

Chesapeake Bay Program's  
Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)  
Log of Actions and Decisions: 2010– 2025

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## 2025

### December 18, 2025 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the October 2025 meeting minutes.

**Action:** Please send any nominations for the open Vice Chair and at-large member positions for the March 2026 – February 2028 term to Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)) and Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)) by COB, December 30th, 2025.

**Action:** AgWG staff will follow up with Pennsylvania and Maryland offline with regards to the mapping of BMPs to land source groups and agricultural BMPs on solar land uses. The AgWG will seek to finalize a recommendation for the Watershed Technical Workgroup on this mapping at the January 2026 meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG generally indicated no concerns with the methodology proposed for the allocation of feed space acres for Phase 7. If there are additional concerns, AgWG members should coordinate with their respective Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) member, prior to the WTWG vote to finalize this methodology.

**Action:** AgWG staff will work to provide a list of the currently credited BMPs along with the last date they were revisited for credit ahead of a subsequent meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG will work to compile a list of partner-requested ag BMPs to establish creditable BMPs in CAST or revisit/update existing practices ahead of a subsequent meeting.

**Action:** CBPO staff will continue to review options for remotely sensing agricultural BMPs. Recommendations for possible agricultural BMPs that can be remotely sensed will be shared with the AgWG at a subsequent meeting.

#### **November 20, 2025: CANCELED**

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This meeting was canceled.

#### **October 16, 2025 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the September AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Eric Hughes, EPA, will follow-up on a request made by Dave Graybill, AgWG member, to look more closely at whether or not there are land applications of food processing wastes from the poultry industry and/or other types of plants that should be accounted for.

**Action:** The AgWG will receive an overview of the STAC report for the July 2025 STAC Workshop: *Advancing Market-Based Approaches in the Agricultural Sector to Support Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration*, once the report has been finalized.

**Action:** The AgWG is now accepting nominations for a Vice Chair and 6 at-large members for the March 2026 – February 2028 term. Please send all nominations to Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)) and Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)) by COB, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **September 18, 2025 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the August AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG staff will continue to pursue ways to create and improve reference materials and communication tools for tracking 1) ag BMPs available for crediting and 2) ag BMPs currently credited that may be in need of partnership reevaluation.

**Action:** AgWG participants are encouraged to provide feedback on priority practices for credit or reevaluation, methods for tracking credit and BMPs to review, and if the AgWG should consider a standard timeline for review of ag BMPs. Members should consider discussing priorities amongst their jurisdictions/organizations to help inform a larger conversation at a subsequent meeting. Caroline and Eric will solicit input from AgWG members.

**Action:** AgWG participants with comments or feedback on what remote sensing-based verification efforts currently exist in the watershed, the possibility of watershed-wide tracking and verification of BMPs, BMPs of interest for remote sensing, and current resource allocation for verification of practices should reach out to Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)) and Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)). Caroline and Eric will solicit input from AgWG members.

**Action:** Caroline Kleis, AgWG Staffer, will email a call for nominations for at-large membership and Vice Chair to the group in early October. Those who wish to nominate or self-nominate should contact Caroline Kleis (Kleis. [Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Caroline@epa.gov)) and Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)).



## August 21, 2025 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the July AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Caroline Kleis, AgWG Staffer, will post the updated long-term actions and decisions log on the AgWG homepage, capturing actions and decisions from 2010 onward. If there are additional ways that this document can be formatted or updated to make it most useful, please contact Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)).

**Action:** AgWG staff will also work towards creating a historical projects document that highlights key projects of the AgWG throughout time. If there are any specific efforts you would like to see captured in the historical projects document and/or if you have feedback on additional documentation that would be helpful to you, please contact Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)) and Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)).

**Action:** Members present on the call voted to approve the recommendations in the Agroforestry EPEG report. Caroline Kleis, AgWG Staffer, will follow up with members not present to confirm consensus.

**Post Meeting Decision:** “The AgWG approves as proposed the recommendations specified in the Agroforestry EPEG Report.”

**Action:** Eric Hughes, EPA, and Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting/CBPO, will work to develop a user-friendly BMP crosswalk document. Olivia will return to a subsequent AgWG meeting to discuss the updated document.

**Action:** Please provide any additional feedback on the potential format and content of the updated BMP crosswalk to Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)) and Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)) and reach out if you or the organization you represent have priority practices to credit or reevaluate.

**Action:** Jeff Hill and Eric Hughes will discuss next steps for bringing water quality monitoring topics to the workgroup. Any members interested in continuing discussions offline or potentially forming a small group focused on water quality monitoring should reach out to Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)).

## July 17, 2025 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the June AgWG meeting.

**Action:** If you are interested in attending the NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking forum, fill out this [Google form](#). If you have additional questions or feedback, reach out to Kristen Saacke Blunk ([kristen@headwaters-llc.org](mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org)), Kristen Hughes Evans ([kristen@susches.org](mailto:kristen@susches.org)), Natasha Rathlev ([natasha@susches.org](mailto:natasha@susches.org)), and Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)).

**Action:** If you have suggestions of important topics for or people that should be invited to the Bay in the Balance conference, or you are interested in being a sponsor for the event, please contact Matt Royer ([mzr154@psu.edu](mailto:mzr154@psu.edu)) and Marel King ([mking@chesbay.us](mailto:mking@chesbay.us)).

**Action:** The Agriculture Workgroup leadership/staff will work towards scheduling an in person meeting after the Bay in the Balance Conference, in lieu of December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Additional details will be brought to the group once they are available.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup adopts [this document](#) as a planning and agenda building guide through 2026. The document will be posted on the AgWG webpage for members and interested parties to reference as needed.

**Action:** Following the meeting, Caroline Kleis, AgWG staffer, will reach out with an updated link to provide responses to prompting questions related to monitoring presentations. Participants are asked to provide any responses or additional feedback via the link provided.

**Post Meeting Note:** Due to technological difficulties, a Mentimeter survey was created and sent to members and interested parties on 7/17, and the JotBoard was deleted. Those with responses are asked to use the following [Mentimeter link](#).

### **June 12, 2025 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the May AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG members with additional comments, questions, or concerns on the Agroforestry recommendations and path forward, please contact Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)), Katie Brownson ([Katherine.brownson@usda.gov](mailto:Katherine.brownson@usda.gov)), Ruth Cassilly ([rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net)), and Caroline Kleis ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)). The AgWG will be asked to vote on the recommendations at a future meeting.

**Action:** Please reach out to Bill Keeling ([William.keeling@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:William.keeling@deq.virginia.gov)), Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)), and Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.caroline@epa.gov)) with any additional follow-up questions or comments pertaining to the proposed change from VA DEQ on the application of upland buffer credit for Phase 7.

**Action:** Bill Keeling, VA DEQ, will return to a subsequent Watershed Technical Workgroup meeting for a final vote on the proposed change in methodology for buffer upland credit in Phase 7.

**Action:** AgWG members with suggestions or improvements to the planning document, please reach out to Kathy Brasier ([kjb24@psu.edu](mailto:kjb24@psu.edu)), Caitlin Grady ([Caitlin.grady@gwu.edu](mailto:Caitlin.grady@gwu.edu)), Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)), and Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.caroline@epa.gov)).

**Action:** AgWG staff will work to finalize the planning document, incorporating any remaining feedback, and will post the final document once it is available.

**Action:** AgWG members will be asked to look over the final planning document and vote on its approval in July.

### **May 15, 2025 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the April AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG members are asked to discuss the development of an agricultural lands target with their respective expert networks. This topic will return to the AgWG pending input from the Protected Lands Workgroup.

**Action:** Aurelia will share with CBP that the ag land target will not be finalized by August; rather, a baseline will need to be developed. Eric will work with the next coordinator of the Protected Lands Workgroup, to determine appropriate next steps for the AgWG and PLWG.

**Action:** Additional questions or feedback on the protected agricultural lands target can be directed to Daniel Koval ([Kovald@chesapeake.org](mailto:Kovald@chesapeake.org)), Protected Lands Workgroup Staffer.

**Action:** Caroline Kleis, AgWG Staffer, will follow up with a Google Form to members to gather additional input on the objectives outlined in the prioritization document. Members will also be provided with instructions to suggest “actions” under these proposed objectives.

**Action:** Bill Keeling, VA DEQ, will return to the June AgWG meeting to continue discussing a proposed change to the methodology for the application of buffer upland credit for Phase 7.

#### **April 17, 2025 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the March AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG staff followed up via email with members who were unable to attend the meeting to request their vote on the methodology guidance for remote sensing verification of tillage BMPs.

**Decision:** The AgWG approves as proposed the final [methodology guidance](#) for remote sensing verification of tillage BMPs.

**Action:** All are invited to review the following [draft prioritization document](#).

**Action:** AgWG staff followed up with members with instructions and next steps for reviewing the [draft prioritization document](#) and providing feedback.

#### **March 20, 2025 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the February AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG members should review the linked [methodology report](#), outlining the standard that the partnership is asked to meet for remote sensing-based verification of tillage practices. Members are asked to consider if they are in support of the standards that are being proposed, in preparation for a vote next month.

**Action:** Caroline Kleis, CRC, will post all PA DEP/ Resolve Hydro Remote Sensing Project materials to the [April calendar page](#) as soon as possible, and no later than COB April 3rd, in advance of the April AgWG meeting vote.

## February 20, 2025 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the January AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator, will use the successes, challenges, and feedback outlined by the state and ag stakeholder panelists to inform the list of topics of interest for the AgWG to pursue over the next two years. This list will be distributed to the group upon its completion and discussed at a subsequent meeting.

## January 16, 2025 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the December AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG members who have not yet designated an “alternate” representative should email Caroline ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)) with the name and contact information of their alternate.

**Decision:** The AgWG voted to approve the list of nominees for at-large members for the 2025-2026 term. At-Large Members will be confirmed at the February meeting.

**Action:** Caroline and Eric followed up offline to get the approval of the 2025-2026 AgWG nominees from signatory and mid-term at-large members not present on the call.

**Action:** A live poll was opened during the call to determine interest in a Bay 101/AgWG informational session. Given member interest, Caroline and Eric will work to create an introductory presentation designed for AgWG members.

**Action:** Email Ashley Hullinger ([ahullinger@pa.gov](mailto:ahullinger@pa.gov)) and Tom Howard ([thoward@resolvehydro.com](mailto:thoward@resolvehydro.com)) with any additional feedback on the model acceptance criteria and recent work on the PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project.

**Action:** Please fill out this [Google Poll](#) indicating your availability for virtual or in person attendance at the AgWG’s February in-person meeting.

## 2024

### December 19, 2024 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the November AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Please continue filling out the *Beyond 2025: Actions of Interest for the AgWG* [Mentimeter survey](#). Email Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) and Caroline Kleis ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)) with additional feedback on AgWG priorities and potential office hours.

**Action:** Caroline Kleis and Eric Hughes will follow-up with information about the February in-person meeting as soon as it is available. Please contact Eric ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) with specific scheduling concerns.

### November 21, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the minutes from the October AgWG meeting.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the updated governance document language.

**Action:** Email Ashley Hullinger ([ahullinger@pa.gov](mailto:ahullinger@pa.gov)), Scott Heidel ([scheidel@pa.gov](mailto:scheidel@pa.gov)), and Tom Howard ([thoward@resolvehydro.com](mailto:thoward@resolvehydro.com)) with any additional feedback on the selected sampling approach and recent progress on the PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project.

**Action:** Please complete the following Google Form answering the question: What topics covered in the CESR presentation and discussion would you like to see become part of future AgWG meeting agendas? Any additional feedback on the proposed plan for future AgWG meetings, email Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) and Caroline Kleis ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov))

### October 17, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the September AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Continue to fill out the Menti survey questions, including those we did not get to during the meeting. Please send any additional feedback on the proposed plan for future AgWG meetings to Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) and Caroline Kleis ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)).

**Action:** Please read through the call for nominations distributed via email and submit all nominations to Caroline Kleis ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)) and Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)).

### September 19, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the July AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Please reach out to Jimmy ([jwebber@usgs.gov](mailto:jwebber@usgs.gov)), Alex ([asoroka@usgs.gov](mailto:asoroka@usgs.gov)), and John ([jclune@usgs.gov](mailto:jclune@usgs.gov)), with any additional feedback on their efforts on monitoring small ag watersheds.

**Action:** Email Ashley Hullinger ([ahullinger@pa.gov](mailto:ahullinger@pa.gov)), Scott Heidel ([scheidel@pa.gov](mailto:scheidel@pa.gov)), and Tom Howard ([thoward@resolvehydro.com](mailto:thoward@resolvehydro.com)) with any additional feedback, resources, lessons, or suggestions relevant to the PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project.

**Action:** Please send any additional questions, concerns, or insights on the October meeting and/or future in-person meetings to AgWG leadership.

### August 2024: CANCELED

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This meeting was canceled.

### July 18, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the June AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Contact Alisha ([alisha.mulkey@maryland.gov](mailto:alisha.mulkey@maryland.gov)), Caroline ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)), or Eric ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) with questions/comments about the Agricultural Advisory Committee bylaws.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the list of potential agroforestry EPEG members by consensus.

**Action:** Email Ashley Hullinger ([ahullinger@pa.gov](mailto:ahullinger@pa.gov)), Caroline ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)), or Eric ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)), with any additional comments or feedback on the Phase 1 Methodology Development Plan for the PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project.

#### **June 20, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the minutes from the May AgWG call.

**Action:** The Draft Methodology Development Plan for the PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project will be released on July 8th; email Caroline ([kleis.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:kleis.caroline@epa.gov)) and Eric ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) with comments and feedback on the Plan by July 22nd.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the proposed charge of the Agroforestry Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG).

**Action:** Email Ruth ([rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net)) and Eric ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) with names and contact information for nominees to serve on the Agroforestry Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) by July 1st.

#### **May 16, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved of the minutes from the April AgWG call.

**Action:** Please review the draft agroforestry EPEG charge. The AgWG will be asked to approve the draft charge and formation of the EPEG at the June meeting. Please email Ruth Cassilly ([rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net)) and Katie Brownson ([katherine.brownson@usda.gov](mailto:katherine.brownson@usda.gov)) with the following: a) feedback on the draft EPEG charge; b) if you want to volunteer to serve on the EPEG; or c) if you have any information on state implementation of alley cropping and/or silvopasture.

**Action:** Eric Hughes will coordinate with AMT leadership to get the ag industry data topic on future AMT agendas. Members suggested the AMT put together a best practices document or guidelines for the future to clarify what we should be looking for if we want to work with industry partners beyond poultry.

**Action:** Send AgWG leadership ideas for agenda topics for the in-person meeting.

#### **April 18, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the minutes from the March 2024 call.

**Action:** If your organization would like to contact NASS about the decision to not produce annual, county level estimates of cropland and livestock, contact Bryan Combs ([bryan.combs@usda.gov](mailto:bryan.combs@usda.gov)) and USDA-NASS Chief of Staff, LaKeya Jones Smith ([lakeya.jones@usda.gov](mailto:lakeya.jones@usda.gov)).

**Action:** Eric Hughes will send a call for information on agroforestry and the names of agroforestry experts to AgWG members.

**Action:** Eric Hughes and Tom Butler will present on the potential of an Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) at the May 16th AgWG Meeting. This will likely be brought up as a decision item after it has been discussed at the AgWG.

### March 21, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the February 2024 call.

**Action:** For those interested in joining the Chesapeake Agroforestry Network, contact Ruth Cassilly and Katie Brownson ([rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net); [Katherine.brownson@usda.gov](mailto:Katherine.brownson@usda.gov)).

### February 22, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the January 2024 AgWG call.

**Decision (via poll):** The AgWG confirmed a new vice chair (Caitlin Grady, GWU) and six at-large members (Jeff Hill, YCCD; Zach Evans, Mountaire Farms; Ken Staver, UMD; Jenna Schueler, CBF; Dave Graybill, Farm Bureau; Leon Tillman, NRCS).

**Action:** Please fill out the 2024 in-person meeting poll: <https://forms.gle/Eevq1zQfNXXSS7866>.

### January 18, 2024 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the November 2023 AgWG call.

**Action:** Please complete the in-person meeting poll by **COB Friday, February 9th**: <https://forms.gle/Eevq1zQfNXXSS7866>.

