



Agriculture Workgroup Prioritization Matrix

Workgroup Charge:

Provide expertise and leadership on development and implementation of policies, programs, and research

Reduce pollutant loads delivered from agricultural lands and animal operations to upstream waters and the Chesapeake Bay

Value

Improving water quality across our shared region while maintaining agriculture's viability and sustainability

Goal

Balance Science & Data Collection / Improved & Increased Implementation

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting and Reporting	Ensuring that Best Management Practices are accurately reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program for credit towards water quality goals.
Implementation	Making Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) a reality
Innovation	Staying abreast of and evaluating new/innovative agricultural conservation practices that mitigate nutrient loss
Data & Modeling	Ensuring that the agricultural sector is represented accurately
CBP Assignments	Addressing tasks and projects assigned by the Partnership

Bold print and green in-fill indicate actions taken since June 2019 OR next steps to be addressed in the immediate future.

Accounting & Reporting	Rationale	Lead(s)	Progress & Next Steps
NRCS BMP Crosswalks	Full-accounting of BMP implementation across watershed via stream-lined reporting	Mark Dubin, Barry Frantz	Sept 2018: Framework presented to AgWG. Next Steps: Developing update for presentation to the AgWG. Planned for Q4, 2019.
Non-cost shared BMP Identification	Accounting for ag BMPs implemented outside of agency funding channels and reporting structures		Next Steps? Innovative solutions may vary by jurisdiction
Resource Improvement (RI) Checklists	Crediting practices that improve water quality, but do not meet NRCS Standards & Specifications	By jurisdictional request	Sept 2018: MD presentation on RI Verification Process Next Steps: Identification of additional practices (by jurisdiction request) & development of appropriate checklists
USDA Data vs State Data	Gaps / Double counting of practices	Mark Dubin, Barry Frantz	March 2019: Jurisdictional perspectives on tracking, reporting, and verification issues presented by M. Monroe Next Steps: Letter of interest from AgWG supporting possible solutions
Accounting for BMPs nearing max credit duration/ end of lifespan	Strategies to manage the verification of BMPs		March 2019: Jurisdictional perspectives on tracking, reporting, and verification issues presented by M. Monroe Next Steps: Letter of interest from AgWG supporting possible solutions
Privacy concerns related to BMP reporting	1619 and other data sharing agreements among partners		Feb 2019: Presentation from D. Hively (USGS) on USDA/USGS data-sharing agreement

			<p>March 2019: Jurisdictional perspectives on tracking, reporting, and verification issues presented by M. Monroe</p> <p>Next Steps: Letter of interest from AgWG supporting possible solutions</p>
Implementation	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Barriers	Overcoming roadblocks to implementation needed to improve water quality		<p>Nov 2018: BMP implementation on leased land in MD by S. Everhart</p> <p>Next Steps: Seek information on initiatives regarding leased land issues in other bay states</p>
Technical & Financial Resources	Approaches to address financial challenges to BMP implementation		<p>Sept 2018: Pay-for-Performance presentation (K. Fisher)</p> <p>Feb 2019: Scenario Optimization Tool for CAST presentation from D. Kaufman</p> <p>Next Steps: Coordination of funding workshop?</p>
Co-Benefits	Recognition and promotion of co-benefits associated with conservation implementation		<p>Oct 2018: M. Johnston discussed soil health as a Phase III WIP Strategy</p> <p>Next Steps: Further exploration of soil health Presentation on STAC Workshop: Toxic Contaminants</p>
Communication: Partner Efforts Across Watershed	Utilizing the Bay watershed-wide workgroup membership as a forum for idea exchange and collaboration.		<p>June 2-day Meeting: Engaging Local Stakeholders in VA in cooperation with NFWF</p> <p>Next Steps: Possible collaboration with other CBP workgroups/committees</p>

Communication: State/District/Private	Using the AgWG as information exchange forum among state, district, and private entities		<p>June 2-day Meeting: Engaging Local Stakeholders in VA in cooperation with NFWF</p> <p>Next Steps: Possible collaboration with other CBP workgroups/committees</p>
Innovation	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Expert Panels	Identifying and quantifying the impact of effective ag BMPs on water quality	Various- in coordination with Loretta Collins & Jeremy Hanson	<p>In-process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropland Irrigation (CBP MB) • Ag Ditch Management • Animal Mortality Management <p>Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Capture & Reuse?
NRCS Interim Standards	New NRCS practices recently adopted		Invite NRCS to update AgWG
State Practices & Resource Improvements	Provide a forum to identify, discuss and evaluate non-NRCS conservation practices		
Current Research	New practices on the horizon		<p>Mar 2019: USGS/NASA Presentation on Landsat Imagery Use</p> <p>Future Topics:</p> <p>NRCS Conservation Innovations Grant Program</p> <p>Land Grant Universities Research</p> <p>Industrial Hemp management and impacts on water quality goals</p> <p>Nutrient Fertility recommendation and measuring residual nitrogen</p> <p>Others???- Feedback from workgroup requested</p>

Data & Modeling	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Artificial Drainage	Understanding water conveyance and ramification on water quality goals	Clint Gill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to Public Drainage Associations Report back Q-2/3, 2019 June 2019 update from Clint Gill
Animal Data	Ensuring accurate representation of animal sectors in the watershed model	Mark Dubin Dairy: Jeremy Daubert, Tim Sexton, Frank Schneider, Dave Graybill Poultry: Paul Bredwell Swine: ?	Dairy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> post-meeting brainstorm call with interested members; PENDING VA initiative (J. Daubert) Poultry/swine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2019 Status Update from Mark Dubin
Fertilizer Data	Improving county-level distribution on fertilizer sales data	Mark Dubin, Tim Sexton, Frank Schneider	June 2019 Status Update from Mark Dubin
Nutrient Fertility Recommendations	Updating nutrient fertility recommendations based on new science and technology in the agronomic sector	Chris Brosch, Dave Graybill	Sept 2019: Presentation from A. Shober (UD) Next Steps: Communicate with Land Grant Universities to gauge interest, needs, feasibility of updating nutrient recommendations;
CBP Assignments	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Soil P Data	Better representation of soil P in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model-per Management Board Sept 21, 2017 recommendations	Frank Coale, Mark Dubin	Sept 2018: Presentation on soil P data informing Phase 6 watershed model from G. Shenk Nov 2018: Progress update from F. Coale regarding existing soil P data and communication with regional & national entities to acquire more data Dec 2018: Progress update to MB by J. Keppler

			Next Steps: Periodic reporting back to AgWG from Frank Coale and Mark Dubin regarding feedback from regional soil labs and associated agricultural partners.
Climate Change / BMP Resiliency	Ensuring that BMP effectiveness values are in sync with changing climate conditions	Chris Brosch	July 2018: Discussion of PSC decision on climate change Next Steps: Sept 2019?: CBP modeling group presentation
Emerging Contaminants		Chris Brosch w/ John Cargill	June 2019: Status update from C. Brosch on STAC Workshop (May 22-23, 2019): <i>Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings.</i> Next Steps: Report back on findings from STAC Workshop by C. Brosch
Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive			Apr 2019-June 2019: On-going discussion Next Steps: Report to MB July 2019