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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

July 18th, 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-july-2024>

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

Intro & Announcements

10:00 **Welcome, roll-call, review meeting minutes – 5 minutes**

Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants - *Please enter name and affiliation under “Participants” or in “Chat” box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the June AgWG meeting.
- **Decision requested:** Consensus decision for Agroforestry EPEG core membership.

Innovation

10:05 **Overview of proposed Agricultural Advisory Committee – 45 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

Alisha Mulkey, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Alisha will provide an overview of the [draft Agricultural Advisory Committee \(AAC\) bylaws](#) written by the AAC Action Team, the work that went into forming the bylaws, and the next steps that will be taken after the AAC Action Team’s recommendations were approved by the PSC at their June meeting. There will be time reserved for discussing how the AgWG may engage with the AAC, among other ideas.

10:50 **Beyond 2025 updates: draft Steering Committee report and opportunity for public feedback – 50 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

KC Filippino, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

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KC, the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) representative on the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, will provide an overview of the [Beyond 2025 Draft Steering Committee Report](#) recently released for public feedback. We will discuss the relevance of this report and the Beyond 2025 effort to the AgWG and consider whether or not our group would like to provide collective feedback to the Steering Committee during the public feedback period.

Accounting & Reporting

11:40 Agroforestry BMP Expert Panel Establishment Group – 10 minutes (discussion and vote)

Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Eric will briefly review the proposed membership of the Agroforestry Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG), as discussed at recent AgWG meetings and shared directly with AgWG members on 7/8/24.

AgWG Voting Item:

The group will be asked to vote to approve the list of potential agroforestry EPEG members.

Data & Modeling

11:50 PA DEP Remote Sensing BMP Verification Pilot Project: updates and MDP discussion – 10 minutes (discussion)

Tom Howard, Resolve Hydro; Ashley Hullinger & Scott Heidel, PA DEP

The [Phase 1 Methodology Development Plan \(MDP\)](#) for PA DEP's BMP verification pilot project was released for feedback on 7/10/24. The DEP/Resolve Hydro team will provide the AgWG with any relevant updates on the project, and we will dedicate time to addressing questions or comments from the group on the MDP.

Wrap-up

12:00 New Business, Announcements & Updates

- **Agricultural Modeling Team**
 - Brief verbal update on the group's latest activities.
- **Beyond 2025 - Public Comment Period Now Open**
 - At its 2022 annual meeting, the Chesapeake Executive Council charged its Principals' Staff Committee to review progress toward achieving the 10 goals and 31 outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and make recommendations for the future of the partnership. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership formed a Steering Committee to review, discuss and determine recommendations for Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee consideration. These recommendations are included in the [draft Beyond 2025 Report](#), which is open for public comment.
 - The public comment window is July 1 – August 30, 2024. For instructions on the process for submitting comments, please refer to this [FAQ sheet](#). All comments must be submitted to comments@chesapeakebay.net in order to be considered.

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- **Agriculture Advisory Committee**

- At the June 25th Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) meeting, the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Action Team presented a [draft bylaws document](#) with three recommendations related to the establishment of an AAC.
- The PSC concurs with Ag Action Team's three recommendations: 1) establish a CBP AAC; 2) finalize bylaws that establish the procedures and membership of the AAC; and 3) convene a meeting with EPA Regional Administrator Ortiz to explore budgets and funding to financially support the AAC.
 - Action: The PSC directs the Ag Action Team to develop an Executive Council Directive that formally establishes the AAC. The Directive will be reviewed and discussed by the PSC at its September 17 meeting and will be brought up for approval at the PSC's October 25 meeting with final adoption by the Executive Council at its December meeting.

- **Opportunities in Agriculture for a Thriving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Beyond 2025**

- [Registration](#) is now open. **Contact Elizabeth Friedel (efriedel@umd.edu) if you are unable to access this link or otherwise experience difficulty registering for the workshop.**
- July 23, 2024 – Optional reception/mixer in the evening (Time: TBD)
- July 24, 2024 – Workshop (8:00 am – 4:30 pm)
 - Click [here](#) for the detailed agenda.
- Join a conversation with leading agricultural scientists and experts from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to discuss the latest advances in:
 - Nutrient management and soil health; economic and other incentives for conservation practice adoption; nutrient flows across the supply chain; movements and markets for local food; agricultural land preservation.
- Through an interactive discussion with the workshop participants, scientists will share their recommendations based on decades of agricultural research in the Bay Watershed and how we can sustain thriving agriculture AND have a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Workshop recommendations will be shared with the Chesapeake Bay Beyond 2025 Steering Committee to inform efforts post-2025.

- **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, August 15th, 2024: 10AM-12PM (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

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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