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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

December 19th, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[Meeting Materials](#)

Virtual Meeting Information

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 239 918 316 219

Passcode: BMKqhT

Phone: +1 202-991-0477,,731227393# US

Calendar page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-december-2024>

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

Intro & Announcements

10:00 **Welcome, roll call, review meeting minutes**

Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

- Roll call of the governance body and meeting participants - *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the November AgWG meeting.

Data

10:05 **Advancing the Science of Nutrient Fluxes from Small Agricultural Catchments in Maryland: Current Research and Collaboration Opportunities – 50 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

Dr. Gurpal Toor, University of Maryland

Losses of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) from agricultural lands continue to plague efforts to protect and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. As part of our ongoing projects in Maryland, we have established a network of small agricultural catchments (acres scale) on farmer's fields to investigate the origin, sources, and mechanisms driving nutrient losses. These small agricultural catchments are instrumented with various instruments to determine rainfall and flow, collect water samples for lab analysis, and determine concentrations using in situ sensors. This presentation will outline our ongoing efforts in Maryland and how the data generated could be useful in developing and fine-tuning best management practices to keep nutrients in farmers' fields and protect water quality in receiving waters.

CBP Assignments

10:55 A Deeper Dive into Beyond 2025 – 55 minutes (presentation and discussion)

Bo Williams, EPA-CBPO; Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Building on the presentations given by KC Filippino and Ruth Cassilly at the July 2024 AgWG meeting, Eric will highlight elements from Phase 1 of the Beyond 2025 process that are relevant to the workgroup. The purpose of this presentation will be to suggest additional topics to consider as the AgWG works to identify its 2025-2026 priorities. Bo will provide the workgroup with an overview of recent Management Board actions related to Beyond 2025 Phase 2. This will support a discussion about potential synergies between the AgWG's ongoing planning effort and the partnership's Beyond 2025 Phase 2 activities.

Wrap-up

11:50 New Business, Announcements & Updates

- **Agricultural Modeling Team**
 - Tom Butler, AMT coordinator, will share recent AMT activities.
- **2025-2026 At-Large Membership**
 - The terms of 6 at-large members expire in the coming months
 - Call for nominations was distributed after the October AgWG meeting
 - Self-nominations and renomination of members with expiring terms are accepted
 - Please submit all nominations to Caroline Kleis (kleis.caroline@epa.gov) and Eric Hughes (hughes.eric@epa.gov) by **COB Thursday, January 9th, 2024**.
 - Include nominee name, affiliation, email address, and short resume, C.V., or bio
- **Executive Council Update**
 - [Beyond 2025 Charge](#)
 - Revise the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, pursuant to the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
 - Develop a simplified and streamlined structure and process for the partnership that supports all partners as they work toward achieving their commitments in an effective, efficient and inclusive manner.
 - [Agricultural Advisory Committee Directive](#)
 - The Agricultural Advisory Committee Directive establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee that will consist of farmers, including urban farmers, and other agricultural industry stakeholders, who will use their knowledge of farming operations and best management practices to directly advise the Chesapeake Bay Program on how agriculture can be part of the solution for a healthier Chesapeake Bay and watershed.
- **Governor Glenn Youngkin Signs Executive Directive Ten on Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts**
 - On December 5, 2024, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin signed Executive Directive Ten, directing the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and agencies under

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his oversight to take a leadership role in amending the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement with a focus on measurable and attainable results; reevaluate and assess all investments in the Bay; develop streamlined guidance for available agriculture and forestry conservation resources; and launch strategic initiatives focused on the holistic, science-based protection of living resources. The full executive directive can be accessed via the following [link](#).

- **Chesapeake Agroforestry Network (CAN) Meeting**
 - Jan 7, 2025 11:00-12:30
 - The Agriculture Workgroup has been invited to participate in the Chesapeake Agroforestry Network meeting scheduled for January 7th, 2025. Please see the calendar invitation and agenda summary sent by Caroline Kleis on 12/6 for additional information.
 - Please reach out to Ruth Cassilly (rcassilly@chesapeakebay.net) with any questions about the meeting.
- **Other Announcements?**
 - Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email.

12:00 **Review of Action and Decision Items; Adjourn**

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 16th, 2025: 10:00AM-12:00PM (Virtual)

Acronym List

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)
AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)
BMP – Best Management Practice
CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)
CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)
CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
CTIC – Conservation Technology Information Center
CVN – Conservation Validation Network
EPA - [United States] Environmental Protection Agency
FSA – Farm Service Agency
MLRI – Modeled Load Reduction Indicator
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
ORISE – Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals’ Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts
WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)
UMD - University of Maryland
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USGS – United States Geological Survey
USFS – United States Forestry Service