Summary of Actions & Decisions

- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the October meeting minutes.
- **Action:** Send feedback on proposed updates to Land Use Classifications, presented by Peter Claggett, to Allie Wagner (wagner.alexandra@epa.gov) as soon as possible by COB Monday, December 2nd. All comments will be compiled and sent to Peter in preparation for the Joint Land Use/Forestry Workgroup Meeting on December 4th.
- **Action:** Allie Wagner and Loretta Collins will send details regarding the nomination and election process for the 2020-2021 Chair, Vice-Chair, and At-Large terms soon. It is asked that partners start considering possible nominees for these positions.

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting ● Implementation ● Innovation

Data & Modeling ● CBP Assignments

Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes   Workgroup Chairs

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants
- **Decision:** The AgWG approved the October meeting minutes.

Innovation

Engaged Farmers: Nutrient Management Decisions in New York (20 min)   Quirine Ketterings

Agricultural and environmental sustainability require matching crop inputs such as nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) from fertilizer and manure for optimizing production and minimizing off-site environmental impact. Research shows that N losses from farm fields are primarily driven by application rates that exceed crop N uptake and needs and that high yielding fields often require lower rates of N inputs. Quirine Ketterings, Cornell University, will present the results of a statewide collaborative project that involved 24 farms that supplied silage data and 25 farms that shared corn grain data. Yields per soil type within a field were derived by overlaying the soil survey maps and field yield maps. The yield data for these soil types were grouped together to generate yield frequency distributions from which more realistic yield goals for New York were derived. Farmers, farm advisors, and university staff have long recognized the need to document corn grain and silage yields and update the Cornell University database that is the foundation for Land Grant University N fertility guidelines and yield-determined P removal estimates. With a growing number of silage harvested now joining the fleet of corn grain combines equipped with yield monitors, and with a recently developed standardized protocol for data cleaning and processing, there is now opportunity to update the existing corn grain yield potential database and develop a new corn silage yield database across soil and geographic regions in New York.

Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel (30 min)   Ray Bryant

Ray Bryant, ARS, discussed partnership feedback received in regard to the Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel. The 30-day feedback window closed on October 7th.

- Barry Frantz: Regarding the saturated buffer crediting, saturated buffers, CRP, etc are listed as supporting practices for NRCS. I want to point out that there may be some overlap with crediting. We can follow up offline to discuss the issue.
- Gary Felton: Was denitrification with compost and those other practices considered? They seem to leak N and P.
    - Ray Bryant: We had a lot of literature on denitrifying bioreactors. I don't recall many papers on using compost as the medium.
    - Gary Felton: I can send you some references offline.
    - Ray Bryant: We were thinking that most are constructed with wood chips based on the conservation practice standards.

Fertilizer Sales Data Update (30 min)   Mark Dubin

Mark Dubin, UMD Extension, provided an overview on a new collaborative pilot research project currently under development between Virginia Tech, the University of Maryland, Virginia DCR, and the commercial fertilizer industry to collect and compare agricultural fertilizer point-of-use data with existing point-of-sale data in several selected counties in Virginia. In addition to fertilizer use, agricultural nutrient balance data will be collected. The project will compare the resulting aggregated county-scale data with the current Phase 6 CBWM as part of the study.

- Bill Angstadt: It's great that VT is focusing on local farm data collection. While you conduct interviews, there is other data such as nutrient management practices that could be collected, especially on non-regulated farms.
    - Mark Dubin: Yes, that is part of the discussion and that is an opportunity we have considered.
    - Bill Angstadt: We've been working with DE and we've competed 15 interviews and are currently refining our interview questions. When you talk about 6 counties, that's thousands of farms.
- Bill Angstadt mentioned that AFCO can be bypassed if you directly contact individual state chemists to get data by county. Data is posted on their website up to June 2018.

Updating Land Use Classification Scheme (20 min)   Peter Claggett

Peter Claggett, USGS, discussed proposed updates to the land use classification scheme. Finalization of this scheme is expected in December 2019.

- Frank Schneider: I wonder about mapping buildings, green houses, and animal operations. It may be okay for targeting purposes, but we have a lot of operations with empty chicken houses or greenhouses in PA.
    - Peter Claggett: That's a good point, the building will still function as impervious but as far as active or inactive animal operation, it would be used for targeting. Verification would be brought in as part of that.
    - Jason Keppler: On the eastern shore of MD, there is a related concern about chicken operations that do not have chickens anymore.
    - Chris Brosch: DE is in agreement with that as well.
- Jason Keppler: Would we have loads associated with these?