**Action:** SIGNATORY + MID-TERM AT-LARGE ONLY: Please complete the following poll indicating approval or rejection of 2024-2025 at-large members and Vice Chair by **COB Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**: <https://forms.gle/WT25XGhhcvUdEb9C7>.

## 2023

### December 2023: CANCELED

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This meeting was canceled.

### November 16, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the October 2023 AgWG call.

**Action:** Call for nominations for at-large members and a vice chair position. Please send nominations via email ([pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov); [hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) by January 18th.

### October 19, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the September 2023 AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the changes to nutrient application eligibility in Phase 6 CAST. This change allows all crop nutrient applications to be both manure and fertilizer eligible if the crop/land use allows it. See [votes and rationale](#) for more information.

### September 21, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [August meeting minutes](#).

**Action:** VOTING MEMBERS (at-large + signatory) - please contact Chris Brosch ([chris.brosch@delaware.gov](mailto:chris.brosch@delaware.gov)), Tom Butler ([butler.thomas01@epa.gov](mailto:butler.thomas01@epa.gov)), and Eric Hughes ([hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)) prior to the October meeting with feedback on his presentation and where you stand in terms of approving the changes to the manure application eligibility file for Phase 6 CAST. We will be seeking a decision on this in October.

### August 17, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [July](#) meeting minutes.

**Action:** Please provide comments on Phase 7 agricultural land use categories to Katie Walker, Peter Claggett, and Mike Evans ([pclagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:pclagget@chesapeakebay.net); [kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org); [mevans@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:mevans@chesapeakeconservancy.org)). They will return to the AgWG in September for additional feedback from the group.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the methodology for PA's non-intrusive verification pilot project. This will be accepted for 2023 Progress and onward.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the methodology for the Virginia Tillage Survey Verification project. This will be accepted for 2023 Progress and onward.

**Action:** Contact Chris Brosch ([Chris.Brosch@delaware.gov](mailto:Chris.Brosch@delaware.gov)) with any questions, comments, or concerns on DE's manure application timing and eligibility presentation. The AgWG will be asked to vote on this in September.

### July 20, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the June meeting.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation from the BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team and Forestry Workgroup to extend the credit duration of RI-9: Forest Nutrient Exclusion Area and RI-10: Forest Buffer on Watercourse from 10 years to 15 years. See post-meeting note from EPA and [summary of votes](#).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Fertilizer Expert Group (FEG) recommendations to address fertilizer concerns in response to PSC Decision #2. Concerns with the recommendations are noted in the [summary of votes](#).

**Action:** Please reach out to Scott Heidel ([scheidel@pa.gov](mailto:scheidel@pa.gov)) and Joshua Glace ([jglace@larsondesigngroup.com](mailto:jglace@larsondesigngroup.com)) if you have any questions or concerns about the [Pennsylvania Verification Pilot Project](#) methodology. We will be asking for approval from the AgWG at the August meeting.

**Action:** Please reach out to Stuart Blankenship ([stuart.blankenship@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:stuart.blankenship@dcr.virginia.gov)) and James Martin ([james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:james.e.martin@dcr.virginia.gov)) if you have any questions or concerns about the [Virginia Verification](#)



[Tillage Survey](#) methodology and [approach](#). We will be asking for approval from the AgWG at the August meeting.

#### **June 15, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the April AgWG call.

**Action:** Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia reps will send Jeff Sweeney ([sweeney.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:sweeney.jeff@epa.gov)) the visual indicators reporting information for RI9 and 10 practices. A formal vote on the extension of the credit durations for these practices will occur at the July AgWG meeting.

#### **May 2023: CANCELED**

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This meeting was canceled.

#### **April 20, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the March AgWG call.

**Decision:** Consensus was not reached on the extension of credit durations of *RI-9: Forest Buffer Exclusion Area on Watercourse* and *RI-10: Forest Buffer on Watercourse* practices from 10 to 15 years through the inclusion of these practices into the Forestry Workgroup's "Proposed Credit Duration for Forestry BMPs" proposal approved by the WQGIT based on the Feb 2023 FWG determination that these practices are functionally equivalent to Narrow Forest Buffers and Riparian Forest Buffers, respectively.

**Action:** More information about an AgWG in-person meeting is forthcoming.

#### **March 16, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the February AgWG call.

**Action:** Reach out to Vanessa Van Note ([vannote.vanessa@epa.gov](mailto:vannote.vanessa@epa.gov)) and Jackie Pickford ([pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov)) with any questions about the extension of credit durations for select Forestry RI Practices. The AgWG will be asked to vote on the extension of credit durations of RI-9 and RI-10 at the April meeting.

**Action:** Please fill out [this poll](#) to gauge group interest for an in-person meeting by COB Thursday, March 30th.

#### **February 16, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the January AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG confirmed the new at-large members for the 2023-2025 term.

**Action:** Please contact Tom Butler ([butler.thomas01@epa.gov](mailto:butler.thomas01@epa.gov)) by COB Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> with suggestions for membership of an Expert Panel Exploratory Group (EPeg) to review crediting estimates for the Soil and Water Conservation Plan BMP and determine if updates need to be made through an Expert Panel.

#### **January 19, 2023 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the November AgWG call.

**Action:** Jackie Pickford, Staffer, will distribute a poll for current voting members to rank at-large nominees for the 2023 - 2025 term to be completed **by COB Monday, Feb 6th**. Confirmation of the new at-large members will occur at the February AgWG meeting.

**Action:** If you want to be involved in the effort to gather Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) data to better quantify for the Dairy Precision Feeding implementation, please contact Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) and Frank Schneider ([fschneider@pa.gov](mailto:fschneider@pa.gov)).

2022

## December 2022: CANCELED

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This meeting was canceled.

## November 17, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the October AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved [the methods](#) used for the Pennsylvania Cover Crop Enhancement Pilot Project for annual verification.

**Action:** Tom Butler and Jeff Sweeney, EPA, will look into whether spring harvest of winter annual crops is being reported as a crop to NASS and influencing how double crop acres are calculated in the watershed model.

**Action:** Jackie Pickford, Staffer, will send out the call for nominations for AgWG at- large members. If [current at-large](#) members with expired terms would like to be renominated, please contact Jackie ([pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov)) and Tom ([butler.thomas01@epa.gov](mailto:butler.thomas01@epa.gov)).

**Action:** Frank Schneider, PA SCC, will follow up with AgWG members who are willing to assist PSU in acquiring a more robust data set of MUN numbers for the Dairy Precision Feeding BMP. Pennsylvania will return to the AgWG at a future meeting for additional discussion and a potential decision on an approved method for verifying the Dairy Precision Feeding BMP through MUN data.

## October 20, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [minutes](#) from the September AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the voting membership of the Phase 7 Ag Modeling Team (via email).

**Action:** Members are encouraged to reach out to Aaron Cook ([amc521@psu.edu](mailto:amc521@psu.edu)), Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) and Ted Tesler ([ttesler@pa.gov](mailto:ttesler@pa.gov)) with questions and/or concerns about the PA Cover Crop Enhancement Pilot Project. Approval of the methods will be sought on the November AgWG call.

**Action:** Contact Kurt Stephenson ([kurts@vt.edu](mailto:kurts@vt.edu)) with any additional questions about his presentation and [recently published article](#).

**Action:** Members are encouraged to attend the [Water Quality GIT Oct 24 call](#) to hear Loretta Collin's presentation on the [2021 STAC Workshop report](#).

## September 15, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the August AgWG call.

**Action:** Reach out to Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)) with any questions about the NFWF Ag Networking Forum and/or Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants for 2023.

**Action:** A survey will be sent out to the AgWG voting membership (signatories + at large) to rank nominations for the Phase 7 Ag Modeling Team. Results will be confirmed at the October AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Reach out to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with any questions or comments on forage/winter cover presentation.

**Action:** Please review the [presentation and options on a path forward](#) concerning the May 2020 proposal for NRCS Soil and Water Conservation Practices. The AgWG will vote on a path forward at a future meeting.

### **August 18, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved of the meeting minutes from the July AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the charge of the Ag Modeling Team via email on August 4th.

**Action:** Please send all nominations for the Ag Modeling Team to Tom Butler ([butler.thomas01@epa.gov](mailto:butler.thomas01@epa.gov)) by COB Thursday, September 15th, including the following information: name of nominee, CV/resume, and conflict of interest form.

**Action:** Please reach out to Peter Claggett ([pclagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:pclagget@chesapeakebay.net)) with any questions or feedback on the LUWG ag-related GIT funding project. Q&A is included in the meeting minutes.

### **July 21, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved June meeting minutes.

**Action:** Loretta Collins, AgWG coordinator, work with partners and USDA-NASS to better understand if Ag Census is reasonably accounting for winter forage (which impact CBP land use assumptions). Expect an update on the August AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG did not reach consensus to approve the calculation method presented by PA for use in estimating commodity cover crop BMP implementation and reporting annual BMP implementation progress, utilizing roadside transect survey data and CAST estimated land use acres for relevant cropland. The request is tabled for July.

**Action:** Loretta Collins will work with partners to compile feedback on the PA request and seek a way forward based on that feedback in order to improve accounting for winter cropping and its benefits to soil and water quality. Update on progress for August AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Reach out to Matt Royer ([mzr154@psu.edu](mailto:mzr154@psu.edu)) and Aaron Cook ([amc521@psu.edu](mailto:amc521@psu.edu)) with further questions on the Cover Crop Enhancement Pilot Study. They are expected to return in August with more detailed information.

**Decision:** The AgWG ran out of time to come to consensus on approving the proposed Phase 7 Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) charge and call for nominations with minor adjustment based on today's discussion.

**Action:** Tom Butler, AMT coordinator, will be making minor updates to the AMT charge language based on today's discussion. For those who indicated specific concerns, please provide those concerns to Tom ([Butler.Thomas01@epa.gov](mailto:Butler.Thomas01@epa.gov)) in writing NO LATER than 5PM on Monday July 25. Modifications will be made to the charge and distributed next week for a 5 business -day review. The AgWG governance body

(signatories + at-large) will be asked to approve the charge via e-mail. Approval by consensus means everyone can live with a decision. Please utilize the consensus continuum to guide your response.

#### **June 16, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the minutes from the May AgWG call.

**Action:** Contact Laura Cattell Noll ([lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org)) if interested in participating in the creation of an agricultural module in A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay.

**Action:** Contact Ted Tesler ([thtesler@pa.gov](mailto:thtesler@pa.gov)) with feedback on PA commodity cover crop tracking and reporting. The AgWG will vote on the method at the July meeting.

**Action:** Tom Butler, EPA, will further define the membership and nomination process for the Phase 7 Agricultural Modeling Team. He will follow up with the AgWG and return at a future AgWG meeting to get approval of the charge and call for nominations.

#### **May 19, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved of the minutes from the April AgWG call.

**Action:** Contact Ted Tesler ([thtesler@pa.gov](mailto:thtesler@pa.gov)) with your questions, comments, or suggestions on PA commodity cover crop tracking and reporting.

**Decision:** The AgWG endorsed the proposed changes to the Phase 6 NEIEN appendix for select NRCS practices identified as mapping to Soil and Water Conservation Plans in the Phase 5 NEIEN appendix. These BMPs would shift from “draft” to “release” status. Final approval of changes in the NEIEN appendix will occur in the Watershed Technical Workgroup.

**Action:** Contact Tom Butler ([butler.thomas01@epa.gov](mailto:butler.thomas01@epa.gov)) with any additional questions or feedback on the Phase 7 ag modeling team. There will be continued discussion at the AgWG about the charge and membership of this group in the following months.

#### **April 21, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved of the minutes from the March AgWG call.

**Action:** Please reach out to Travis Averill ([travis.averill@usda.gov](mailto:travis.averill@usda.gov)) with any additional questions or comments about his presentation on USDA Animal Data Collection.

**Action:** Please reach out to Jordan Baker ([jbaker@hrg-inc.com](mailto:jbaker@hrg-inc.com)) and Katie Walker ([kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:kwalker@chesapeakeconservancy.org)) with any additional questions or comments on their presentation on remote sensing for BMP verification.

**Action:** Tom Butler will return at the May AgWG meeting for review and discussion of a proposed charge for addressing ag modeling in the Phase 7 watershed model.

**Action:** Please fill out the following poll by COB Monday, May 2nd to indicate your availability for an in-person AgWG meeting on Thursday, June 16th: <https://forms.gle/8bvsovJ2wUyRwgV48>. *Note:* there will be a virtual option available.

#### **March 17, 2022 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the minutes from the February AgWG call.

**Action:** Reach out to Sucharith Ravi, UMCES, ([sravi@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:sravi@chesapeakebay.net)) and Ruth Cassilly, UMD, ([rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net)) with any questions regarding the fertilizer data sourcing and preparation.

**Action:** Jurisdictions are asked to reach out to their state chemists to better understand the nature of fertilizer sales data supplied to AAPFCO. This will be a topic of discussion at a future AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Reach out to Lance Honig, USDA-NASS, ([lance.honig@usda.gov](mailto:lance.honig@usda.gov)) with any questions regarding his presentation on methods and intended use of USDA crop data.

**Action:** Reach out to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with any questions for the NASS representatives presenting on animal data at the April 21 AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Reach out to Peter Claggett ([pclaggett@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:pclaggett@chesapeakebay.net)) with any feedback on the value of the high-resolution land use and land cover data to support the Land Use Workgroup's initiative to secure funding through 2030. See summary here: [Land Use/Land Cover Data Recommendation](#)

### **February 17, 2022 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the minutes from the January AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation of a new vice-chair and endorsed six at-large members for the 2022-2023 term.

**Action:** Please submit any questions on the proposed changes to the NEIEN Appendix to Leon Tillman ([leon.tillman@usda.gov](mailto:leon.tillman@usda.gov)). The AgWG will be asked to endorse this proposed change at a future meeting.

**Action:** Please submit all questions and comments about the CAST-21 discussion, ag data inputs, etc. to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)).

**Action:** Please contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with any questions for NASS representatives about ag data sources to be answered at a future AgWG meeting.

### **January 20, 2022 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved of meeting minutes from the November AgWG call.

**Action:** Please contact Dennis Timlin, USDA ([dennis.timlin@usda.gov](mailto:dennis.timlin@usda.gov)), with additional questions or comments regarding the impacts of climate change on agricultural management in the Bay Watershed.

**Action:** Please contact Jeremy Hanson, CRC ([hansonj@chesapeake.org](mailto:hansonj@chesapeake.org)), with additional questions or comments regarding the Chesapeake Bay BMP Climate Synthesis Report. The final report will be published soon.

**Action:** Members are encouraged to review the survey results document and presentation with feedback provided by the AgWG on Hillandale and Partial Credit. Contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with any additional feedback or questions.

**Action:** More information on determining a path forward regarding questions related to animal data (including Hillandale) will be distributed to the AgWG prior to the next monthly meeting (Feb 17th).

**Action:** The BMPVAHAT is expected to seek consensus on the partial credit proposal on Feb 11. Please contact Jackie Pickford ([pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov)) for meeting details.

**Action:** Interested parties please review [NRCS To NEIEN Status Update Proposal](#). Leon Tillman, NRCS, will discuss the proposal on the Feb 17 AgWG meeting.

2021

### **December 16, 2021: CANCELED**

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This meeting was canceled.

### **November 18, 2021 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [October meeting minutes](#).

**Action:** Jackie Pickford, CRC staffer, will distribute additional information about the call for at-large member nominations.

**Action:** Official outcomes of the WQGIT October Phase 7 meeting are pending and will be distributed to the AgWG once finalized. Prioritization of AgWG tasks will occur in the coming months. Timeline and charge to address ag modeling concerns forthcoming.

**Action:** AgWG members will be surveyed via email to provide input on their positions regarding alternative sources of agricultural data and the incorporation of the Hillandale data into future versions of CAST.

**Action:** Jackie Pickford, CRC staffer, will distribute an update on the BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team (BMPVAHAT). AgWG members are encouraged to participate in the [December BMPVAHAT meeting](#) to ask questions and learn more about the topic of partial credit.

### **October 21, 2021 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [meeting minutes](#) from the September AgWG call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [Expert Panel report](#), Estimates of Nutrient Loads from Animal Mortalities and Reductions Associated with Mortality Disposal Methods and Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The next step in approval of the report is the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) where the associated draft Technical Appendix will be reviewed and edits made as necessary before seeking final approval at the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team.

