



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

June 2025


Agenda

- 1 Agroforestry EPEG Update**
- 2 Buffer Upland Credit for Phase 7**
- 3 Planning Document Review**
- 4 New Business, Announcements & Updates**

Agroforestry EPEG: Update and Pulse Check



Background

- Supporting Agroforestry Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed – March 2024
 - Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) process introduced in May 2024
 - Vote on EPEG charge – June 2024
 - Vote on EPEG membership – July 2024
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- EPEG kickoff – August 2024
 - EPEG convening: Aug 2024 – present
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Where do we go from here?

- Next steps

- 1) **“Refresher” and “pulse check” for necessary workgroups/GIT**
- 2) EPEG finalizes recommendations, produces report
- 3) Introduce recommendations to necessary workgroups
- 4) Workgroups vote on recommendations

NOTE: Phase 7 inputs deadline is September 30th



Presentation





Discussion



Application of Buffer Upland Credit for Phase 7

Quick recap

- April Watershed Technical Workgroup meeting – Bill introduced this topic
 - WTWG requested it be presented to AgWG, comments or concerns with proposal be relayed back to WTWG
- May AgWG meeting – Bill shared the proposal and time was provided for discussion
 - AgWG members requested additional time to more fully understand the proposal
- Bill has returned with an updated presentation
 - Review Bill's information; most time intended for discussion/Q&A

Proposal and Ask

- From slide 14 in Bill's presentation:
 - Distribute the upland benefit from non-exclusion buffers proportionally to the load sources to which it is applied.
 - Stop providing upland credit to non-exclusion buffers from pasture.
- Watershed Technical Workgroup is responsible for making the decision; sector workgroup provides input on considerations, etc. for WTWG.



