



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

January 2025

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Person Meeting**

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Membership



Refresher

AgWG Recommended Governance: Member Consensus* (up to 21 members possible)

- Signatory Members from each Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Agreement signatory [up to 9 signatory members (one each) with an alternate identified]

- Appointed
- Serve until replaced by signatory

- Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- US EPA

- At-large Member Categories** [up to 12 members (one or more each) with option to identify alternates]

- Nominated
- Approved by signatory/mid-term at-large members
- Two-year term

- Academic (e.g. regional colleges and land grant institutions)
- Agri-Business and Industry (e.g. regional commodity, fruits and nuts, livestock and poultry, and nursery representatives or associations)
- Conservation Districts (e.g. regional conservation districts or associations)
- Conservation/Environmental NGO's (e.g. regional agricultural and conservation NGO's)
- USDA (e.g. ARS, NRCS)



Vacant Positions

Position: At-Large Member (6 open positions)

Length of Term: 2 years, starting March 2025

Time Commitment (estimated):

- Monthly Meetings - 2 hours/month (third Thursday of each month, 10 AM – 12 PM).
 - Prep Work - Average of ~2 hours/month assuming 1 hour of individual prep and 1 hour of follow-up work or discussions. Varies by member and active topics.
- 

Nominees

| Name | Affiliation | Membership Category | Alternate (If specified) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Jim Riddell | Virginia Cattlemen's Association | Agribusiness & Industry | Brandon Reeves (Virginia Cattlemen's Association) |
| Emily Dekar | Upper Susquehanna Coalition | Soil/Water Conservation | |
| Paul Bredwell | U.S. Poultry and Egg Association | Agribusiness & Industry | Christian Richter (U.S. Poultry and Egg Association) |
| Matt Royer | Penn State University | Academic/Extension | Tyler Groh (Penn State University) |
| RO Britt | Smithfield Foods | Agribusiness & Industry | Dylan Carden (Smithfield Foods) |
| Nick Hepfl | Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic Inc. | Agribusiness & Industry | |

Nomination/Voting Process

- ~~Following this meeting:~~
 - ~~A Google Forms poll will be sent to the current governance membership (signatory and mid-term at large) to review the list of nominees~~
 - ~~Responses are due **Friday, January 31st**~~
 - ~~The six nominees with the most favorable ranking will be selected to fill the at-large member vacancies.~~
 - ~~Selected nominees will be announced at the February meeting and will begin their two-year term as at-large member in March of 2025.~~
- Now: unless there are any objections, take a vote on this call?
- All nominee information is posted on the January calendar event page for review

Vote

Decision: I endorse the following six nominees to serve the 2025-26 AgWG at-large member term.

| Name | Affiliation | Membership Category | Alternate (If specified) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Jim Riddell | Virginia Cattlemen's Association | Agribusiness & Industry | Brandon Reeves (Virginia Cattlemen's Association) |
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Alternate Members

Chesapeake Bay Program Agriculture Workgroup Signatory Members

| Signatory | Name | Affiliation | Alternate |
|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Delaware | Clint Gill | Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) | Chris Brosch, Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) |
| District of Columbia | Rosita Musgrove | District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) | Kate Lee, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) |
| Maryland | Elizabeth Hoffman | Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) | |
| New York | Greg Albrecht | NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets | Amanda Barber, New York Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Pennsylvania | Kate Bresaw | Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) | Brady Seeley, Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission |
| Virginia | Seth Mullins | Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VA DCR) | Hunter Landis, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VA DCR) |
| West Virginia | Cindy Shreve | West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) | Matt Monroe, West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) |
| Chesapeake Bay Commission | Marel King | Chesapeake Bay Commission, Pennsylvania Office | |
| United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) | Jeff Sweeney | U.S. EPA/ Chesapeake Bay Program Office | |