**Action:** Contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with further comments or questions regarding potential AgWG tasks related to CAST-23 or Phase 7. Prioritization of AgWG tasks will occur in the coming months. Timeline and charge to address ag modeling concerns forthcoming.

**Action:** Contact Loretta Collins with further comments regarding the Phase 7 Watershed Model development, particularly related to simplifying nutrient applications (per today's discussion) and other potential priorities that will be discussed on the [Oct 26-26 WQGIT meeting](#).

**Action:** AgWG members are encouraged to reach out to colleagues on WQGIT membership roster to discuss any comments or concerns regarding Phase 7 Watershed Model development related to agriculture before the [Oct 25-26 WQGIT meeting](#). All are welcome to attend the two-day virtual meeting.

**Action:** Reach out to Vanessa Van Note ([Vannote.Vanessa@epa.gov](mailto:Vannote.Vanessa@epa.gov)) with any follow-up feedback/questions regarding the presentation on Incorporating Industry Animal Population Data into the CBP Modeling Tools.

### **September 16, 2021 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [August meeting minutes](#).

**Action:** Jeremy Hanson will work with the CAST modeling team to create a preliminary technical appendix for the Animal Mortality Management Expert Panel Recommendations Report to present to the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) on Oct 7th.

**Action:** Contact Jeremy Hanson ([hanson.jeremy@epa.gov](mailto:hanson.jeremy@epa.gov)) with any further questions regarding the approval process for the Animal Mortality Management Expert Panel Recommendations Report. The AgWG will be asked to approve the report on the Oct 21 AgWG call.

**Action:** Contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with further comments or questions regarding potential AgWG tasks related to CAST-23 or Phase 7. Prioritization of tasks will occur in the coming months. Timeline and charge to address ag modeling concerns forthcoming.

**Action:** Discussion on accommodating Hillandale layer population data will continue on the Oct 21 AgWG call. Reach out to Vanessa Van Note ([vannote.vanessa@epa.gov](mailto:vannote.vanessa@epa.gov)) by Tues, Oct 12th with any questions or concerns you would like addressed on the Oct 21 AgWG call.

**Action:** Review information regarding potential work plan options for the Phase 7 Watershed Model, paying particular attention to finer-scale modeling and simplifying nutrient application calculations. Contact Gary Shenk ([GShenk@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:GShenk@chesapeakebay.net)) and Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)) with further questions regarding their presentations.

**Action:** Contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) with specific comments regarding the Phase 7 Watershed Model development relevant to the WQGIT prioritization by Tues, Oct 19th . Loretta will review submitted comments on the Oct 21 AgWG call and solicit and final thoughts before the WQGIT Oct 25-26 meeting.

**Action:** AgWG members are encouraged to reach out to colleagues on the [WQGIT](#) membership roster to discuss any comments of concerns regarding Phase 7 Watershed Model development related to agriculture before the Oct 25-26 meeting.

### **August 19, 2021 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the July AgWG [meeting minutes](#).

**Action:** Feedback on [Animal Mortality Expert Panel Report](#) is requested by COB Friday, Sep 3rd. Send written feedback to Jeremy Hanson, Panel Coordinator ([jchanson@vt.edu](mailto:jchanson@vt.edu)). Email Jeremy with questions or requests (e.g. if more time is desired to provide comments).

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send feedback to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) regarding Ag Data Concerns and prioritizing needs for the Phase 7 Watershed Model.



**Action:** Contact Vanessa Van Note ([VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov](mailto:VanNote.Vanessa@epa.gov)) with further questions and concerns regarding the incorporation of Hillandale data, and the use of private industry data and/or alternative data sources for CAST-23 and the Phase 7 watershed model.

#### July 15, 2021 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [June AgWG meeting minutes](#).

**Action:** Contact Marel King with further comments and questions regarding CBC's Chesapeake Resilient Farms Initiative. Marel encourages the AgWG membership to reach out to respective agencies to promote the importance of this funding.

**Action:** Reach out to Vanessa Van Note, EPA/CBPO ([GShenk@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:GShenk@chesapeakebay.net)) with any feedback related to the BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team.

**Action:** The AgWG will receive information regarding the next Watershed Technical Workgroup meeting and discussion on CAST Workplan Task 7 (accommodating Hillandale data).

**Action:** Reach out to Gary Shenk, USGS/CBPO ([GShenk@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:GShenk@chesapeakebay.net)) with any feedback on Phase 7 development.

#### June 17, 2021 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [May AgWG Meeting Minutes](#).

**Action:** Dr. Virginia Ishler will work with Jackie Pickford to distribute the MUN fact sheets to the AgWG. Members are encouraged to contact Dr. Ishler ([vishler@gmail.com](mailto:vishler@gmail.com)) if they have any comments, questions, or input on her Dairy Precision Feeding BMP Presentation and research.

**Decision:** CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 6: Consider additions to current methods for “crediting” Nutrient Management on soybeans and propose options. **The AgWG did not achieve consensus to support a change to the Supplemental Nitrogen Nutrient Management BMP on the full-season soybean land use (Rate, Timing, and/or Placement).** Long-term recommendations for the AgWG include a review of ag loading rates, continued efforts to improve accuracy of crop data sources, and improved understanding of real-world soybean management for future incorporation into CAST (watershed model).

#### May 20, 2021 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the [April meeting minutes](#).

**Action:** If interested, the AgWG is encouraged to reach out to Katie Brownson ([katherine.brownson@usda.gov](mailto:katherine.brownson@usda.gov)) for additional information about the STAC Workshop: *Rising Watershed and Bay Watershed Temperatures*.

**Decision:** CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 4: *Investigate use of latest land cover & LiDAR imagery to better define changes in total ag (& other land use) acres.* The AgWG supported the adoption of the proposed land use methodology for determining the change in total agricultural area from 2013 to 2017.

**Decision:** CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 5: *Investigate alternatives to double-crop estimates.* The AgWG approved the continued use of the current double-cropping methodology.



**Pending: (See Below)** Decision CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 6: Consider additions to current methods for “crediting” Nutrient Management on soybeans and propose options. The AgWG was asked to endorse or not endorse application of a non-zero reduction efficiency for the Supplemental Nitrogen Nutrient Management BMP on the full-season soybean load source (rate, timing, and/or placement). Long-term recommendations discussed in the Ad Hoc group include a review of ag loading rates, continued efforts to improved accuracy of crop data sources, and improved understanding of real-world soybean management for future incorporation into CAST (watershed model).

#### **April 15, 2021 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the March meeting minutes.

**Action:** The AgWG and interested parties are asked to review 2017 land use in prototype of CAST-21 with the 2017 land use currently in CAST-19 for the 14 test counties **by May 17**. The 2013-2017 mapped changes in land use are available to inspect on Chesapeake Innovation Center’s (CIC) web application. Directions to access the Draft Land Use Viewer are available [here](#). Corrections can be applied directly in the Viewer. Please send additional questions to Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)). On May 5, the [Land Use Workgroup](#) will be discussing 2013-2017 land use change data, methodology, and the comparison between CAST19 and CAST-21. A decision mapping and forecasting ag acres will be asked for on the May 20th call. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 4**

**Action:** Contact Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)) with further questions related to her presentation on incorporating land use data into CAST **by May 17**. A decision regarding double-cropping methodology will be asked for on the May 20th call. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 5**

**Action:** Please send questions and comments regarding the Supplemental Nitrogen Nutrient Management BMP on full-season soybeans to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) **by May 6**. A decision regarding the Supplemental Nitrogen Nutrient Management BMP on fullseason soybeans will be asked for on the May 20th call. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan Task 6**

#### **March 18, 2021 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved February Meeting Minutes.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved a path forward regarding CAST-21 Workplan Task 2: Investigate alternatives to the current methods for forecasting agricultural land uses and animals and propose options for partnership consideration. The AgWG achieved consensus to continue using the current projection method (Double Exponential Smoothing: Alpha = 0.8). **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 2**

**Action:** Interested parties please review CAST Issues Tracker on the AgWG homepage and communicate comments/feedback to AgWG Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) and Jackie Pickford ([Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov)).

**Action:** Chair Gary Felton will coordinate with Kelly Shenk, EPA, regarding the NRCS-USGS-EPA effort to enhance coordination of federal funding for ag conservation practices and goal of collecting feedback from the ag community.

#### **February 18, 2021 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the January meeting minutes.

**Action:** Interested parties are asked to review the Ag Census Projection Analysis [spreadsheet](#). Please send additional feedback/questions/requests regarding alternate methods of forecasting agricultural data to Sucharith Ravi ([sravi@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:sravi@chesapeakebay.net)) and Jeff Sweeney ([sweeney.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:sweeney.jeff@epa.gov)) by Monday, March 8. A decision on how to forecast ag data will be sought on the March call. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 2**

**Action:** Peter Claggett will notify the AgWG as soon as analysis is available for 14 prototype counties testing a new method for forecasting ag land to 2025 with high-resolution imagery. Please reach out to Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)) with further feedback regarding mapping and forecasting ag acres. A decision for approval of the new methodology will be sought on the March call. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 4**

**Decision:** The AgWG approved Jeremy Daubert, Virginia Tech, as vice-chair and endorsed the selected at-large Governance membership.

### January 21, 2021 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the December meeting minutes.

**Action:** Contact Charlie White ([cmw29@psu.edu](mailto:cmw29@psu.edu)), Penn State with further questions and comments related to his research on cover crops receiving fall manure.

**Action:** Interested parties please reach out to Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)) with further feedback regarding mapping and forecasting ag acres. Peter will be returning to the AgWG in February [amendment: for more discussion] seeking a decision [amendment: in March] on the methods introduced on [October 15](#) and further discussed this month. Peter discussed changes to come in the way the CBP maps agricultural acres through use of high-resolution imagery with examples based on 14 prototype counties, as well as a new method for forecasting ag land to 2025. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 4**

**\*Decision (pending agreement on language):** The AgWG reached consensus regarding CAST-21 Workplan Task 3: Investigate 2012-2017 Ag Census change for fallow/idle acres, recognizing that the 5-year census indicates a significant increase in fallow & idle acres within some counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The AgWG acknowledges that investigation has not provided evidence to indicate that the 2017 Ag Census data is or is not reflective of on-the-ground change, therefore cannot recommend adjustment to CAST-21 model inputs at this time. The AgWG has exhausted its available resources to investigate this issue, but this decision does not preclude interested parties from pursuing further lines of inquiry and bringing information back to the workgroup for review.

**\*ACTION:** Please send objections WITH suggested modifications to the above language to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) and Gary Felton ([gfelton@umd.edu](mailto:gfelton@umd.edu)) by COB Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**REMINDER: (Nov Action)** Interested parties are asked to send additional feedback/questions/requests regarding alternate methods of forecasting agricultural data to Sucharith Ravi ([sravi@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:sravi@chesapeakebay.net)). A decision on how to forecast ag data will be sought in early 2021. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 2**

2020

### December 17, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the November meeting minutes.

**Action:** Contact Ken Staver ([kstaver@umd.edu](mailto:kstaver@umd.edu)) with further questions and comments regarding his discussion on the cover crop BMPs.

**REMINDER:** Interested parties are asked to send additional feedback/questions/requests regarding alternate methods of forecasting agricultural data to Sucharith Ravi ([sravi@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:sravi@chesapeakebay.net)). A decision on how to forecast ag data will be sought in early 2021. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 2**

**REMINDER: (Oct Action)** Interested parties please reach out to Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)) and Jacob Czawlytko ([jczawlytko@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:jczawlytko@chesapeakeconservancy.org)) with further feedback regarding mapping and forecasting ag acres. *Peter will be returning to the AgWG in early 2021 seeking a decision on the methods introduced on [October 15](#).* Jake and Peter discussed changes to come in the way the CBP maps agricultural acres through use of high-resolution imagery with examples based on 14 prototype counties, as well as a new method for forecasting ag land to 2025.

**CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 4**

### November 19, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the October meeting minutes.

**Action:** Interested parties contact Scott Ator ([swator@usgs.gov](mailto:swator@usgs.gov)) with further questions and comments regarding the USGS study on factors affecting N and P trends in non-tidal streams.

**Action:** Interested parties are asked to send additional feedback/questions/requests regarding alternate methods of forecasting agricultural data to Sucharith Ravi ([sravi@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:sravi@chesapeakebay.net)). A decision on how to forecast ag data will be sought in early 2021. **CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 2**

**REMINDER: (Oct Action)** Interested parties please reach out to Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)) and Jacob Czawlytko ([jczawlytko@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:jczawlytko@chesapeakeconservancy.org)) with further feedback regarding mapping and forecasting ag acres. *Peter will be returning to the AgWG in early 2021 seeking a decision on the methods introduced on [October 15](#).* Jake and Peter discussed changes to come in the way the CBP maps agricultural acres through use of high-resolution imagery with examples based on 14 prototype counties, as well as a new method for forecasting ag land to 2025.

**CAST-21 Draft Workplan: Task 4**

### October 15, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the September meeting minutes.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA (primary) and Bill Tharpe, MDA (alternate) signatory representatives for MD.

**Action:** Interested parties please reach out to Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)) with further feedback regarding double cropping calculation methods.

**Action:** Interested parties please reach out to Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)) and Jacob Czawlytko ([jczawlytko@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:jczawlytko@chesapeakeconservancy.org)) with further feedback regarding mapping and

forecasting ag acres. Peter will be returning to the AgWG in early 2021 seeking a decision on the methods introduced today.

**Action:** AgWG members and interested parties are asked to review materials and send feedback to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) and Gary Felton ([gfelton@umd.edu](mailto:gfelton@umd.edu)) with additional feedback regarding today's discussion of CAST concerns by COB Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **September 17, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the July meeting minutes.

**Action:** Interested parties please reach out to Mark Nardi ([mrnardi@usgs.gov](mailto:mrnardi@usgs.gov)) and Diann Prosser ([dprosser@usgs.gov](mailto:dprosser@usgs.gov)), USGS, with additional feedback regarding their presentation on current modeling effort related to avian influenza transmission risk.

**Action:** Interested parties please reach out to Dave Montali ([dave.montali@tetrattech.com](mailto:dave.montali@tetrattech.com)), Tetra Tech, with any insights on the increases related to "summer fallow" and "idle" crop acres indicated in the 2017 Census of Agriculture data reports.

**Action:** The Ad Hoc Cast Concerns group will discuss and prioritize CAST concerns raised in addition to the current "[CAST-21 Workplan](#)" and bring recommendations back to the AgWG.

**Action:** Ken Staver, UMD, will review the partnership-approved recommendations of the [Chesapeake Bay Phase 6.0 Cover Crops Expert Review Panel](#) on an upcoming AgWG conference call, in light of recent concerns raised by NY and PA regarding commodity cover crops and general stakeholder interest in how cover crop BMPs are credited in the watershed model.

**Action:** Several CBP partners are expected to attend fall meetings of the AgWG to discuss CAST-21 Workplan items, beginning in October with Peter Claggett, USGS, and Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting.

### **August 20, 2020: CANCELED**

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This meeting was canceled.

### **July 16, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the June meeting minutes.

**Action:** Loretta Collins will work with the CBP Office to develop a clear and concise "rules of the road" document for the partnership that details the "what, how, and when" of alternative/supplemental" ag data submissions.

**Action:** Loretta Collins will reach out to the state jurisdictional members to curate a list of issues to be addressed related to Phase 6 watershed model data and input issues before release of CAST-21. An ad hoc group will be formed to discuss these issues, seek resolution, and bring recommendations back to the AgWG.

**Action:** Review of concerns expressed by West Virginia related to CAST-19 and crop acre data will be discussed at the next AgWG meeting.

**Action:** Changes over time in modeled nitrogen application by crop type and possible alternative methods to double-cropping methodology will be discussed at a near-future AgWG meeting.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved nominated individuals for membership on the Non-Urban Stream Restoration Expert Panel Establishment Group.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to contact Julie Reichert-Nguyen ([julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov](mailto:julie.reichert-nguyen@noaa.gov)) with further comments and questions regarding her presentation on climate resiliency indicators.

