTWG would present options to the CWGT to consider at the November CWGT meeting and CWGT would seek consensus by December 2026. The WTWG began initial discussions on this topic at the September 2026 WTWG meeting.

This month, Auston Smith, EPA, will go over initial thoughts shared at the September WTWG meeting, provide additional clarity on specific data sets, define a CAST update, and point the group to relevant historical context to help inform their decision. The group will continue to discuss potential options for update frequency, ahead of a final recommendation which will be discussed and put forward in November.

Requested Action: Informational

Lead: Auston Smith, EPA

Materials: [Presentation](#)

IV. Update on Expert Panel Protocol Revisions (10:55- 11:25 AM)

Auston Smith, EPA, will continue to discuss the draft updated Expert Panel Protocol with the group. Auston will highlight any feedback received on the Expert Panel Protocol draft in advance of the call and/or at the September WTWG meeting, as well as inform the group on next steps for this review.

Requested Action: None- Informational

Lead: Auston Smith, EPA

Materials: [Draft Expert Panel Protocol \(Word\)](#), [Draft Expert Panel Protocol \(PDF\)](#)

V. Workgroup Workplans: Initial Brainstorming (11:25- 11:35 AM)

The Clean Water Goal Team will seek approval of their Management Strategy at their September 28-29th Hybrid meeting. Given this new Management Strategy, workgroups under the Clean Water Goal Team will be tasked with creating workgroup workplans outlining specific actions or deliverables the group will take on through 2030. Auston Smith, EPA, will outline what is being requested of the WTWG and will ask the group for initial feedback on items for inclusion in this Workplan. The group will discuss how they would like to respond to this request.

Requested Action: None- Informational

Lead: Auston Smith, EPA

Materials: [Workgroup Workplan Summary Points and Initial Brainstorming](#)

VI. Phase 7 Model Review Process & CWGT Meeting Follow-Up (11:35- 11:55 AM)

Auston Smith, EPA, will provide the group with a summary of the presentation shared with the Clean Water Goal Team at their September Hybrid meeting on Phase 7 Review Expectations. Auston will also provide the group with an overview of any immediate needs or actions resulting from the CWGT Hybrid meeting.

Requested Action: None- Informational

Lead: Auston Smith, EPA

Materials: [CWGT Phase 7 Review Expectations Presentation](#)

VII. Wrap-Up (11:55 AM-12:00 PM)

Lead: Caroline Kleis, CRC

VIII. Adjourn (12:00 PM)

Next Meeting: November 5, 2026, from 10:00AM-12:00PM