Chesapeake Bay Program Agriculture Workgroup At-Large Members

| Name | Affiliation | Membership category | Alternate | Term Started (lasts 2 years) |
|------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------|
| Paul Bredwell | U.S. Poultry & Egg Association | Agribusiness & Industry | Christian Richter, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association | March 2023 |
| R.O. Britt | Smithfield Foods | Agribusiness & Industry | D. Carden | March 2023 |
| Emily Dekar | Upper Susquehanna Coalition | Soil/Water Conservation | | March 2023 |
| Nick Hepfl | Herbert Rowland & Grubic, Inc. | Agribusiness & Industry | | March 2023 |
| Matt Royer | Penn State University | Academic/Extension | Tyler Groh, Penn State University | March 2023 |
| Jim Riddell | Virginia Cattleman Association | Agribusiness & Industry | B. Reeves | March 2023 |
| Jeff Hill | York County Conservation District | Soil/Water Conservation | | March 2024 |
| Zach Evans | Mountaire Farms, Inc. (Poultry) | Agribusiness and Industry | | March 2024 |
| Ken Staver | University of Maryland | Academic/Extension | | March 2024 |
| Jenna Schueler | Chesapeake Bay Foundation | Conservation/ Environmental NGO | | March 2024 |
| David Graybill | Farm Bureau, Dairy Operator | Agribusiness & Industry | | March 2024 |
| Kendrick Flowers | Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) | United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) | | March 2024 |

Bay-101/AgWG Intro

- Interest in an annual CBP and AgWG intro/background session?
 - Held in spring as new members are getting up to speed
 - Valuable for the public? Long-time members?
 - Quick Teams poll

The image shows a presentation slide titled "2014 Bay Agreement". On the left is a table of contents with slide numbers 4 through 8. Slide 4 is "The Bay Program is a partnership", slide 5 is "A brief History of the Bay Program", slide 6 is "A brief History of the Bay Program", slide 7 is "2014 Bay Agreement", and slide 8 is "18 Goals from the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement". The main slide (slide 7) features the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement logo, which includes a stylized bird and water, and the text "CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED AGREEMENT". Below the logo is the year "2014" and the date "10 November, October 5, 2012". To the right of the logo are three bullet points:

- 10 interrelated goals and 31 measurable, time-bound outcomes
- Headwaters jurisdictions established as full signatories
- Increases scientific rigor, accountability, systemic learning through adaptive management (decision framework) and Strategy Review System

Update: DEP Remote Sensing Pilot

Coordinator update

- Upcoming decision item
 - Decisions related to ag BMP verification made at AgWG
 - Introduction → Discussion → Vote
 - Ahead of vote, consider: do you have what you need to make an informed decision?
- Independent review kicked off this week
 - Review from Tetra Tech (staff: Aileen Molloy, Brian Pickard)
 - Final independent review due 4/3 for AgWG consideration ahead of 4/17 meeting
- Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Additional updates from Ashley; presentation from Tom



Questions?





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Advisory Committee Overview



Context for today's discussion

- Continuing high-level overviews of broad topics to help identify areas of interest ahead of prioritization/planning meeting in February

| October | November | December | January | February |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| What is the purpose and role of the AgWG moving forward? | | | | |
| Brainstorm areas of interest, future deliverables | CESR Report | Beyond 2025 | Agriculture Advisory Cmte and other CBP entities | Prioritization of interests, focus areas, at in-person meeting |
| What would you like to see the AgWG accomplish in the next two years? | How should findings presented in the CESR report influence the direction of the AgWG? | How might Beyond 2025 influence the direction of the AgWG? | How do we engage with the AAC, STAC, other workgroups, to best support our purpose and goals? | |

- This month: a closer look at Advisory Committees

What is most relevant to us?

- Top priority: remaining aware of activities related to the Ag Advisory Committee
 - No updates since last meeting
- Three other CBP Advisory Committees: all potentially relevant to our work
 - *Local Government* Advisory Committee (1987)
 - *Scientific & Technical* Advisory Committee (1984)
 - *Stakeholders'* Advisory Committee (1984)
- Existing Advisory Committees have expressed interest in working closely with the AAC, particularly as it is getting started

What is most relevant to us?