#### **June 18, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the May meeting minutes with minor edits.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to contact Dan Read ([dread@umces.edu](mailto:dread@umces.edu)) and Lisa Wainger ([wainger@umces.edu](mailto:wainger@umces.edu)) with further feedback on their presentation [Collaborating for Effective Agricultural Technical Assistance](#).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the formation of an Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) to address concerns that have arisen regarding non-urban stream restoration tracking, reporting, and crediting.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send nominations for the EPEG to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by **COB Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the language, with discussed modifications, of the “[Memo to the Water Quality GIT Regarding Non-Urban Stream Restoration Best Management Practices](#),” a summary of concerns and proposed next steps.

#### **May 21, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG approved the April meeting minutes.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send feedback to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) on the non-urban stream restoration discussion and the “[Memo Regarding Non-Urban Stream Restoration Best Management Practices](#)” available on the meeting material page by **COB Friday June 5, 2020**. The AgWG will be asked to approve the memo and EPEG formation on its June call.

#### **April 16, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG approved the February meeting minutes.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send feedback regarding next steps on addressing Non-Urban Stream Restoration issues to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by **COB Monday April 27, 2020**.

#### **March 19, 2020 CANCELED**

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This meeting was canceled.

#### **February 20, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG approved January meeting minutes.

**Action:** AgWG members are asked to contact Gary Shenk ([gshenk@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:gshenk@chesapeakebay.net)) with feedback regarding ag modeling inputs past 2025. See presentation.

**Action:** Mark Dubin and Tim Sexton will come back to AgWG at later date with more information on changes in frost date in relation to cover crops based on today's discussion.

**Action:** The AgWG will review the CBP response, when available, to the published STAC Workshop on contaminants of concern in ag settings and provide feedback to Scott Phillips.

**Action:** Provide feedback to Emily Trentacoste ([trentacoste.emily@epa.gov](mailto:trentacoste.emily@epa.gov)) regarding her proposed project to utilize previous and ongoing work identifying geographic locations of interest for meeting other goals and outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Emily will come back to the group at a later date with project updated.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved with full consensus the six at-large members for the 2020-2021 term.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved Gary Felton as Chair of the AgWG for the 2020-2021 term.

**Action:** Email Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) and Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) if interested in joining an ad hoc group charged with clarifying issues related to implementation, tracking, crediting, and verification of stream restoration practices on non-urban lands. A call is scheduled for March 3rd .

### **January 16, 2020 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the December meeting minutes.

**Action:** Email Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) and Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by **Jan 28th** if interested in joining an ad hoc group charged with clarifying issues related to implementation, tracking, crediting, and verification of stream restoration practices on non-urban lands.

## **2019**

### **December 19, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the Nov 21st Conference Call.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation report of the Agricultural Ditch Management Expert Panel. It will move forward to the WTWG and WQGIT for approval.

**Action:** Request that a representative on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup attend upcoming AgWG meeting to discuss the technical memos related to stream restoration.

**Action:** Nominations for AgWG Chair, Vice-Chair, and 6 at-large members are open. Please send nominations to Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) and Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by **January 17th, 2020**.

### **November 21, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**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](mailto: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.

#### **October 17, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from September.

**Action:** Contact Jeff Sweeney ([sweeney.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:sweeney.jeff@epa.gov)) with further questions or data requests on Ag Census 2017: Notable Trends.

**Action:** Loretta Collins will work with CBPO staff to draft a simple reporting template for reporting identified technical assistance gaps in the final Phase III WIPs.

#### **September 19, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from June and July.

**Action:** Loretta Collins will review past meeting minutes from the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee to seek justification for the current N fixation rates for crops associated with the N fixation rate fix for the “other haylage” crop category. Results of this search will be sent out to the AgWG with a request for approval to the proposed adjustment to the N fixation value for the other haylage, silage, and greenchop crop category by **Oct 4th**.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation from the jurisdictional members to revisit the discussion regarding soil amendments in the watershed model in two years.

**Action:** Please review the BMP Expert Panel Report for agricultural ditch management practices and provide feedback to **Jeremy Hanson ([jchanson@vt.edu](mailto:jchanson@vt.edu))** by **Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**Action:** The AgWG will receive notification when the public comment period opens for rules guiding FSA’s CRP/CREP programming. This is expected sometime later in the fall. The AgWG coordinator will seek further guidance on how federal vs. state rules are considered and applied.

#### **August 15, 2019 CANCELED**

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This meeting was canceled.

#### **July 18, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** The AgWG will have one week to further review the June Meeting Minutes. Please provide edits/comments using track changes in the Word document and send to myself ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) by **COB Thursday, July 25**. Final approval will take place via email or at our next AgWG meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG will have two weeks to review the Draft AgWG Response to the [Chesapeake Executive Council Directive in Support of Agricultural Technical Assistance and Conservation Practice Implementation \(attached\)](#). Please provide edits/comments using track changes in the Word document and send to myself ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) and Loretta Collins ([Lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:Lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by **COB Thursday, August 1**. Final approval will take place via email or at our next AgWG meeting.



**Action:** The AgWG jurisdictions will schedule a meeting to informally discuss management of soil amendments in their respective states. They will come back to the AgWG with information to drive a conversation for next steps toward quantification of soil amendments at a future meeting.

#### June 20, 2019 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved meeting minutes from the May meeting.

**Action:** AgWG leadership will update the Ag Directive response document based on conversation and send out to the group for review.

**Action:** The soil amendment discussion will continue at our next AgWG meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG will start a conversation with the WQGIT about a template or system for considering emerging technologies.

**Decision:** The AgWG will table the CREP letter since the re-opening of the CRP/CREP program.

**Action:** The AgWG will write a letter in support of the CAC letter and our interest in playing a role in the solution.

**Action:** The AgWG will invite the Chesapeake Conservancy to an upcoming meeting to provide an overview of the EPA-funded project and what value it can have for the AgWG.

#### May 16, 2019 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** Approval of meeting minutes from the April 18th Conference Call

**Decision:** The AgWG did not reach consensus to approve the recommendation report of the Cropland Irrigation Expert Panel and it will be moved up to the WQGIT.

**Decision:** The AgWG did not reach consensus to make a determination for continuance or removal of the interim BMP efficiency for cropland irrigation and it will be moved up to the WQGIT.

**Action:** Directive Commitment #1: Loretta Collins and Allie Wagner will work towards developing a synthesis of shared agricultural technical assistance needs across the watershed within the June timeframe. Care will be taken to avoid duplicating tasks already set forth in the WQGIT's current work plan.

**Action:** Directive Commitment #2: Loretta Collins will reach out to appropriate contacts to continue the conversation about training technicians in the field.

**Action:** Directive Commitment #3: The AgWG, with the help of Matt Monroe, will draft a letter piggybacking the CAC letter expressing concern and will come back to the group for approval.

**Action:** Directive Commitment #4: Work offline to gain clarification on the FSA announcement regarding CRP/CREP program reenrollment and new enrollment and report back to the AgWG. AgWG leadership will modify the current draft CREP letter to address new information and send out via email for review.

**Action:** Directive Commitment #5: Continue conversation and invite states to talk to the AgWG about what they are currently initiating to provide technical training for the growing job market at the June AgWG meeting.



**Action:** Directive Commitment #6: Draft and seek approval of written responses to tasks delegated to the AgWG by the Management Board at the June AgWG meeting.

#### April 18, 2019 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the March 21st Face-to-Face Meeting.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #1: Potential AgWG contribution of synthesis/ aggregation of common needs across watershed before WIP III finalization for reasonable assurance of implementation.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #2: Send additional comments on the training of TSPs to be considered in conversation with NRCS to Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) or Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) by COB next Thursday, April 25th .

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #2: Continue conversation about training technicians in the field.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #3: May need to initiate conversations at a higher level. This piggybacks on the previous action item to convene a group to discuss tracking, reporting, and verification.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #4: Continue conversation and communication in the AgWG related to state strategies for providing assistance.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #4: Potentially draft and send a letter to FSA from the AgWG encouraging CREP to reopen.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #4: Allie Wagner, Loretta Collins, and Sally Claggett will work together to develop the numerical effect of the CREP halt.

**Action:** Ag Directive Commitment #5: Continue conversation and invite states to talk to the AgWG about what they are currently initiating to provide technical training for the growing job market.

**Action:** The Cropland Irrigation Expert Panel will consider the feedback provided from Delaware. The Panel Report will be brought back to the AgWG during the May 16th conference call where the expert panel will ask for approval of the recommendation report with additional feedback considered.

#### March 21, 2019 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** Approval of meeting minutes from the Feb 21, 2019 Conference Call.

**Decision:** The AgWG endorsed the selected at-large governance membership for the 2019-2020 term.

**Action:** The AgWG accepts the request from DE for further time to provide feedback on the Cropland Irrigation Expert Panel Report by the April 18th AgWG Conference Call. The Expert Panel will ask for approval of the recommendation report on April 18th with additional feedback considered.

**Action:** The AgWG will form a small group to address BMP tracking, reporting, and verification challenges. Please email Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) if you would like to be a part of or spearhead this group by COB Friday, April 5th.

**Action:** Jurisdictions will prepare a brief update on technical assistance from each state in preparation for discussion on the Agricultural Technical Directive at the April 18th conference call.

## February 21, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** Approval of meeting minutes from the Jan 17th Conference Call.

**Action:** Submit names of volunteer representatives from each jurisdiction in the AgWG to attend the STAC workshop to Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) by COB Thursday, February 28.

**Action:** Send suggestions for additional speakers for the STAC workshop on the topics of management practices to control manure and manure spreading and management practices related to row crop and pesticide use to Scott Phillips ([swphilli@usgs.gov](mailto:swphilli@usgs.gov)).

**Action:** Send feedback on the [WIP Data Dashboard](#) to Emily Trentacoste ([Trentacoste.emily@epa.gov](mailto:Trentacoste.emily@epa.gov)).

**Action:** Send feedback on the optimization tool to Danny Kaufman ([dkaufman@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:dkaufman@chesapeakebay.net)).

**Action:** Matt Monroe will follow-up on future meetings among state contacts engaged in tracking and reporting and federal representatives to further discuss possible pathways and alternative solutions to data-sharing challenges impacting both TMDL progress and BMP verification.

## January 17, 2019 ([meeting materials](#))

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\*Please note: while limited Chesapeake Bay Program partnership meetings continued to be held, no partnership decisions could be made by any groups facilitated by the CBP during the partial federal government shutdown due to the absence of EPA and other federal agencies.\*

**Action:** The meeting minutes from the Nov 18th conference call were approved.

**Action:** In light of the retirement of Bobby Long, the AgWG welcomed Jay Marshall, DCR, as the new alternate signatory member for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Action:** Please send At-Large member nominations to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) cc: Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)).

## 2018

### December 20, 2018 CANCELED

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This meeting was canceled.

### November 15, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))

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No meeting minutes were recorded.

### October 18, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Action:** Contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) cc: Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) with further feedback regarding updating nutrient fertility recommendations to reflect new technologies and research.

**Action:** AgWG members and interested parties willing to participate as leads or contributors on prioritization items presented by Chair Jason Keppler should contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) cc: Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)).

**Action:** Reach out to Emily Trentacoste ([trentacoste.emily@epa.gov](mailto:trentacoste.emily@epa.gov)) regarding development of the WIP Dashboard presented.

**Action:** Chis Brosch and Clint Gill will organize a meeting with interested parties from the AgWG to address questions raised by the WTWG regarding the interim BMP for Broiler Mortality Freezers. They will come back to the AgWG with an update next month.

#### **September 20, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the meeting minutes from the Aug 16th Conference Call.

**Action:** AgWG members and interested parties willing to participate as leads or contributors on prioritization items presented by Chair Jason Keppler should contact Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) cc: Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)), Jason Keppler ([jason.keppler@maryland.gov](mailto:jason.keppler@maryland.gov)), and Matt Monroe ([mmonroe@wvda.us](mailto:mmonroe@wvda.us))

**Action:** Send Peter Claggett ([PClagget@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:PClagget@chesapeakebay.net)), USGS, any further feedback or comments regarding his presentation on land-use changes at earliest convenience. Peter is currently working with jurisdictions to finalize land use changes by October 19th.

**Action:** Follow-up by AgWG leadership with Chris Brosch and Amy Shober regarding possible next steps related Nutrient Application Recommendation Updates. AgWG members should send further feedback to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) cc: Jason Keppler ([jason.keppler@maryland.gov](mailto:jason.keppler@maryland.gov)), and Matt Monroe ([mmonroe@wvda.us](mailto:mmonroe@wvda.us)) for further consideration in October.

#### **August 16, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG meeting minutes from the July 19th Face-to-Face Meeting were approved.

**Action:** The AgWG would like updates on the progress of Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive and the Farm Bill at future meetings.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send any specific comments on the updated CBPO Draft Data Input Deadlines as soon as possible to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) or Lucinda Power ([power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Animal Mortality Management Expert Panel Statement of Work and membership to move forward.

#### **July 19, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the CBPO recommended interim BMP definition and effectiveness value for saturated buffers in tile-drained agricultural ditches for future planning purposes only.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the CBPO updated interim BMP effectiveness value for broiler freezer mortality for future planning purposes only.

**Action:** The AgWG will revisit climate change BMP resiliency in 6 months, and will work with the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup to stay up to date on research and science informing climate change impacts.

**Action:** Loretta Collins and CBPO will work with Andrew Sommerlot to identify known information and data gaps in soil P, and report back to the AgWG in August or September.

**Action:** Frank Coale will report back to the AgWG on the status of the soil labs working group in fall 2018.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved a short-term timeline for addressing items #1 and #2 of the CBP Management Board's Recommended Path Forward for incorporating soil P in the Phase 6 model.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved language for the Value and Goal of the Workgroup moving forward through the 2018-2019 leadership term.

#### June 20-21, 2018 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the May 2018 meeting minutes.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the nominations Chris Brosch and John Cargill to represent the Agriculture Workgroup on the Steering Committee of the upcoming STAC Workshop: Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings.

**Action:** Loretta Collins will come back to the AgWG with more information about climate change from the CBPO PSC decision mentioned.

**Action:** The AgWG will address the CBP Management Board's [INCORPORATING SOIL PHOSPHORUS IN THE PHASE 6 MODEL](#) Recommended Path Forward as a follow-up item on the AgWG July 19th Conference Call.

#### May 17, 2018 (meeting materials)

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**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send comments and feedback to Scott Phillips ([swphilli@usgs.gov](mailto:swphilli@usgs.gov)) regarding the upcoming STAC Workshop "Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural settings."

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send nominations for the STAC Workshop Steering Committee to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) and Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) by June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send suggestions and comments regarding proposed data collection and projects to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) and Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) [cc: Mark Dubin ([mdubin06@umd.edu](mailto:mdubin06@umd.edu))] by June 13th for consideration during the prioritization discussion at the June 20-21 Face-to-Face Meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG is asked to send any additional suggestions and comments for the upcoming prioritization discussion at the June 20-21 Face-to-Face Meeting to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) and Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) by June 13th for consideration during the prioritization discussion.

#### April 19, 2018 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the draft March Meeting Minutes.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the nomination of Kelly O'Neill, CBF, as the alternate for At-Large AgWG member Bill Chain (CBF).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the CBPO recommended interim BMP definition and effectiveness value for denitrifying bioreactors in tile-drained agricultural ditches for future planning purposes only, with

changes to the title of the document for clarification. The title of the document will change to “Interim BMP: Denitrifying Ditch Bioreactors”.

**Action:** The AgWG coordinator will work offline to ensure that timelines for providing fertilizer sales data and data input deadlines are consistent among projects.

**Action:** AgWG members should submit ideas for projects, topics and discussion at the June AgWG face to-Face meeting to Loretta Collins and prior to the May 19th AgWG conference call.

**Action:** Information about the June Face-to-Face meeting will be distributed to the AgWG membership as it becomes available. Currently, the meeting is proposed to be held over June 20 – 21 at the Lancaster County Soil Conservation Office in PA.

**Action:** If any information presented for connections between loads and trends is inconsistent with knowledge of AgWG membership, please contact Jeni Keisman via email ([jkeisman@usgs.gov](mailto:jkeisman@usgs.gov)). AgWG members are also encouraged to contact Jeni Keisman with any citable materials for additional agricultural practice information.

