

Draft Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) Governance

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

Updated November 20, 2015

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
 - 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 can not 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 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. The determination of which representatives will initially serve one-year terms will be based on the level of signatory endorsement; i.e. those at-large candidates receiving the lowest level of endorsement will be assigned to one-year terms.