Presentation



Planning Document Review

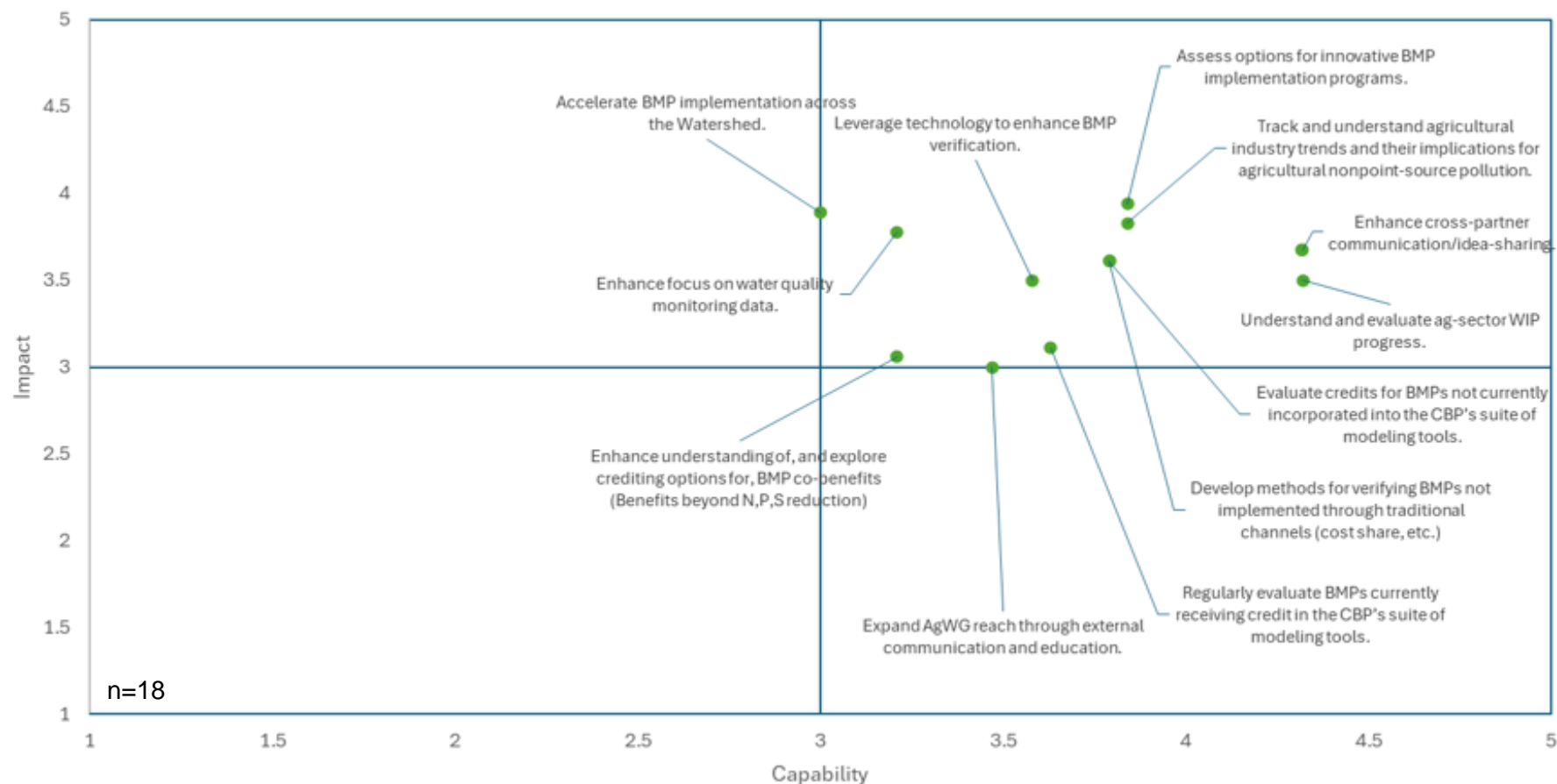
Document Overview

- Outlines AgWG's high-level areas of interest; objectives the group would like to ultimately achieve
 - Includes actions that can be taken to make progress toward achieving each objective
- Memorializes the AgWG's interests at this point in time
- Serves as a “menu” to support agenda-setting