### **March 15, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the updated signatory representatives for MD and WV, and approved Denise Coleman to serve as the alternate representative to Barry Frantz (USDA NRCS).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the revised AgWG Governance Protocol document.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendations report drafted by the Expert Panel Establishment Group regarding livestock and mortality management practices.

**Action:** The AgWG should review the draft interim BMP representation for denitrifying ditch bioreactors and provide any feedback to Loretta Collins. A recommendation on the draft interim BMP will be requested during the April workgroup meeting.

**Action:** CBP staff will work with jurisdictional partners in order to document and address comments relating to the draft producer survey recommendations report. The report will be brought back before the workgroup for additional discussion during the April meeting.

### **February 15, 2018 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** CBP Staff will follow-up with Modeling Team members to explore options for modifying the interim BMP practices in CAST for irrigation and ditch management. This will be an item on the March AgWG agenda.

**Action:** Chris Brosch and Jason Keppler will coordinate with CBP Modeling Staff in order to understand how the ditch and irrigation management interim practices are handled in CAST.

**Action:** During the March AgWG meeting, the expert panel chairs will provide updates on any progress made towards developing an interim BMP representation in Phase 6 CAST.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the revised AgWG Governance Protocol document.

**Action:** Comments on the draft report should be sent to Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) or Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation report of the Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panel Establishment Group regarding agricultural stormwater management practices.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendation of Jason Keppler (MDA) as the new Workgroup Chair and Matt Monroe (WVDEP) as the new Vice-Chair, endorsed the selected At-Large Governance Membership, and confirmed Chris Sigmund as the alternate member for Peter Hughes.

#### January 18, 2018 (meeting materials)

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**Action:** The AgWG coordinator will edit the draft governance protocols to include a third option for voting in the event of a tie, and will re-post for review prior to the February workgroup meeting.

**Action:** Nominations for at-large, chair, and vice-chair positions are due to Loretta Collins and Lindsey Gordon by COB Friday January 19th.

**Action:** The AgWG coordinator will work to draft up potential recommendations to include that address the potential issue of lack of participation by at-large members.

## 2017

#### November 16, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommended nominations for the Nursery Capture and Reuse EPEG.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting in February, and to continue holding their monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

#### October 19, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommended NEIEN representation of the interim BMP for Agricultural Stormwater Management at a 1 inch stormwater treatment curve standard.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the CBPO recommended interim BMP definitions and effectiveness values for nursery capture and reuse practices for future planning purposes only.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommended nominations for the animal mortality management EPEG.

#### September 20, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the EPEG's initial recommendation for enabling the group to focus on the development of a report specifically for agricultural stormwater management practices associated with agricultural livestock production areas. The AgWG agreed to separately convene an EPEG for nursery capture and reuse management practices associated with nursery production acreages.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the CBPO recommended interim BMP definitions and effectiveness values for agricultural stormwater practices for future planning purposes only.

**Action:** The AgWG will work to develop an interim BMP reporting mechanism for tracking nursery capture and reuse practices in Phase 6.

**Action:** AgWG members should submit comments on the BMP verification standards for producer surveys draft report to Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) by the end of October.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved a proposal to temporarily place the AMS on hiatus, but retain a placeholder structure for the subcommittee for reactivation by the Workgroup for future Phase 6 model updates.

#### August 24, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the AMS recommendations for crop removal, including a disclaimer in the documentation noting that if states have more specific data on crop removal, that they would be able to submit that in place of these general recommendations during milestone periods.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved AMS recommendations with regard to modifications to reporting the stream exclusion BMP.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the AMS recommendation to change soil P uncertainty (standard deviation) from 25 to 50 for West Virginia's AgriAnalysis samples in Berkeley County.

**Action:** The AgWG will inform the WQGIT that the workgroup considered potential alternatives for the applicability of APLE and soil P data, and after considering these alternatives did not reach consensus on a resolution.

**Decision:** The AgWG accepted the E3 scenario changes as presented for cover crops, with the modification that commodity crops will have a normal planting date. All other proposed changes were accepted as presented, and the AgWG will move forward with these recommendations to the WQGIT during their 8/28/17 meeting.

**Decision:** The AgWG will hold a one-day meeting on Wednesday, September 20th in Keedysville MD.

#### August 17, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the nominations for the Agricultural Stormwater and Nursery Capture and Reuse Management EPEG.

**Action:** The AgWG approved a motion to impanel a group to determine how to interpret soil P data on different land uses in order to help achieve consensus at the WQGIT by 8/28/17.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to move forward with not changing the methods to lower soil P values on crops not receiving manure.

**Decision:** The AgWG did not reach consensus to modify their original recommendation of using 25 years to define the time-scale for future P scenarios in Phase 6.

**Action:** Jurisdictions should submit proposed modifications to cover crops and manure incorporation/injection BMPs in the Phase 6 E3 scenario for agriculture to Jeff Sweeney and Mark Dubin, CC Loretta Collins by noon Tuesday August 22nd .

#### August 3, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Action:** Jim Cropper will send the CBP Modeling Team the paper published by Dr. Pete Vadas on the updates potentially being made to the APLE model.

**Decision:** The AgWG made a strong recommendation to the CBP Partnership that conducting an uncertainty analysis of the Bay Model should be a high priority moving forward during the Mid-Point



Assessment and Phase III WIP development process. Conducting an uncertainty analysis will exemplify the CBP strategy of adaptive management and stakeholder engagement.

**Decision:** The AgWG requests the WQGIT determine whether the issue of inequity in how soil-test phosphorus is dealt with as an input between the urban and agricultural sectors, is a fatal flaw under the Partnership-approved definition.

**Decision:** The AgWG recommended that the Partnership explore methods to resolve the sector inequity issue for soil-test phosphorus inputs.

#### **July 20, 2017 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG preliminarily approved the revised draft Phase 6 E3 and No Action scenarios, including specific recommendations for the temporary non-inclusion (implementation level set at 0%- to be re-visited before a final E3 draft approval) of the manure injection BMP, additional information to be incorporated regarding applicable land uses for the manure incorporation BMP, setting tree planting implementation to 1%, and setting the maximum implementation for agricultural land conversion (forest buffers on cropland within 30 m of all streams, wetland restoration, land retirement to ag open space & to pasture, and tree planting) to 15%.

#### **June 28, 2017 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision/Action:** The AgWG approved the formation of an EPEG for a mortality management BMP panel and will seek nominations for EPEG members. Nominations for members should be submitted to Lindsey Gordon and Loretta Collins.

**Action:** All input and comments on the draft report should be submitted to Olivia Devereux ([olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com)) by July 12th.

**Decision/Action:** The AgWG will establish a new EPEG to explore preliminary questions in establishing an expert panel that would examine crediting options for agricultural stormwater and tailwater management practices. Nominations for members should be submitted to Lindsey Gordon and Loretta Collins.

**Action:** Agriculture Workgroup members should submit additional comments on the Phase 6 model to Matt Johnston, CC'ing Gary Shenk as soon as possible.

**Action:** The AgWG agreed to hold an open meeting to continue discussions of the review of the Phase 6 model. This meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 3rd from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at the CBP Offices in Annapolis, MD.

#### **May 31, 2017 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG made a recommendation to the WQGIT to move forward with implementing a 25-year time frame for P simulation in the initial Phase 6 scenarios. During the summer of 2017, other timeframes of 1, 10, 50, and 100 years will be tested, and this decision will be revisited during fall of 2017.

#### **May 18, 2017 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** CBP Staff will create a catalogue of AMS/AgWG decisions related to the development of the Phase 6 model.



**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to recommend that jurisdictions review and provide revised animal population distribution percentages by county (inside/outside Bay Watershed and permitted/non-permitted) to Matt Johnston by no later than July 15, 2017.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to move forward with collecting industry data over the next 12-16 months, per the two proposals on swine and poultry population data.

#### **April 20, 2017 (meeting materials)**

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**Action:** Staff will distribute information pertaining to the CBFN survey to the AgWG.

#### **March 16, 2017 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG made a formal recommendation to establish statistical confidence standards for uniformly evaluating agricultural BMPs obtained through new alternative BMP verification methodologies using transect survey methods, as outlined in the [Tetra Tech report](#). The AgWG recommendation includes continued approval of existing transect survey programs in Delaware and Pennsylvania, and, provided there is funding for additional resources, an examination of existing transect programs in Pennsylvania and Delaware in order to determine how they align with the recommendations of the report.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the AMS recommendation to simulate soil P history by using a mass balance modeling approach combining APLE and soil test data. This decision was made with Pennsylvania abstaining.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the recommendations of the AMS to use Dave Lightle's revised RUSLE2 Cfactor management scenarios in the draft final version of the Phase 6 model. This decision was made with Pennsylvania abstaining from voting.

**Decision:** The AgWG confirmed Ted Tesler to serve as a jurisdictional member of the AMS.

#### **February 16, 2017 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG confirmed the new at-large membership that will serve 2-year terms, and confirmed Rick Hissong as the alternate member for Marilyn Hershey.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to table the recommendations on representing TP in the nutrient trends for swine data until the March workgroup meeting.

**Decision:** The AgWG made a recommendation to not set a floor for loading rates from land uses, such that loading rates from land uses can go below the forest land use loading rate.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to hold a 1-day face-to-face quarterly meeting on March 16 at the CBP Offices in Annapolis, MD. The agenda and materials will be distributed and posted as soon as they are available. The AgWG also agreed to hold a tentative 2-day face-to-face meeting in April.

#### **January 26, 2017 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the following proposed methodology for setting statistical confidence standards for BMPs submitted through alternative verification methods: use of a two-step process, wherein the first step requires a sample size greater than or equal to 20, a False Hit Rate (FAR) threshold of 0.2 or below (upper 90% confidence limit value), and a Hit Rate (HR) threshold of 0.7 or greater

(lower 90% confidence limit value). If the previous conditions are met, the second step of this process would correct for bias in the BMP quantity by using the ratio of Post-Agreement Rate (PAG)/Hit Rate (HR) (lower 90% confidence limit value). This recommendation will remain in place until modified by the AgWG at a future time based upon additional data to help inform these recommendations.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved representing the Cover Crops Panel Appendix A with the full suite of available cover crop practices.

**Decision:** The WTWG approved representing the Cover Crops Panel Appendix A with the full suite of available cover crop practices.

**Decision:** The AgWG made a formal recommendation to the WQGIT for no additional delineation or reporting for non-federal or federal agricultural land other than what's being reported by states currently, with clear messaging that federal agricultural practices are being reported and upheld in the Bay Model.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to close out the work of the Phase 6 Cover Crops Panel.

### January 19, 2017 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG and WTWG agreed to postpone making a recommendation on the technical appendix of the Cover Crops panel until their meeting on Thursday January 26th .

**Action:** The CBP Modeling Team will provide additional, detailed information on the cover crops efficiency values to the workgroup. This information will be distributed via email and posted online with the full, final Cover Crops Panel report.

**Decision:** The AgWG officially closed out the work of the following completed Phase 6 BMP Expert Panels: Conservation Tillage, Manure Incorporation and Injection, and Animal Waste Management Systems.

**Action:** The AgWG Chair, Co-Chair, Coordinator, and staffer will meet with the leadership of the WQGIT in order to coordinate and address issues related to Phase 6 and the Mid-Point Assessment that have the potential to affect both groups. If AgWG members have specific issues or questions they would like addressed, they should contact Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)).

**Action:** The AgWG staff will work to develop a tentative timeline for holding a working session with farm groups, integrators, and producers on topics related to the Mid-Point Assessment, TMDL, and BMP verification.

## 2016

### December 19, 2016 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the proposed amendment to the Manure Incorporation/Injection panel report that would shift the reduction credit from 0% to 12% for P loss reduction in high disturbance incorporation in upland areas.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Swine Manure Characterization Pilot Project final report.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Layer Characterization project's findings and data for updating the layer manure nutrient generation data previously developed as part of the AgWG approved Poultry Litter Subcommittee report for the representation of layer manure nutrient generation in Phase 6 modeling tools by December, 2016.

**Action:** During the January meeting, Matt Johnston will present the proposed table of simplified efficiency values for the Cover Crops BMP reporting in NEIEN.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Cover Crops expert panel report

#### **December 15, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to officially close the work of the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Panel.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Turkey Characterization Pilot Project report.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Manure Incorporation/Injection panel report as-presented, with the understanding that the AgWG requests to re-evaluate the interaction of this BMP with other BMPs after Phase 6 model runs, and that the AgWG is still open to considering additional addendum proposals after the approval as-written.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved a motion to charge the Manure Incorporation/Injection expert panel to re-evaluate the proposal put forward by NY relating to immediate high disturbance incorporation for P, and to use best available science and professional judgement to determine a resolution.

**Decision:** The WTWG approved the Manure Incorporation/Injection Panel's report and Appendix A pending revisions to land use eligibility for the practices and an explanation of how the BMPs are combined.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Conservation Tillage Panel report as-written.

**Decision:** The WTWG approved the Conservation Tillage Panel report Appendix A, as-written, with edits to be made on which BMPs can and cannot be combined.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Animal Waste Management Systems report.

**Decision:** The WTWG approved the Animal Waste Management Systems report Appendix A.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Pennsylvania Conservation Survey methodology for use in reporting and crediting verified practices in the model. Ag conservation practices that have been proven to be statistically defensible will be reported as RIs with the RI designated lifespans.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved of the PA NRCS remote sensing methodology as a proof of concept and tasks the AgWG with defining the minimum observation level and the acceptable levels of the metrics provided in the Tetra tech evaluation report (CSI, HR, FAR), as well as any other statistical metrics, for use in future reporting to the Bay Program. The AgWG also recommends this methodology align itself with a CBP verification protocol.

### November 21, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the AMS draft responses to comments on the STAC Review of Nutrient Inputs to Phase 6 Scenario Builder.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved AMS recommended changes to Scenario Builder, including: the proposed ammonium/nitrate split for fertilizer, the proposed weighting factors for forecasting, and the delivery of nutrients from riparian pasture. The AgWG also requested the AMS examine the sources informing the values for delivery of nutrients from riparian pasture.

**Action:** The AMS will hold a conference call in early December to review the Phase 6 model input data hosted on the Mid-Point Assessment Tableau site. Participation from interested parties and jurisdictions is encouraged. Contact Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)) if you would like to participate.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the BMP verification methodology used in Delaware and Pennsylvania's Cover Crop Transect Survey Pilot Projects for Cover Crop BMP annual progress reporting.

### October 20, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Expert Panel draft final report as-written on 10/18/16, with the addition of reduction factors for N and P estimated manure analysis, and the option to update these reduction factors with the availability of new data and science.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to hold their November meeting on Monday, November 21st as a face-to-face meeting at the USGS Offices in Baltimore, MD.

### October 5, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the proposed Phase 6 E3 Scenario.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the use of the Conservation Tillage Panel's preliminary draft efficiency values for incorporation in the Beta 4 version of the Phase 6 model.

### September 22, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Action:** The AgWG agreed to revise EPA's proposed language to clarify that the 2019 deadline is for 2019 Progress.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the draft language proposed by EPA, to be included as an appendix in the Nutrient Management BMP Expert Panel Report, and to be presented and approved by the WQGIT to modify the BMP verification framework within the context of Nutrient Management.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved using the Manure Incorporation/Injection Panel's placeholder efficiency values where available in the Beta 4 version of the Phase 6 model.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to move forward with Option 1 for projecting fertilizer sales based on application credit, for use in the Beta 4 version of the model. This approval includes the condition that the AgWG will be able to review the Beta 4 outputs of the model when they are available, and will reconsider whether changes need to be made during the Fatal Flaw review.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the AMS's proposed methodology for modeling manure transport in the Beta 4 version of the model, where transported manure TN would have a 60% replacement rate with inorganic TN, and transported P would not be replaced.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the Biosolids Task Force's request to apply biosolids first in the Beta 4 model to ensure they are applied to the correct crops, and are not influenced by manure.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to implement the Animal Waste Management Systems Panel's preliminary recoverability factors for use in the Beta 4 version of the model.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the Animal Waste Management System's preliminary panel report.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to hold an interim conference call during the first week of October to review and finalize the Phase 6 E3 Scenarios. Lindsey Gordon will distribute a poll via email to AgWG members and interested parties to find an appropriate time.