- High-level overview of the three ACs
 - *Who* is represented on each AC?
 - *What* does each AC do?
 - Do opportunities for collaboration on shared priorities exist?
 - Representatives from each AC expressed interest in engaging with the AgWG
- As we outline what we want to accomplish as a group:
 - We will be able to identify overlap between our priorities and AAC priorities
 - We can consider opportunities to work with all ACs to more efficiently reach our goals (and assist them in achieving ag-related goals that they may have)

Advisory Committees: background, and what they *all* do

- Three ACs established in 1980s to “provide independent perspectives from critical stakeholder groups and strengthen the natural and social science basis for Bay protection and restoration activities” and act as “the independent thinkers and advisors to the Executive Council (EC), Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC), and Management Board (MB).”

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- Several responsibilities consistent across the three ACs (full list on p.21 of CBP governance document):
 - Make independent **recommendations** to the EC, PSC, and MB [annual report]
 - Participate in EC, PSC, and MB meetings as advisors; provide updates on AC activity
 - Participate in **development and implementation of Management Strategies** developed as part of the Watershed Agreement as appropriate
 - Establish annual **priorities that support CBP strategic priorities** and the progress of the Agreement Goals and Outcomes
 - **Advise the GITs** and the Action Teams as needed

Local Government Advisory Committee

- Purpose: advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement through 1) *sharing the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision-makers* and 2) *enhancing the flow of information among local governments*.

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- **Goals (not an exhaustive list):**
 - Promote ongoing communication and engagement between local govts and CBP
 - Promote local govt implementation of local water quality/quantity initiatives
 - Champion local govt priorities/needs within the CBP and with state, fed partners

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 - Promote ongoing communication and engagement between local govts and CBP
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- **Membership:** 24 members (all gubernatorial/mayoral appointees)
 - Current or formal local elected or appointed officials or members of an organization representing the interests of local government
 - City, county, township representatives on current membership list

Local Government Advisory Committee

Events

- [Local Government Forums](#)

- Annual meetings hosted by LGAC, Alliance for the Chesapeake, NFWF
- Identify issues that limit/strategies that support local implementation of watershed protection initiatives
- Roundtable: Lancaster Clean Water Partners & Campbell Foundation

- Wandering Waterways Tour Series

- Bringing local elected officials to see conservation in practice
- [Wandering Delmarva's Waterways](#) – benefits of BMPs; impacts of saltwater intrusion; value of ag land preservation

Local Government Advisory Committee

Resources

- [Protect Local Waterways Website](#)
 - Bay restoration resources tailored to the communication needs of leaders in local government; Learning Library: [Understanding and Supporting Ag Allies](#)
- [Watershed Currents Newsletter](#)
 - Bimonthly distribution of local case studies and informational resources



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 - Conduct reviews of CBP products
 - Host technical workshops
 - Serve as liaison between the scientific community and CBP

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 - Conduct reviews of CBP products
 - Host technical workshops
 - Serve as liaison between the scientific community and CBP
- **Membership:** 38 members (11 gubernatorial/mayoral appointees; 6 federal scientists appointed by CBP Director; 21 at-large nominated by STAC members) possessing relevant scientific knowledge in needed areas of expertise
 - Substantial academic representation
 - Several STAC members familiar to the AgWG

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

- [Workshops](#) – forum for developing recommendations from scientific/technical community on information needs, opportunities for collaborations, and further management actions.
 - Using carbon to achieve CBW water quality goals and climate resiliency (biochar workshop; 2024)
 - Identifying knowledge gaps to support market-based approaches to CBW restoration (2025)
 - Workshops can be proposed by STAC members or by a CBP partner/group in collaboration with a current STAC member

Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

- [STAC Workshop RFP](#)

- Organized to gather critically needed scientific/technical information related to protection and restoration of CB watershed
- FY25 workshop applications due 2/10; must convene by May 31, 2026
- \$15,000 available for each workshop activities

- Programmatic workshops – outcomes provide Partnership with actionable recommendations assessing where, when, who and how science can be implemented
- State of the Science workshops – gather stakeholders to assess gaps in knowledge and science needs around a specific topic, producing research recommendations and strategies to address gaps



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 - Monitoring progress toward achieving TMDL water quality goals, outcomes in Watershed Agreement; accountability, transparency in restoration process
 - Agricultural challenges and opportunities
 - Impacts of large-scale solar development

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- **Priorities (not an exhaustive list):**
 - Monitoring progress toward achieving TMDL water quality goals, outcomes in Watershed Agreement; accountability, transparency in restoration process
 - Agricultural challenges and opportunities
 - Impacts of large-scale solar development
- **Membership:** 28 members (gubernatorial/mayoral appointees; appointments also made by Board of Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
 - Sample of CB stakeholders, including restoration practitioners, farmers, retired government officials, policy researchers and contractors, environmental justice advocates, community organizers, educators.

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee

- Few members interact directly with CBP workgroups – this may change
- Ag interest is represented on the AC, but it is one of many interests
 - Collective desire among group members to protect working lands and sustainable agriculture within context of accountable progress toward CBP water quality/living resources goals
- Engagement activities not presented online
 - Often informal engagement through members' networks
 - Hosted farmer panel to discuss efficacy of nutrient management plans
 - Hosted large-scale-solar development panel discussing pressures of solar on farmland and agrivoltaics potential



Questions

- Do AgWG participants also attend Advisory Committee meetings?
 - Do you see value in engaging with Advisory Committees?
 - If so, what conversations would you be most interested in having with Advisory Committee representatives?
 - Discussion
- 



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February In-Person Preview



Logistics

- First in-person AgWG meeting in 5 years
- Wednesday, February 19th
 - Dinner: [Foster's on the Point](#) in Hagerstown, MD
 - 6:00-6:30PM arrival
 - Lodging: Best option is Hagerstown ([Hampton Inn](#); [Holiday Inn](#); [Fairfield Inn](#))
 - Frederick, MD, and Martinsburg, WV also have viable lodging options (see email for links)
- Thursday, February 20th
 - Meeting: [UMD Western Maryland Research and Education Center](#) in Keedysville, MD
 - Arrival: ~8:45AM; Meeting time: **9:00AM – 3:00PM**
 - Meals: No breakfast at the center, but we will order lunch in advance
- [RSVP poll](#) – 16 responses, 4 from members
 - Not mandatory, but seeing who will be there is valuable

Purpose

- Establish direction for the AgWG by identifying the value we bring to the partnership
 - What is our niche? What can we contribute?
 - Need to understand this as the Bay Program evolves over the coming year(s)

- Bring the group together, face-to-face
 - More face-time means stronger relationships, which support more productive collaboration

Goals

- Draft AgWG work plan for 2025-26
 - Discuss topics of interest to determine near-term priorities
 - “Map” the actions associated with completing identified priorities; establish timelines, “champions”, potential actions and decisions, etc.
- Determine your “why”?
 - How do you want to spend your time as a member of this group? Why do you participate?
- Review *how we work*
 - Is the way we work now conducive to making progress?
 - Think about future field trips, webinars, in-person meetings



Ahead of the meeting

- Currently developing sessions for the meeting
 - Will call all members for pulse-check in the coming weeks
 - Focus will be on hearing from members/interested parties
 - Preparing materials to review
 - Working with professional facilitator as the agenda is being built
 - Office hours to review what has been discussed during Oct-Jan meetings
 - Review planning document
- 



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New Business, Announcements & Updates





AMT Updates – Tom Butler





Open Discussion



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



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