- o   Peter Claggett: Not necessarily. Between now and 2025, no new loading land uses will be added. For the near future, none of this will affect loading rates in the Phase 6 Model macro classes.
- Loretta Collins: Would these would be used for projections moving forward?
  - o   Peter Claggett: Yes, it will be used for projections, targeting attempts, and communication purposes.
  - o   Jeremy Hanson: These are also meant to help support healthy watersheds, habitat, and other outcomes than water quality that want more detailed breakouts.
- Denise Coleman: I agree with previous comments on animal operations. We would raise considerable concern with that based on remote sensing we did to detect BMPs. It was very difficult to detect if a barn or house is occupied. Is there specific protocol that must be met? We incurred a rigorous protocol to use remote sensing when ours was done.
  - o   Peter Claggett: For QA/QC, we have a protocol that Chesapeake Conservancy went through on the land cover side in 2013 aiming for 90% accuracy with tree canopy and impervious. We haven't instituted a protocol for land cover. We did not do that last time because of resource constraints, but we can consider that moving forward.
- Loretta Collins: What is the difference between land use classes and load source categories?
  - o   Peter Claggett: The categories in white have unique loading rates in the Phase 6 Model. Currently, wetland and forest are loaded at the same rate. I don't want this to be confused with BMPs.
- Peter Claggett: The LUWG is holding a joint meeting with FWG on December 4th where they would like to finalize this land use scheme.
  - o   **Action:** Send feedback on proposed updates to Land Use Classifications, presented by Peter Claggett, to Allie Wagner (wagner.alexandra@epa.gov) as soon as possible by COB Monday, December 2nd. All comments will be compiled and sent to Peter in preparation for the Joint Land Use/Forestry Workgroup Meeting on December 4th.

2020 Leadership and At-large Elections (5 min)   Chair

Jason Keppler, Chair, discussed the process and path forward regarding nomination and election of new leadership and at-large members for the 2020-2021 term.

- Jason Keppler: Chair, vice chair, and at large members will be up for re nomination. There will be an in-person meeting in February to elect the new chair and vice chair.
  - o   Loretta Collins noted that chair needs to confidently facilitate meetings, and act as a neutral party.
- **Action:** Allie Wagner and Loretta Collins will send details regarding the nomination and election process for the 2020-2021 Chair, Vice-Chair, and At-Large terms soon. It is asked that partners start considering possible nominees for these positions.

New Business & Announcements (5 min)
- Wetland Expert Panel Report
- Update on Cropland Irrigation Expert Panel recommendations:
  - o   **Sept 19 MB Decision:** The Management Board (MB) decided on an approach that would allow Delaware to petition the Agriculture Workgroup (with input from STAC and STAR) to open a new expert panel once it documented new relevant science. Note: A decision on whether to approve the Expert Panel's report will be raised during the October MB meeting.

- o **Oct 17 MB Meeting:** Presentation and decision for approval bumped from MB agenda due to time constraints. Decision for approval will be on future MB agenda.
- SARE Farmer grants http://blog.umd.edu/agronomynews/2019/10/21/sare-farmer-grants/
- Public comment period for FSA CRP/CREP program
    - o New rules expected by the end of the month.
    - o Post-rule release education and discussion forum webinar is tentatively scheduled for November 21 (today) at 2:00.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
    - o The 2018 Farm Bill requires NRCS to develop a regulation for RCPP. NRCS plans to publish the RCPP interim final rule in late fall or early winter. Upon release of the interim final rule, NRCS will accept public comments on the contents of the rule.
    - o The application period for RCPP is open from September 3, 2019 through December 3, 2019.

Next Meeting:
December 19: Conference Call → 10 AM – 11:45 AM

Pending Topics:
Accounting & Reporting: Resource Improvement BMPs- Are they being accounted for at full potential?
· BMP crosswalk updates
Implementation: Strategizing technical assistance · Addressing the gaps- What the Phase III WIPs can tell us · Technical Service Providers
Innovation: Hemp- What are nutrient & sediment implications? **(Early 2019)** · Furthering research to update nutrient fertility recommendation- Why the time is now and where is the support? · Soil Health Initiatives
Data & Modeling: Data input updates for animal · USGS- Latest information tying water quality trends to BMP implementation
CBP Assignments: Adapting to climate change in the ag sector **(Early 2019)**

Meeting Participants:

Jason Keppler	MDA
Matt Monroe	WV DA
Loretta Collins	UMD
Allie Wagner	CRC
Clint Gill	DDA
Chris Brosch	DDA
Greg Albrecht	NY State Dept. of Ag and Markets
Frank Schneider	PA SCC
Tim Sexton	VA DCR
Seth Mullins	VA DCR
Marel King	CBC
Cindy Shreve	WV DA
Joe Blanco	EPA
Adam Lyon	MDA
Elizabeth Hoffman	MDA

Jeff Hill	LCCD
Kristen Saacke-Blunk	Headwaters, LLC
Paul Bredwell	U.S. Poultry & Egg
Jeremy Daubert	VT
Kristen Hughes Evans	Sustainable Chesapeake
Jeff Sweeney	EPA
Emily Dekar	USC
Gary Felton	UMD
Alana Hartman	WV DEP
Ruth Cassilly	UMD
Jeremy Hanson	VT
Dave Graybill	PA Farm Bureau
Mark Dubin	UMD
Bill Angstadt	DE MD Agribusiness Association
Ray Bryant	USDA ARS
Katie Ombalski	Woods and Waters