**Action:** Lindsey Gordon and Mark Dubin, along with the AgWG chairs, will work to develop a schedule of meetings for the AgWG over the next few months, and will present this back to the AgWG in October.

#### **September 15, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to hold an all-day face-to-face meeting at the Bay Program Offices in Annapolis, MD in lieu of their regularly scheduled conference call on October 20th.

#### **September 7, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** The Bay watershed jurisdictions will workshop together to discuss reporting Phase 6 Nutrient Management before September 30, and begin crosswalking the Phase 5.3.2 reporting structure with the proposed Phase 6 structure of Nutrient Management.

**Action:** AgWG members and interested parties should submit comments on EPA's [proposed draft language](#) to be included as an appendix in the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Report to Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) or Lindsey Gordon ([gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG endorsed the recommended changes to nutrient spread curves, size of other cattle, yield goal multipliers, ammonia volatilization values, and double cropping methodology to Scenario Builder as presented by the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee.

**Action:** The AMS will work towards a recommendation for crediting nutrient management and manure transport in future scenarios.

**Action:** MDA named Alisha Mulkey as the new alternate to replace Rachel Rhodes, to represent MD during Agriculture Workgroup meetings for instances in which the primary representative is unavailable

#### **August 24, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **August 22, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No meeting minutes were recorded.

## July 20, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the Manure Treatment Technologies Panel Report recommendations for submission to the WTWG, with the understanding that the policy group process and the Modeling Workgroup decision will clarify the panel's recommendations in the context of the overall Phase 6 Modeling Suite and for water quality trading programs, but that the outcome of the policy group and the decision of the Modeling Workgroup do not change the panel's technical assessment of the total N and P that leaves the 'black box', and remains available for field application or transport in the modeling tools.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the Cover Crops BMP Expert Panel's preliminary report.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to hold their upcoming meetings on Wednesday, August 24th, Wednesday, September 7th, and Thursday September 22nd. By Thursday, September 22nd, the AgWG expects to have the 5 priority panel reports to approve for inclusion in the Phase 6 model. The September 15th meeting date will be held tentatively in case a conference call is needed.

**Action:** The AgWG should provide comments to the AMS on the Beta 3 documentation in advance of Friday August 19th to prepare for the AgWG August 23rd meeting. Comments should be sent to Matt Johnston ([mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net)) and Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus on making a formal recommendation to use the Beta 3a(1) approach to represent nutrient spread for N and P in the Beta 4 version of the Phase 6 model.

**Action:** The Nutrient Management Panel will work on developing explanatory materials that may be used to help communicate the panel recommendations to stakeholders.

**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to move forward with PA Agricultural Remote Sensing Pilot Project's data collected for the Potomac River Basin. EPA will provide statistical support to examine the validity of the methodology and verification of a subset of the project data. EPA will also provide additional technical 2 support to PA DEP to analyze data in terms of how it will be submitted for historical calibration in the Phase 6 model. The statistical workup and historical dataset will be presented back to the AgWG during the September meeting, where the AgWG will decide whether to approve the methodology for input into the model.

**Action:** Interested AgWG members should contact Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)) and Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) if they would like to volunteer to serve on the ad hoc committee to review the Phase 6 E3 scenarios in preparation for AgWG review and approval.

## July 14, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the motion put forth by Bill Angstadt to approve PA DEP's proposal for verification as an alternative acceptance mechanism, with the understanding that in October 2016, the AgWG will be able to review their statistical methodologies used in the final process, and consider appropriate modifications to the BMP verification guidance document if requested and determined necessary

## June 16, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Action:** AgWG members should send Dr. Shawn Hawkins ([shawkins@utk.edu](mailto:shawkins@utk.edu)), Jeremy Hanson ([jchanson@vt.edu](mailto:jchanson@vt.edu)), and/or Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) any comments or questions on the AWMS preliminary report as early on as possible.

**Action:** Matt Johnston will pull crop removal values from Meisinger and Randall 1991 to include in the revised AMS Crop Removal Table for Beta 3, and will work offline with members of the AMS to finalize these values.

**Action:** Mark Dubin and Lindsey Gordon will work with Pennsylvania Representatives and the AgWG in order to schedule a conference call in mid-July dedicated to making a workgroup recommendation on the Pennsylvania farm self-assessment project.

**Action:** Mark Dubin will convey the AgWG's formal request that the Management Board consider the expertise within the relevant Source Sector Workgroup when allowing that workgroup to have a significant role in the development of a policy panel to resolve policy issues related to BMP expert panels.

## May 19, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Action:** The AgWG will have the opportunity to review Lewis Linker's research paper on Nitrogen air emissions for manure treatment technologies.

**Action:** The AgWG requests the CBP Modeling Team to run scenarios on manure that is treated versus not treated, comparing the net balance of Nitrogen.

**Action:** The chair of the AgWG and WQGIT will discuss trading issues related to BMP expert panels, and whether the decision on how states will use BMPs (specifically manure treatment technologies) in state trading programs will be made through the CBP partnership, or on a state level.

**Action:** The Management Board will develop process document on how policy issues will be discussed and handled by the partnership, and where this process will intersect with other groups.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the proposed panel membership of the Cropland Irrigation Panel, with Tim Sexton as the Chair, Matt Johnston as the Modeling Team Representative, and a Watershed Technical Workgroup Representative to be selected by the Watershed Technical Workgroup.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve allowing the Modeling Team to test out biosolids reporting data in the July calibration using the proposed percentages from the Biosolids Task Force.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the proposal laid out by the AMS to test two July beta runs with differing approaches to representing nutrient spread. One approach would utilize fertilizer sales data, and the other would employ land grant university recommendations.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the preliminary expert panel report presented by the Conservation Tillage Panel.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the preliminary report presented by the Manure Incorporation/Injection Panel.



**Action:** The Nutrient Management Panel will coordinate with jurisdictions, specifically WVa and PA, to address concerns related to non-formal nutrient management programs in order to capture scientifically valid methods that can be credited as nutrient management in the definition of the BMP. The panel is also requested to provide state-specific guidance on unique elements in there so each state's manure/nutrient programs would match up with what the final report describes.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve the Nutrient Management Panel's preliminary report, and the general structure of the BMP, with the understanding that there may be minor revisions as the panel continues their work, and to incorporate the panel's current recommendations in the Beta 3 calibration of the model.

**Action:** The AgWG should provide comments on the AWMS expert panel preliminary report to Jeremy Hanson ([jchanson@vt.edu](mailto:jchanson@vt.edu)) by May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** The Bay program Modeling Workgroup should have regular correspondence with STAC, in consultation with the AgWG, to ensure that there is a continual oversight of the Modeling Team while they are implementing modeling changes according to workgroup and jurisdictional recommendations.

#### **April 21, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved of the proposed interim BMP efficiency for poultry mortality freezers.

**Action:** Lindsey Gordon will work with Mark Dubin and Ken Staver to revise the Cover Crops Panel timeline in order to more accurately reflect their decision deadlines and meeting dates with relevant panels and subgroups in the AgWG.

**Action:** The Cover Crops Panel will distribute the definitions for their BMPs in advance of the May AgWG meeting.

**Action:** The Modeling Team will run additional scenarios that have been proposed by the Nutrient Management Panel, including Kelly Shenk's request for county-level information posted in advance of the May meeting. These scenarios and documentation information will be made available to the AgWG in May.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the proposed membership for the Phase 6 Ditch Management BMP Expert panel.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to hold an all-day meeting at the USGS Offices in Baltimore, MD in place of their regularly scheduled conference call on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **March 17, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** The AgWG agreed to revise their 2016 calendar of meetings to reflect an every-other-month face-to-face meeting schedule.

**Action:** The AgWG BMP Expert Panels will develop a preliminary report ('white paper') of the structure for their BMP as represented in the Phase 6.0 model. These will be presented to the AgWG during the April 2016 face-to-face meeting for interim approval.



## February 17, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** The AgWG approved the final crosswalk report of the Phase 5.3.2 Nutrient Management Task Force.

**Action:** The AgWG will hold a webinar on March 10th, on the incorporation and implementation of Phosphorous management and land use loading ratios into the Phase 6.0 beta model. More information can be found on the calendar event page: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23624/>

**Action:** States are encouraged to download and review the Scenario Builder documentation that is hosted under the Projects & Resources Tab on the Agriculture Workgroup page ([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/agriculture\\_workgroup](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/agriculture_workgroup)), and provide comments to Matt Johnston ([mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net)) and Curt Dell ([Curtis.dell@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Curtis.dell@ars.usda.gov)) by March 1st.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved a revised proposed scope of work to establish a Phase 6 Drainage Ditch Management BMP Panel, on the condition that the expert panel will follow the CBP BMP protocol, and the AgWG will have the opportunity to review the proposed panel membership during their March 2016 conference call.

**Decision:** The AgWG motioned to support the interim animal mortalities facilities freezers BMP efficiency proposal, and will recommend this proposal to the CBP Modeling Workgroup for final approval.

**Action:** The AgWG motioned to request that a Gantt chart be developed to track panel deadlines and schedules, and pieces of shared information that require coordination; and that the Gantt chart be provided every month to the AgWG as a means for tracking progress on critical deadlines and information for these panels. This Gantt chart will be presented at the AgWG March conference call.

**Decision:** The AgWG will be asked to endorse the proposed membership for establishing the Agriculture Stillwater and Cropland Irrigation BMP Panels during the March conference call.

**Action:** The AgWG requests that Mark Dubin provide the scope of work and plans for the poultry data collection effort, and provide a person of contact for each of the projects to the AgWG.

**Action:** The AgWG should send any comments on part 2 of the toxics report, ([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/23291/scheuler\\_utc\\_report2.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/23291/scheuler_utc_report2.pdf)), to Tom Scheuler ([watershedguy@hotmail.com](mailto:watershedguy@hotmail.com)) before the end of the February 2016.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the selection of Secretary Ed Kee, DDA, as the new workgroup chair and Lindsay Thompson, DE-MD Agri-business Association as the workgroup vice-chair, pending final approval from the WQGIT

## January 21, 2016 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Action:** The Nutrient Management Task Force will hold a meeting in the coming weeks with the state jurisdictions in order to field questions and concerns, and receive feedback from the states.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the final Phase 6.0 Ag Land Use Loading Ratios Report.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved a finalized and prioritized Tier 3 BMP list for future BMP Expert Panels, and agreed that the Ditch BMP efforts are the highest current priority. The second priority is animal

mortality, and the third priority is vegetative and environmental buffers. Mark Dubin and Lindsey Gordon will work towards getting approval on these proposed BMPs and their prioritization from the WQGIT.

**Action:** The AgWG will convene an EPEG to assess whether the poultry and non-poultry mortality BMPs should be combined into one expert BMP panel, or separated out into two panels.

**Action:** Chris Brosch and Clint Gill will be soliciting comments on the scope and proposed expert panel members for the pre-proposal of the Phase 6 Ditch BMPs, including additional information on the type of expertise the panel is hoping to solicit. The AgWG should direct comments to Chris Brosch ([chris.brosch@state.de.us](mailto:chris.brosch@state.de.us)) and Clint Gill ([clint.gill@state.de.us](mailto:clint.gill@state.de.us)) by no later than February 10th, 2016.

**Action:** The AgWG and Interested Parties should send all nominations for the chair and vice-chair positions to Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) and Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)) by no later than COB January 31st .

## 2015

### December 17, 2015 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Action:** Mark Dubin, Frank Coale, and Lindsey Gordon will draft and distribute the job description for the AgWG co-coordinator position to the AgWG. Candidates and/or nominations for the position should be sent to Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the proposed at-large membership.

**Action:** The AgWG will form an ad hoc group working with Mark Dubin and Bill Angstadt, in collaboration with the AMS, to assist in identifying some of the issues that are relevant to the AgWG regarding the Phase 6.0 Beta model that are being captured elsewhere in the CBP.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to move forward with the AMS proposed timeline for the review of Phase 6.0 Beta model and scenario builder.

**Action:** The AMS will begin collecting comments and feedback on the Phase 6.0 beta model from the AgWG, following an introductory webinar in January, 2016. All comments and feedback on the model following the webinar should be directed to Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)). The open period for receiving comments and feedback will close on March 1, 2016.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to approve of the work by the NMTF thus far, advocating for a partnership approach to finalizing the crosswalk report. The AgWG will inform the WQGIT that the AgWG will proceed with the NMTF, who will gather more information and documentation from the jurisdictions throughout December.

**Action:** The NMTF will reach out to all jurisdictions to request acreage values being reported for each nutrient management tier.

**Action:** The AgWG will prioritize including a discussion with the BMP panel chairs in their regularly scheduled 2016 meetings in order to facilitate open discussion and understanding of the progress being made on the panel recommendations. The AgWG will also discuss with the panel chairs the possibility of

prioritizing certain elements of panel charges in order to ensure the panel will meet the deadlines for inclusion in the model.

**Action:** The AgWG should review the current list of “Tier 3” BMPs (posted to the December AgWG meeting page) by January 2016 for workgroup prioritization and budget planning in April 2016. Prioritized lists of BMP panels should be sent to Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)).

**Action:** The workgroup co-chairs and Mark Dubin will work with Jeremy Hanson, AWMS coordinator, to ensure the review of the AWMS panel report follows according to the BMP review protocol.

**Action:** The AgWG should consider methodologies to incorporate the Phase 6.0 ag land uses with the high resolution acreages being calculating and reconciled with the age census. Suggestions for these methodologies should be sent to Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)), who will coordinate with the LUWG to facilitate further discussion between the two workgroups.

**Action:** The AgWG should read and review the Phase 6.0 Beta Ag Land Use Loading Ratio Report (posted to the December AgWG meeting page) in order for the workgroup to approve and review it during the January 2016 meeting.

**Action:** The workgroup co-chairs will draft a job description for the position of AgWG chair and vicechair, and will post and distribute to the AgWG. Nominations are open to anyone seeking to become vice chair and chair. Nominations should be sent to Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG will vote on the nominations for workgroup chair and vice-chair during the February 2016 meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG approved the revised proposed 2016 meeting calendar.

#### **November 19, 2015 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** Mark Dubin and Lindsey Gordon will reach out to the signatory representatives to ask for the selection of the at-large membership. Results will be posted by December 3rd, 2015, and the AgWG will then review the selected candidates during the December meeting to determine if there is adequate representation across the 5 categories of membership outlined in the Workgroup governance protocol.

**Decision:** The AgWG approved the motion to bring the Nutrient Management Cross Walk Report forward to the WQGIT for the December meeting, and to revisit the report and EPA’s discussions with the jurisdictions during the December 17th AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG should send any comments to Mark Dubin and Lindsey Gordon regarding scheduling conflicts. The 2016 calendar will be finalized during the December meeting.

#### **October 15, 2015 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** The AgWG will be sending out a call for nominations to fill the at-large and signatory membership positions. Nominees for at-large membership should identify which of the 5 categories they represent as identified in the AgWG governance protocol, and all nominees should provide information (CV, resume) detailing their background and relevant experience. The call for nominations will be posted to the AgWG website and distributed by email to the distribution list and known contacts within the jurisdictions.

**Action:** Comments or edits regarding the Nutrient Management Task Force timeline and drafted crosswalk template should be sent to Lindsey Gordon ([Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov](mailto:Gordon.lindsey@epa.gov)) and Mark Dubin ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net)) by no later than noon on Friday, 10/16/15. Jurisdictions should direct questions on the template to the AgWG co-chairs: Kristen Saacke Blunk ([kristen@headwaters-llc.org](mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org)) and John Rhoderick ([john.rhoderick@maryland.gov](mailto:john.rhoderick@maryland.gov)).

**Decision:** The AgWG motioned to approve the proposed membership, scope and charge, and revised timeline that will be completed by the AWMS panel. Comments on the proposed membership are due to Jeremy Hanson by no later than 10/26/15. Should significant comments on proposed membership be submitted, Jeremy Hanson will request the AgWG to discuss the comments and approve the proposed membership again.

### **September 16-17, 2015 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Workgroup members were asked to approve the governance protocol for AgWG membership. Consensus was reached to approve a single Tier membership voting process, where membership is comprised of 8 signatory members, with 12 members drawn from 5 unique categories of interest groups, one being "Conservation/Environmental NGOs".

**Action:** The co-chairs and coordinator will re-draft the governance protocol with changes reflecting the decisions that were made, and will distribute to the AgWG and then present this governance to the WQGIT for review and approval.