Last month

- Majority of presentation focused on document's 12 objectives
- Wanted to ensure we were on the right track with objectives before moving to actions
- Polled meeting attendees through Mentimeter on benefit of each objective to the partnership and the capability of the AgWG to achieve each objective

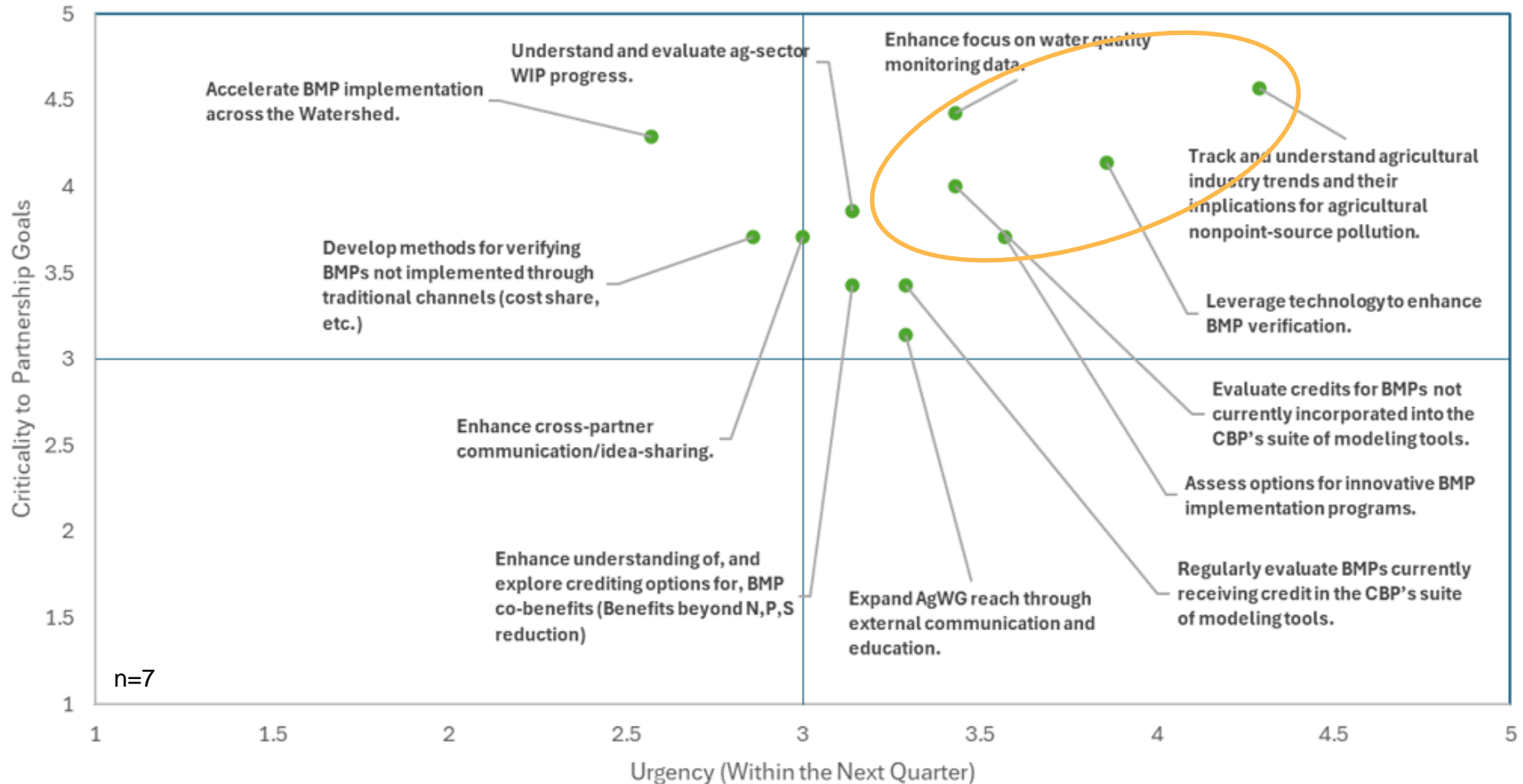
Capability vs. Impact of AgWG Objectives



