

Draft Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) Governance

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

January 18, 2018

AgWG Recommended Governance: Member Consensus* (up to 20 members possible)

- Signatory Members from each Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Agreement signatory with the exception of Washington DC [up to 8 signatory members (one each) with an alternate identified]
 - Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)
 - Delaware
 - Maryland
 - New York
 - Pennsylvania
 - West Virginia
 - Virginia
 - US EPA
- At-large Member Categories** [up to 12 members (one or more each) with option to identify alternates]
 - 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)

*Decision-making for the AgWG will primarily be accomplished by consensus-based discussion and voice polling of the full workgroup participants attending an official partnership advertised meeting or conference call. If full participant consensus cannot be achieved after due diligence to resolve the non-consensus opinion(s) (e.g. all parties can live with the decision), the question will be elevated to the recognized workgroup signatory and at-large members for a unanimous or consensus based process (e.g. all parties can live with the decision) that ultimately concludes in the voice or electronic polling of members to determine the will of the group. If, after substantial negotiations, consensus cannot be reached by the signatory and at-large members, the workgroup recognized members will be electronically polled, and the non-consensus decision will be elevated to the next decision-making body (WQGIT) along with a description of the positions of the polled members.

**Criteria for At-Large Membership: In an effort to empower non-signatory partners in the decision-making process, priority for at-large membership will be reserved for non-governmental organizations, quasi-governmental organizations, Federal Agencies, academic institutions, and

other local practitioners that have a role in agricultural water quality improvements. Nominations will be accepted from all AgWG members, advisors, and interested parties, and the selection of the at-large membership will be determined by the signatory AgWG members with consideration to their level of commitment, skills and perspectives (e.g., geographic diversity and expertise).

AgWG Governance Membership Selection

- **Signatory Members:** A request for signatory governance representation will occur when the workgroup identifies that there is a vacant position from any of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Agreement signatories, with the exception of Washington DC. The signatory will be asked to provide a new nominee for the primary and/or alternative governance position, along with an associated brief bio, C.V. or resume.
- **At-large Members:** A request for at-large governance representatives will occur when the workgroup identifies that there is a need for filling vacant primary and/or alternative position(s). Nominations will be accepted from the full partnership, and will be reviewed and selected by the signatory members. When multiple nominees are identified for vacant position(s), the nominee(s) receiving the largest signatory endorsement will be selected to fill the position(s). The workgroup will review the recommended at-large selected candidates for acceptance.

AgWG Leadership Selection

- **Chair and Vice-Chair:** The chair and vice-chair are not required to be designated signatory or at-large members, but can be nominated from across all interested parties of the Agriculture Workgroup and the broader Chesapeake Bay Partnership. The Chair's primary responsibility is to facilitate and moderate monthly meetings of the AgWG, currently four (quarterly) two-day face-to-face meetings that rotate between the states and monthly, two-hour remote (web and phone) based conference calls, with other duties assigned as necessary. As facilitators, Chair and Vice-Chair positions are expected to maintain an un-biased, neutral role within the AgWG, with a focus on consensus-building via active outreach among the entire cross-section of AgWG participants. The Vice-chair supports the role of Chair and leads in the Chair's absence. The Vice-Chair position would typically be intended to step into the chair role following the Chair's tenure (2 years), should professional demands allow. Chair positions fill the role of facilitators and should refrain from having a voice in the decision-making process. Should a current governance member transition into the Chair or Vice-Chair role, someone should be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the transition.

AgWG Governance Member Length of Term

- **Signatory Members:** Signatory governance representatives will serve until replaced by their associated signatory body, or by workgroup request due to extenuating circumstances, such as persistent non-participation in workgroup activities.

- **At-large Members:** At-large governance representatives will serve in their position(s) for a maximum of two-years. At the end of their term, the representative(s) may be re-nominated for consideration in refilling the vacant at-large position(s). In order to prevent the turn-over of all twelve at-large positions with their alternates within one year, the position terms will be staggered so that only one-half of the positions may be eligible for reconsideration annually.

AgWG Leadership Length of Term

- **Chair and Vice Chair:** The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve in their positions for a maximum of two-years. At the end of the Chair's term, the Vice-Chair may step into the Chair's role for the following two-year term, should professional demands allow. The Workgroup would then seek nominations for a new Vice-Chair. Should both positions be vacated simultaneously, nominations will be sought for both positions. In order to maintain the vibrancy and robustness of the Workgroup, maintaining the same person in the Chair position for consecutive terms is strongly discouraged.

AgWG Governance Membership Selection

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- **At-large Members:** A request for at-large governance representatives will occur when the workgroup identifies that there is a need for filling vacant primary and/or alternative position(s). Nominations will be accepted from the full partnership, and will be reviewed and selected by the signatory members. When multiple nominees are identified for vacant position(s), the nominee(s) receiving the largest signatory endorsement will be selected to fill the position(s). The workgroup will review the recommended at-large selected candidates for acceptance.

AgWG Membership Selection Process

- **At-large Members:** Signatory members will be provided a list of nominated candidates for the at-large vacancies, along with associated candidate bio, C.V. or resume. Each signatory member will receive one ballot (for a total of 8 ballots- each jurisdiction, EPA, and CBC) listing all candidates by e-mail. Jurisdictions will be asked to rank the candidates in sequential order by preference on the ballot and return the ballot to the AgWG Coordinator and Staffer for tallying. These rankings will be used as values to create an average score for each candidate across the signatory membership. Those candidates whom receive the highest average scores will be chosen to fill the at-large

vacancies. The Workgroup and selected candidates will be notified of the election results prior to the next Workgroup meeting.

- **Chair and Vice-Chair:** AgWG participants will be provided a list of nominated candidates for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions, along with associated candidate bio, C.V. or resume. All candidates will attend the AgWG meeting designated for elections to present their qualifications, interest and commitment-level to the Workgroup. Following Chair candidate presentations, AgWG participants that are present in-person or over-the-phone will receive one ballot (paper or on-line, as appropriate) listing all Chair candidates. After sufficient time is provided for voting, the Workgroup Coordinator and Staffer will tally the votes and pronounce the candidate with the most votes as the next Chair of the AgWG. Runners-up for the Chair position may request to be added to the pool of candidates for Vice-Chair. Any remaining candidates for Vice-Chair that have not yet spoken will present themselves to the Workgroup and voting will proceed for Vice-Chair, as described above.*

**To be decided by the AgWG for inclusion in the approved Governance document:*

In the event of a tie-vote in selection of the Chair...

Option #1: the Workgroup leadership for said two-year term will consist of a Co-Chair model, with each of the two selected candidates sharing Chair responsibilities. The Vice-Chair position will remain vacant and inactive for the duration of this term. [Note: a precedent was set for this option during the 2014-2015 AgWG leadership cycle]

Option #2: the selection between the two tied candidates will be decided at random by coin-toss (or an alternative process deemed equivalent by participants) facilitated by the Workgroup Coordinator and Staffer. The candidate not favored by the coin-toss will be added to the pool of candidates for Vice-Chair and voting for Vice-Chair will proceed.