**Decision:** The AgWG came to consensus on a motion to approve the Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee's procedure and modifications for the beta version of Scenario Builder, so that this may pass on to the WQGIT for review and approval.

**Action:** Ted Tesler, Tim Sexton, and industry liaison to coordinate on providing data on before and after effects of swine phytase to Pennsylvania and the AgWG for the Swine Phytase Project.

**Decision:** The workgroup reached consensus on supporting the effort of Pennsylvania and Delaware to continue their fall reporting cover crop transect survey data of 2015 progress.

**Decision:** The AgWG obtained a consensus opinion to support the proposal to develop and implement a new "Plan B" regional poultry data collection effort at the state level between the academic, agency, and industry partners in the absence of available support from USDA-NASS.

**Action:** Rachel Rhodes and Maryland representatives will review the agricultural land use target loading rates, and provide feedback in order to determine whether consensus can be reached to approve the group's rates for nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment. Rhodes and Maryland will distribute their comments to the AgWG by Thursday, September 24.

**Decision:** The AgWG reached consensus to provide affirmation of the recommendations on land use loading rates presented by Tom Jordan, Gene Yagow, Gopal Bhat, and Jack Meisinger, where these recommendations would then move to the Modeling Workgroup for a beta test. This consensus and approval is contingent upon any state needing to further consider the information to provide their consensus by Thursday, September 24.

**Action:** The AgWG will revise the proposal and charge for a subcommittee tasked with investigating how jurisdictions will report NM, taking into consideration the request from the WQGIT to revise language

surrounding compliance rates. Ann Swanson, Kelly Shenk, and Marcia Fox volunteered to aid in 2 the revision of the charge. This revised subcommittee charge will be presented to the WQGIT for review and approval at the September 28th WQGIT conference call.

**Decision:** The decommissioning of the Phase 5.3.2 Nutrient Management Expert Panel has been tabled until the next meeting because consensus could not be reached.

#### August 24, 2015 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** AgWG members were asked to approve the revised report. Tiers 2 and 3 recommendations for Nitrogen were approved. Tier 2 recommendations for Phosphorous did not reach consensus approval.

**Action:** Kristen Saacke Blunk, John Rhoderick, to write a memo detailing areas of consensus and non-consensus on NM Phase 5.3.2 report, and providing a plan to move forward with gathering additional necessary information. Memo to be posted by Friday, August 28th.

**Action:** AgWG will convene a sub-team to work with states on questions relating to interpretation of Tier definitions, compliance rates, and reporting information

#### July 16, 2015 (meeting materials)

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**Action:** The open session meetings for the Phase 6 Expert Panels announcement will be distributed today. Please share with others who may be interested in attending. Presenters need to RSVP with Emma ([egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net)) to schedule their presentation at least 2 weeks ahead of each open session.

**Action:** Comments on the [poultry litter data reporting template](#) are due to [mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net) by 7/30.

**Decision:** Workgroup members approved Tom Fisher (UMCES) as the final member of the Phase 6 Nutrient Management Panel.

#### June 17-18, 2015 (meeting materials)

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**Action:** The future BMP panel prioritization discussion will take place at the September meeting.

**Action:** Emma will post abbreviated versions of the Phase 6 panel charges including just the charge and scope portions to the AgWG website.

**Action:** Announcements about the Phase 6 Panel stakeholder meetings will be sent out together if possible, to the CBP distribution list, university extension, farm bureau, and DMAA list-serve.

**Action:** John and Kristen will share the Workgroup's suggestions on the BMP protocol recorded during the meeting with the WQGIT.

**Action:** Provide additional comments on the BMP protocol to Lucinda Power by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** John and Kristen will share the Workgroup's comments on governance recorded during the meeting with the WQGIT.

**Action:** Provide additional comments on the CBP governance by COB Friday (6/19). Members are encouraged to participate in the WQGIT call on 6/22.

**Action:** Template for additional poultry data submission will go to the PLS before that group can close.

#### **May 21, 2015 (meeting materials)**

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**Action:** RSVP to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) if you would like lunch on 6/17 during the quarterly meeting.

**Action:** Nomination period for the cropland irrigation and nursery/ag stormwater panels has closed. There are still key roles to fill on each panel, please provide additional nominees to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by COB 6/5/15.

**Action:** Any additional references for the loading targets steering committee to consider should be sent to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) and [mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net) as soon as possible.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved language to accompany the credit duration spreadsheet describing how credit durations relate to BMP verification.

#### **April 16, 2015 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup approved the March quarterly meeting minutes.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Cropland Irrigation panel charge with the addition of specifically mentioning collaboration with the Nutrient Management panel.

**Decision requested:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the BMP credit duration spreadsheet, with the caveat that pre-amble language will be drafted and shared with the workgroup.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Agricultural Stormwater and Tailwater panel charge, with the caveat that the title would be revised for clarity.

**Action:** Nominees for the Cropland Irrigation and Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panels are due to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved each of the proposed membership lists for the phase 6.0 Expert Panels.

**Action:** Provide comments on governance and the BMP protocol to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net), [kristen@headwaters-llc.org](mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org), and [john.rhoderick@maryland.gov](mailto:john.rhoderick@maryland.gov).

#### **March 18-19, 2015 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members recommended that the Poultry Litter report be moved forward to the WQGIT. Communication will emphasize that the poultry litter data is just one piece of the larger Scenario Builder, which will be reviewed by the full Partnership between October 2015 and October 2016.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the AMS' Phase 6.0 land use classification, with agreement that the relative land use loading rates will still need to be finalized.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the manure spread concept presented by the AMS. AMS will continue to test and refine the approach in the coming weeks.

**Action:** CSN is soliciting feedback from the sector workgroups on the technical approach for the toxics project and to identify any specific research or monitoring studies that could support the project. Comments and resources are requested to be sent to [watershedguy@hotmail.com](mailto:watershedguy@hotmail.com) no later than Friday, March 27. Emma will provide Tom with the recommendations offered during the meeting and recorded in the meeting summary.

**Action:** The land use loading review group will present their preliminary recommendations to the AMS in late March, and the AgWG in early April.

**Action:** Agriculture Workgroup members are asked to provide comments on the WQGIT BMP protocol to Lucinda ([power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)) by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the panel charge to the Phase 6.0 Nutrient Management Expert Panel with the minor edits suggested during the meeting.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the panel charge to the Phase 6.0 Manure Injection/Incorporation Expert Panel with the minor edits suggested during the meeting.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the panel charge to the Phase 6.0 Conservation Tillage Expert Panel with the minor edits suggested during the meeting.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the panel charge to the Phase 6.0 Cover Crop Expert Panel with the minor edits suggested during the meeting.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Animal Waste Management Systems and Poultry Pads panel charge as presented.

**Action:** AgWG members will provide contact information for relevant programmatic contacts (for large scale livestock manure treatment systems) to Jeremy ([jchanson@vt.edu](mailto:jchanson@vt.edu); 410-267-5753) by end of the month (Friday, 3/27). Other input or suggestions also welcome during that time. Jeremy will work directly with those contacts to gather necessary information or details pertaining to these large scale treatment systems. Jeremy will work with expert panel based on what he finds.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the following individuals to serve as chairs of Phase 6.0 expert panels: Curt Dell (manure injection and incorporation), Ken Staver (Cover crops), Wade Thomason (Conservation Tillage) and Frank Coale (nutrient management).

**Action:** Agriculture Workgroup members will submit nominations for panel members for the Phase 6.0 cover crops, conservation tillage, manure injection/incorporation, and nutrient management Expert Panels. Nominees are due to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by COB April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Action:** The proposed charge and membership for each Expert Panel will be shared with the full Partnership for full review and comment. Final panel membership will be approved by the Workgroup prior to launching the Phase 6.0 Expert Panels in April and May.

**Action:** The BMP Credit Duration subgroup will have another call before the end of the month to resolve the highlighted sections of the spreadsheet. Resource Improvement BMPs will be added to the spreadsheet with durations already defined by the technical panel. Agriculture Workgroup approval of the final credit durations will be requested over email by Mar 31.



**Action:** The Agriculture Workgroup will request the Modeling Workgroup to specifically set up within the airshed model a component for near atmospheric deposition from agriculture.

#### **February 19, 2015 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Workgroup members approved the January 8th conference call minutes

**Action:** Comments on the draft AWMS charge due to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by COB 2/25

**Action:** Please provide any final suggested contacts or researchers for land use loading rates by COB February 27th. Send your suggested contacts or other suggested resources to Sally ([sallyb@waterstewardshipinc.org](mailto:sallyb@waterstewardshipinc.org)).

#### **January 8, 2015 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG members approved the November 21st and December 11th meeting minutes.

**Action:** AgWG leadership will work with WQGIT to get on their January 12th agenda for approval of 1) the [proposed process for Phase 6.0 expert panels](#) and 2) the sun-setting of the Phase 5.3.2 Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management (once their recommendations are complete in 2015) Expert Panels.

**Action:** Workgroup members will be asked to help identify relevant points of contact or research projects to assist the VT literature search for non-published agricultural loading rate data

**Action:** Contact [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) if any major conflicts with the proposed [2015 workgroup meeting schedule](#)

**Action:** Send any ideas on potential STAC workshop proposals by January 21st to [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net)

## 2014

#### **December 11, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the November 6<sup>th</sup>, and November 13th meeting summaries. The November 21st meeting minutes will be approved next month with suggested edits.

**Action:** AgWG members will encourage potential applicants to submit proposals for the Virginia Tech RFP for performing agricultural land use loading rate non-published data literature search.

**Decision:** AgWG members approved the proposed method for Phase 6.0 agricultural expert panels. The strawman proposal will be filled out in more detail based on the AgWG's 12/11 recommendations.

**Action:** The University of Maryland AgWG technical support position announcement will be shared with the AgWG members as soon as it is posted.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup will hold quarterly face-to-face 2 day meetings in 2015, with monthly conference calls scheduled in between. The meeting schedule and locations will be shared with the workgroup once dates and venues are confirmed.

#### **November 21, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.



### November 13, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the October 22nd conference call minutes.

**Decision:** AgWG members approved Lauren Torres, DDA, to be appointed as an Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee member.

**Action:** A finalized timeline for VT RFP to identify land use loading rate literature will be shared with the Agriculture Workgroup members.

**Decision:** AgWG members approved the Manure Treatment Technology panel membership and scope of work.

**Action:** Frank Coale, John Rhoderick, Kristen Saacke Blunk and Lucinda Power will discuss how best to re-organize the existing BMP expert panels for the Phase 6.0 recommendations. The subgroup will bring a recommendation to the AgWG December meeting.

**Action:** The Nutrient Management Panel's revised report with response to comments will be distributed to the AgWG, WTWG, and WQGIT on Friday 11/14/14.

### November 6, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the HR MSD report.

**Decision:** Watershed Technical Workgroup members approved the HR MSD report and technical appendix.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the Cover Crop panel report.

**Decision:** Watershed Technical Workgroup members approved the Cover Crop panel report and Technical Appendix.

**Action:** The Nutrient Management Panel will respond to Partnership comments on the Nutrient Application Management Tier 2 report by COB 11/14/14 in preparation for a joint conference call November 21st .

### October 22, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** Workgroup members approved the October 9, 2014 minutes.

**Action:** Send comments on the Wetlands panel scope of work and panel membership to [nlaw@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:nlaw@chesapeakebay.net) by COB Friday (10/24).

**Action:** AgWG members to provide additional literature sources to develop land use loading targets to [steven.dressing@tetrattech.com](mailto:steven.dressing@tetrattech.com) by October 31st

### October 9, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))

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**Decision:** AgWG members approved the September 29 conference call minutes.

**Action:** The Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee will share their schedule for the coming months with the AgWG at the November meeting.

**Action:** TetraTech will share the list of loading rate literature compiled so far with the AgWG members.

**Action:** Send recommendations for additional land use loading rate literature and other information to [olivia@devereuxconsulting.com](mailto:olivia@devereuxconsulting.com) and [steven.dressing@tetrattech.com](mailto:steven.dressing@tetrattech.com).

**Action:** AgWG and DDA will organize an informational meeting for farmers in DE in 2014.

#### **September 29, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Workgroup Members approved the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the draft 9/11/14 agricultural BMP priorities list.

**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved moving the draft Phase 6.0 agricultural land use classification forward to the WQGIT.

**Action:** Workgroup members will provide any comments on the AMS presentation to Curt Dell by Wednesday (10/1).

#### **September 11, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the August 14, 2014 meeting minutes.

**Action:** The Manure Treatment Technologies RFP will be distributed to the full AgWG distribution list when it is available.

**Action:** AgWG will invite NASS representatives to discuss sampling methodology with the AMS.

**Action:** Emma will post the re-prioritized BMP list developed today. AgWG members will approve the final list on 9/29.

**Decision:** AgWG adopted the TetraTech sampling approach to be included in the AgWG verification document.

**Action:** AgWG members will provide comments on the agricultural land uses to Chris Brosch and the AMS by 9/15. AMS will share the Phase 6.0 land uses with the AgWG on September 29th for final approval.

#### **August 14, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Workgroup members approved the July 24, 2014 and the August 8, 2014 minutes.

**Decision:** AgWG will charge PLS to complete their Phase 6.0 recommendations and to present a draft to the AgWG by October 2014.

**Decision:** Workgroup members agreed to the overall schedule of topics to cover in the next three months. The schedule will be posted on the website following today's meeting.

**Action:** Additional fall AgWG meetings will be scheduled by doodle poll in the next week.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup endorsed Jason Keppler, MDA to replace Royden Powell as Maryland's representative member of the Cover Crops Expert Panel, Colin Jones, MDA to replace Royden Powell as Maryland's representative member of the Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management Expert Panels, and Rachel Melvin, MDA to replace John Rhoderick as Maryland's representative member of the Poultry Litter Subcommittee.

**Action:** The TetraTech sampling approach documents are open for a 15 day comment period. Send any comments on these documents to [mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net) and [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by August 29. Emma will post TetraTech's powerpoints from today's meeting for more information.

**Decision:** AgWG chairs will discuss the options for Phase 6.0 and Phase 5.3.2 recommendations with the expert panels and with the WQGIT and the WTWG.

**Action:** Jurisdictions will review the initial list of BMP priorities, and provide any updates to [mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net) and [egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net) by 8/29. Emma will provide jurisdictions with the list of current and interim BMPs.

#### **August 8, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Agriculture Workgroup members approved the full [RI Panel Report](#), which was revised based on workgroup comments provided during the July 24th workgroup meeting.

**Decision:** Based on the supermajority vote, the [proposed alternative language from the workgroup's agricultural BMP verification ad hoc team](#) will replace the existing language in the 7/28 verification guidance document regarding alternative strategies in the appropriate sections for each of the four BMP types.

**Decision:** Workgroup members approved the complete [verification guidance](#) with the approved changes by consensus.

#### **July 24, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG members approved the June 19 minutes.

**Action:** A revised verification guidance document will be posted by COB Monday, July 28th. The AgWG will convene by webinar & conference call to achieve consensus by Friday, August 8th. If consensus cannot be reached at that time, the group will hold a vote decision based on the partnership's new governance policy.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup approved the RI Panel Report, except for the "rotational grazing" and "animal compost structure" practices, which will be taken back to the RI panel. The "Waste storage structure" practice title was revised to "dry waste storage structure". The AgWG will review the two remaining practices on August 8th for final recommendation. Changes to the panel report will be provided to the workgroup by July 31st.

**Action:** Next meeting: August 8th 10:00AM-12:00PM (conference call and webinar)

**Action:** Emma will post the current land uses spreadsheet. Members are asked to contact the AMS and Chris Brosch with any substantive questions on the proposed agricultural land uses.

**Action:** The draft agricultural land uses will be provided to the Land Use Workgroup for their consideration.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup endorsed Alisha Mulkey, MDA to replace Dana York as Maryland's representative member of the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee. The workgroup also endorsed Virginia DEQ's request that Bill Keeling, VA-DEQ, be included as a new co-representative for Virginia on

the Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee, with the understanding that Virginia's dual representation on the AMS would result in only one shared vote for subcommittee decisions.