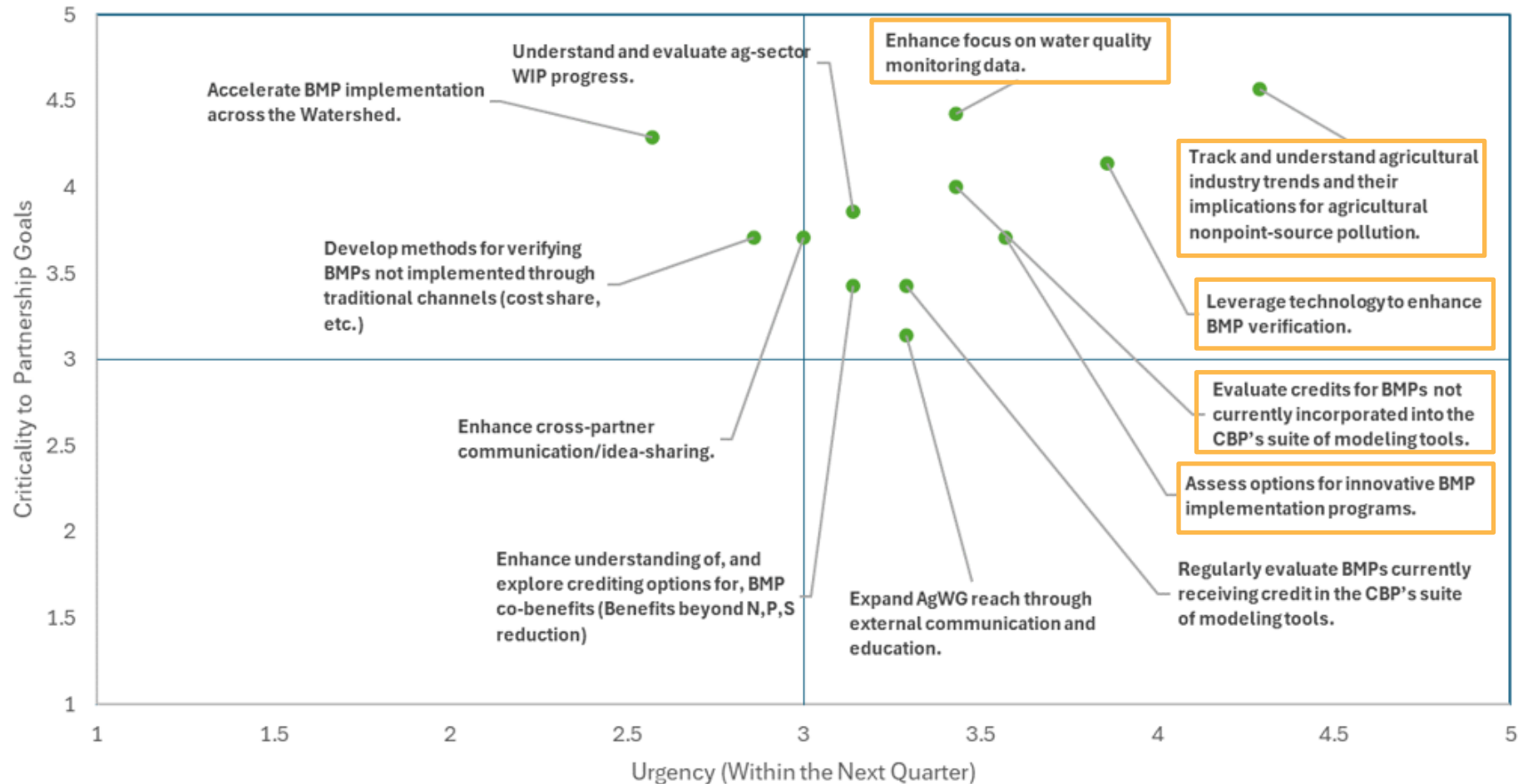
Post-meeting poll

- Followed up with members with another poll
 - Question added: How urgent is it that we begin to work on this objective in the next 3-4 months?
 - Hoped to further stratify responses and clearly show: “start here”

"Urgency vs. Impact" of AgWG Objectives



"Urgency vs. Impact" of AgWG Objectives



What do we do with this?

- Enhance focus on water quality monitoring data
 - Understanding differences between modeled and monitored data
 - Scaling up monitoring efforts
 - Supporting small ag watershed monitoring
- Assess options for innovative BMP implementation programs
 - Exploring opportunities for public-private partnerships
 - Understanding how BMP implementation is currently targeted and opportunities to build on these strategies
- Leverage technology to enhance BMP verification
 - Deep dive into remote sensing projects
 - Determine opportunities to establish remote sensing-based methods for BMP verification

Finalizing the document

- Incorporate suggestions shared since May meeting
- Not building out into workplan, etc.
 - Begin using to build agendas immediately
- Should be accessible on AgWG page?
 - Formal vote to feel comfortable with this?
 - “AgWG endorses this as a working document to guide planning and discussions”

New Business, Announcements & Updates



AMT Updates – Tom Butler



Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update

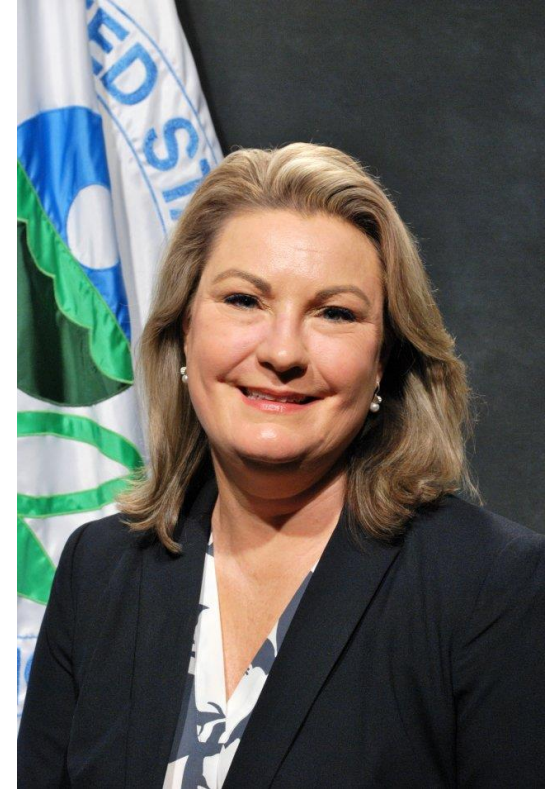
- The AAC will host its next meeting on Wednesday, June 25th, 6:00-7:30PM
 - Meeting page linked [here](#).

Upcoming Events (teaser only!)

- NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum
 - Fall 2025
- Bay in the Balance
 - December 8-10
 - Gettysburg, PA

Personnel Update

- New EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator:
Welcome, Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey!
 - Raised on and operated family dairy farm in Bradford County, PA
 - PA's first ag ombudsman



Thanking our colleagues

- EPA Region 3

- Kelly Shenk – Region 3 Ag Advisor

- CBPO

- Gary Shenk – Hydrologist (watershed model development)
 - Jeff Sweeney – Integrated Analysis Coordinator and EPA voting member on several CBP groups
 - Mark Dubin – Senior Agricultural Advisor
 - Ruth Cassilly – Nonpoint Source Policy Analyst

Anything else?

- Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email

Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at Hughes.Eric@epa.gov



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