**Action:** AgWG members will work together to develop the agenda topics for the next few months at the next meeting.

#### **June 19, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG members approved the May 1, 2014 meeting minutes.

**Action:** AgWG members will provide comments on NRCS' remote sensing pilot project.

**Action:** Workgroup members are requested to provide comments on the posted Resource Improvement report to Bob Ensor by July 8th.

**Decision:** AgWG members approved the Manure Treatment Technologies subgroup's written charge to the future expert panel.

**Action:** The ad hoc verification group will re-convene to address AgWG's comments and bring back two weeks in advance of the next AgWG meeting.

**Action:** AgWG will have a discussion about upcoming topics and schedule during the July 24 meeting.

#### **May 1, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG members approved the March 13, 2014 workgroup meeting minutes.

**Action:** A small team of AgWG representatives will meet early next week to respond to the verification committee's recommendations and provide a working draft by the May 9th deadline. Due to this deadline, nominations as well as volunteers to serve on this team are due to Emma by noon on 5/2.

**Action:** AgWG members are requested to provide comments on the PLS recommendations posted on today's meeting page to Jim Glancey by Wednesday, May 7th.

**Action:** AgWG members are requested to provide comments on the Manure Technologies Subgroup report to Mark and Emma for the subgroup to consider in preparation for the next AgWG meeting.

**Action:** The AgWG will schedule a separate meeting between USDA-NASS representatives and the Agriculture Modeling Subcommittee and other interested parties.

**Action:** The AgWG will schedule a separate meeting to discuss verification in the next month.

#### **March 13, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Workgroup approved the January 30th meeting minutes

**Decision:** Workgroup nominated Kristen Saacke-Blunk and John Rhoderick as Agriculture Workgroup co-chairs. WQGIT will confirm their nomination during the April 14th conference call.

**Decision:** Mark will revise the list of CEAP questions based on recommendations today and send to Lee Norfleet.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup recommended that buffers on cropland less than 35 ft be reported as a land use change.

**Decision:** The Agriculture Workgroup recommended that the Riparian Buffer Expert Panel Report be moved forward for WQGIT approval.

**Decision:** The workgroup decided to send Virginia Tech and TetraTech the full list of Phase 5.3.2 list of BMPs, (removing multiple width grass buffers, adding manure injection and manure technologies) to represent the priorities in total (not in order). The list will be annotated with each priority's availability for Phase 5 or 6. VT and TetraTech will be asked which BMPs can be completed the most quickly vs. which will take the longest. Based on their feedback, AgWG will re-assess the priorities.

#### **January 30, 2014 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Members approved the 11/7 and 12/12 Agriculture Workgroup minutes.

**Action:** Emma Giese and Mark Dubin will share the WQGIT's draft governance with AgWG members at the February 13th meeting along with a clear process outlined for selecting the new AgWG chair.

**Action:** Curt Dell will work with Mark Dubin to develop some questions on the CEAP report for AgWG to request of NRCS representatives.

**Action:** The Poultry Litter Subcommittee will provide their report to AgWG members once all members are in agreement on the report content.

**Action:** The Agricultural Modeling Subcommittee requested AgWG members help identify additional sources of soil test data and crop uptake efficiency information to guide the subcommittee's next steps. Send recommendations to Curt Dell, Matt Johnston and Emma Giese.

**Action:** Mike Stanton (MDA) will coordinate compilation of the high priority interim BMPs from each state's WIP. The compiled list will be provided to AgWG members for review by Feb 6th.

**Action:** Roy Hoagland and Marel Raub will assist Mark Dubin in finalizing the verification guidance document before the February 13th meeting.

## **2013**

#### **December 12, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Action:** Nominations for a new workgroup chair should be sent to Emma Giese through COB January 9, 2014 in preparation for selecting a new chair during the workgroup's February monthly meeting.

**Action:** AgWG will convene a separate meeting in January/February to discuss the CEAP report. The meeting will include a presentation from NRCS on the report, followed by a panel discussion.

**Decision:** AgWG approved the list of Functional Equivalent Technical Review Panel nominees. The remaining slots will be filled by COB Thursday 12/19/13. The final list of members will be posted at that time.

**Action:** The Poultry Litter Subcommittee report will be brought to the Agriculture Workgroup for approval in February pending subcommittee approval.

#### **November 7, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG Approved the October AgWG minutes.

**Action:** AgWG will request that the Conservation Tillage Panel clarify whether Pennsylvania's 50% residue data will be counted under the new 60% high residue BMP.

**Action:** WTWG will discuss whether a new protocol for input data type submissions is needed.

**Action:** WTWG members will be provided with a copy of the poultry data template presented today.

**Action:** Jim Glancey will send a PLS data request to jurisdictions on Monday.

**Action:** AgWG requests that each jurisdiction respond with their Poultry Litter data and narratives by the end of November.

**Action:** Jim Glancey will compile all PLS information in December.

**Action:** The Poultry Litter Subcommittee will present their draft report at the December 12th AgWG meeting.

**Action:** The poultry litter discussion will be continued at the December meeting, when the final report will be available for discussion.

**Decision:** AgWG members decided to form a technical review panel to make a recommendation on MDA's Functional Equivalence Report to the AgWG.

**Decision:** A proposed list of members, scope and timeline for the FE Technical Review Panel will be available on December 5th in preparation for the Dec. 12th meeting.

**Action:** The draft forestry buffer status report will be distributed for comment in the coming weeks.

**Action:** MTT will send a survey to the AgWG membership to collect additional suggestions of Manure Treatment Technologies.

#### **October 3, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG Approved the September AgWG minutes.

**Decision:** AgWG approved the Nutrient Management Expert Panel Report.

**Decision:** AgWG approved the Cover Crop Expert Panel Report.

**Decision:** AgWG Approved the Conservation Tillage Expert Panel Report.

#### **September 26, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** AgWG Approved the August AgWG minutes

**Action:** The Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management Expert Panels will address all recommendations from today's discussion before the October 3rd meeting, which is when they will request final approval from the Agriculture Workgroup.

**Decision:** MDA will move forward with writing a functional equivalent BMPs report, using the technical approach presented today, for review by the Agriculture Workgroup at an upcoming meeting.

**Decision:** Chris Brosch, VT-VADEQ will be added to the membership of the BMP Verification Management Plans Subgroup.

### August 8, 2013 (meeting materials)

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**Decision:** AgWG Approved July AgWG minutes.

**Decision:** BMP Expert Panel reports will be reviewed at the next AgWG meeting on September 26th

**Action:** Nominations for subgroup members to address Management Plans BMPs requested by 8/15/13.

**Decision:** AgWG decided to move forward with formation of a Manure Treatment Technology Panel.

**Action:** Mark will send a request to AgWG for Manure Treatment Technology Preliminary Advisory Group nominations by 8/15/13.

### July 11, 2013 (meeting materials)

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**Action:** The Nutrient Management Panel will include a visual of how the previous NM options compare to current and proposed NM definitions in their panel report.

**Action:** Dana and Mark will review the draft Bay Agreement document sent out for public review to make sure it is consistent with the AgWG's previous recommendation to remove the Agriculture outcome;

**Action:** Dana and Mark will convey support of the 7/9 draft Bay Agreement to the Management Board on behalf of the AgWG and request that AgWG be informed if the agriculture outcome in Appendix A of the unabridged version is considered further.

**Action:** MDA will introduce a proposal regarding functional equivalence at the August meeting for AgWG approval.

**Decision:** AgWG approved formation of forecasting subcommittee chaired by Jim Baird and Peter Claggett.

**Decision:** AgWG approved the July 11, 2013 version of the verification matrix as final

**Action:** Transparency ad hoc group will define programmatic constraints, reword 'site-specific', and clarify recommendation #2 to state that QA/QC can be internal or external

### June 20, 2013 (meeting materials)

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**Recommendation:** The Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) recommends that the proposed Agricultural Conservation Outcome under the Water Quality Goal heading be removed from the draft Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The AgWG believes that the existing 2017 and 2025 Water Quality WIP Outcomes in the draft document are sufficient, and incorporating a single outcome for agriculture does not represent equity between the sectors. The AgWG also wishes to note that the proposed Agricultural Outcome is currently listed under the Water Quality 2017 WIP Outcome in the draft document outline, which is inconsistent in timeline with the original Chesapeake Bay Executive Order goal based on 2025.

**Decision:** AgWG Members approved the above recommendation to remove the agriculture outcome from the draft Chesapeake Bay Agreement

**Action:** Transparency ad hoc group will define programmatic constraints, reword 'site-specific', and clarify recommendation #2 to state that QA/QC can be internal or external.

**Action:** AgWG members will review the draft verification matrix: [posted here](#), and report back with any comments by 7/3/13.

**Action:** Ag Modeling Subcommittee will convene their first meeting, and will report back to AgWG in July with the immediate work items (achievable in 2013) noting any barriers or gaps

#### **May 9, 2013 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** Approve April AgWG minutes.

**Decision:** PLS will present their first draft of recommendations at the June 13th AGWG meeting

#### **Agricultural Projection Methods**

**Decision:** AgWG members approved the majority vote by the jurisdictions for the exponential smoothing short term forecasting method

**Decision:** AgWG recommends using 2012 Ag census data to the full extent when it is available.

#### **Agricultural BMP Verification Guidance**

**Action:** Transparency definition: Change 'an' to 'any'.

**Action:** Transparency definition: change 'data generation' to 'data synthesis'.

#### **Agricultural BMP Verification Matrix**

**Action:** Edits will be sent back to subgroup with 7 day review period, the subgroup will provide a consensus statement to the AgWG for approval

**Action:** 'Decision agriculture' to be moved from 'Management BMPs Practice' to 'Management BMPs Plans'

**Action:** Review the two definitions for compatibility

**Action:** Subgroup will meet to fill in the far right of the matrix.

#### **April 11, 2013 (meeting materials)**

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**Decision:** Approve March AgWG minutes.

**Action:** Contact Mark (mdubin@chesapeakebay.net) with any questions on this [urban stream restoration panel] document before May 13<sup>th</sup>

**Decision:** AgWG members recommended that the Poultry Litter Subcommittee pursue population calculations

**Decision:** Jurisdictions will submit one vote each via Google poll by Thursday, April 18th

- 1) Option 1: Continue to use the current regression-based forecasting method for future agricultural short-term projections until 2017, at which time the availability of the new CBP Phase 6 models will require a reassessment of short-term projection methods. It is understood that the 2012 Ag Census will be available in 2014 and will be incorporated to produce agricultural forecasts in future years until the 2017 reassessment.



- 2) Option 2: Replace the current forecasting method with the double exponential smoothing forecasting method for future agricultural short-term projections until 2017, at which time the availability of the new CBP Phase 6 models will require a reassessment of short-term projection methods. It is understood that the 2012 Ag Census will be available in 2014 and will be incorporated to produce agricultural forecasts in future years until the 2017 reassessment.
- 3) Option 3: Continue to use the current regression-based forecasting method to provide future agricultural forecasts for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 for the 2015 Milestones, but re-consider using the double exponential smoothing forecasting method to provide future agricultural forecasts for the years 2016 and 2017 for the 2017 Milestones, and potentially for annual progress conditions. It is understood that the 2012 Ag Census will be available in 2014 and will be used to assess the value of the double exponential smoothing forecasting method. This option would require the workgroup to revisit this decision in the 2014-2015 timeframe, as well as for the 2017 reassessment.

**Action:** At [the Building a Better Bay Model] workshop planning meeting tomorrow, group will set a deadline to have materials available to participants

**Decision:** Continue with formation of [Agricultural Modeling] subcommittee as presented

### **March 21, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Approve February AgWG minutes

### **Urban Nutrient Management and Stream Restoration Panel Updates**

**Decision:** Table discussion of Stream Restoration until report is more formalized

### **Poultry Litter Subcommittee Update**

**Action:** Consistency of units needed (TP vs. P205; Wet Wt. vs. Dry Wt.)

**Decision:** PLS will be on the April agenda for final recommendations to AgWG

### **Nutrient Management Panel Update**

**Action:** Emma will post NM membership

**Action:** NM Panel will report back to AgWG on their decided next steps in April

### **Cover Crops Panel Update**

**Action:** CBPO: Will check WTWG's decision about the cutoff date [December 1]

### **MPA Ag Modeling Workshop**

**Action:** send any participant recommendations to Emma ([egiese@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:egiese@chesapeakebay.net))

### **Agricultural Projection Methods**

**Action:** Provide data sets to Matt Johnston ([mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net)) by COB 3/25/13

### **USDA Data Request**

**Action:** Send supplemental items to Mark by Noon Tuesday ([mdubin@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:mdubin@chesapeakebay.net))

## **February 14, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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**Decision:** Chris Brosch will be taking over leadership of Nutrient Management panel

### **UNM Recommendations**

**Action:** AgWG members asked to look at revised version and provide comments to Mark Dubin and Emma Giese by Tuesday 19th am

### **BMP Verification**

**Decision:** Add numbers to matrix boxes for clarity

**Decision:** Remove NASS reference, attribute to NRCS and include in parenthesis as an example

**Decision:** Majority approve changing yes/no to feasible/not feasible

**Decision:** Will remove from matrix and include as a supporting document

**Action:** Check with Verification Principles document to define transparency, continue discussion at next AgWG meeting

**Action:** Chair and coordinator will bring to next Thursday's BMP Verification Committee meeting

### **MPA Ag Modeling Workshop**

**Action:** If interested in joining the planning committee notify Mark and Emma

### **MPA Modeling Priorities**

**Decision:** Members agreed to move forward with formation of agricultural modeling sub group

### **Land Use**

**Action:** If any elements missing from "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree" NRCS approach send comments to Mark and Emma before Feb 25th Land Use Workgroup meeting

## **January 10, 2013 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

***Note: Prior to 2013, actions and decisions were not regularly listed in meeting minutes. Meeting dates and material links are listed for consistency.***

## **2012**

### **November 29, 2012 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

### **October 11, 2012 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

### **September 20, 2012 ([meeting materials](#))**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **August 9, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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**Action:** If members know of additional literature references for BMP Verification support, please send these citations to Mark Dubin.

**Action:** A list of experts interviewed by Tetra Tech for verification data confidence information will be provided to the AgWG.

#### **July 19, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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**Action:** Upon development of more completed, interim draft of the AgWG Verification Protocol matrix, begin outreach to producer groups to discuss verification issues and the AgWG concept.

**Action:** Inclusion of protocol level for regulatory BMPs that have the highest (5/5) confidence levels.

#### **June 14, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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**Action:** AGWG members to submit nominations for BMP Verification Expert Panel to M. Dubin and F. Coale.

#### **May 10, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **March 8, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **February 23, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **January 12, 2012 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

### 2011

#### **December 8, 2011 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **October 13, 2011 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **July 26, 2011 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **June 13, 2011 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### **May 9, 2011 (meeting materials)**

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### [April 26, 2011 \(meeting materials\)](#)

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No meeting minutes were recorded.

#### [March 30, 2011 \(meeting materials\)](#)

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### [January 14, 2011 \(meeting materials\)](#)

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**Decision:** Go to square foot per animal head measure for AFO/CAFO- all nays, not going forward.

2010

#### [May 27, 2010 \(meeting materials\)](#)

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

#### [April 27, 2010 \(meeting materials\)](#)

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**Motion:** Tim Sexton-use halfway point or 50% of the difference, which ever is preferred, between Nutrient Management manure application rate and non Nutrient Management manure application rate for application rate of fertilizer on lands of inorganic fertilizer use.

- We have a consensus
- For situations where fertilizer is involved that non-nutrient management rate is half way better Nutrient Management max and non Nutrient Management manure max

If prorated approach can be worked into the model than we will prefer that option. Prorated approach would vary the rate of application of fertilizer based on the amount of manure produced in the County

- No objections
- Prorated approach is able to be put into the model and will be the approach used

**Action-:** States provide Mark with the details of your excess manure application sequence. This must include land uses to receive nutrients, order of sequence, increment of application, and maximum load applied before providing an error. If non-nutrient management lands do not consume all excess manure using the sequence reported, a sequence must be provided for nutrient management lands. If a state does not wish to have excess nutrients applied to nutrient management lands, report the desired value at zero. All information must be received by Mark Dubin no later than COB May 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### [March 29, 2010 \(meeting materials\)](#)

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No actions and decisions were recorded.

