

# Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

## Meeting Agenda

March 16, 2023

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## Meeting Materials

### Conference Call Information\*

Zoom Link: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/86998611539>

Meeting ID: 869 9861 1539

Passcode: 9780

Phone: +1 305 224 1968 US

**Calendar Page:** <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-march-2023>

\*To enter the webinar, please open the webinar link first. After opening the webinar, either elect to join via computer audio or via phone call. If you select phone, **please ensure you enter the participant ID.**

\*\*Common Acronyms can be found at the end of this agenda.

## Workgroup Areas of Focus

**Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation**

**Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments**

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** – Jeremy Daubert, 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 February AgWG call

### Accounting & Reporting

10:05 **Forestry Resource Improvement Practices: Extension of Select Credit Durations (30 min)** – Vanessa Van Note, EPA.

The BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team (BMPVAHAT) and WQGIT voted to [extend](#) the credit duration of Forest Buffer and Tree Planting practices to 15 years in [August 2021](#). At the Forestry Workgroup (FWG) [February 2023 meeting](#), the FWG determined that *RI-9: Forest Buffer Exclusion Area on Watercourse* and *RI-10: Forest Buffer on Watercourse* practices were functionally equivalent to the Forest Buffer practices included in the recommendation previously approved by the BMPVAHAT. The FWG requests that the credit durations for these practices be extended to 15 years to align with previous decisions made by the partnership on the credit durations of tree practices. Vanessa will give an overview of what these practices are and the discussions with various groups that have occurred to date. The AgWG will be asked to vote on this issue at the April meeting, as the original [RI Practice Definition and Verification Visual Indicators report](#) was

developed by the AgWG in 2014, meaning any changes to the credit durations of these practices would require consensus approval from the AgWG.

**10:35 USDA Surveys and the Census of Agriculture (25 min) – Tony Dorn, USDA-NASS.**

In light of the completion of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, Tony Dorn of the USDA- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will provide background on NASS Surveys. This will include Agrochemical surveys as well as the Census of Agriculture.

## **Data & Modeling**

**11:00 Agricultural Data Inputs (15 min) - Tom Butler, EPA.**

Tom will provide an update on the Phase 7 Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) and their [March](#) meeting. Additionally, he will review the recent Fertilizer Expert Group meeting that took place March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Accounting & Reporting**

**11:15 Crediting NRCS Soil & Water Conservation Plan Practices Update (5 min) – Tom Butler, EPA.**

Due to a lack of responses for volunteers to form an Expert Panel Evaluation Group (EPEG), we will alter course on the investigation into S&W Conservation Plan crediting. This will entail CBPO staff examining potential updates connecting NRCS practices and Chesapeake Bay Program approved BMPs.

**11:20 Additional discussion time for Resource Improvement Practices (25 min) – Tom Butler, EPA.**

This is extra time to bring up further concerns or questions from our earlier presentation on forestry resource improvement credit durations if necessary.

**11:45 New Business & Announcements (5 min)**

- **In person AgWG meeting.**
  - Is anyone interested in meeting in person? We have created a poll to gauge the groups interest in meeting in person as well as to find the best time and location for a meeting. Please fill out [this poll](#) by 03/30/2023.
- **Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) Roundtable: Implementing clean water solutions for agriculture in Pennsylvania. March 15<sup>th</sup> 12 – 1 PM.** Virtual.
  - In 2016, 2019, and 2022, leaders from Pennsylvania’s agricultural and environmental communities participated in a series of “Pennsylvania in the Balance” conferences. In the early years, participants generated creative new ideas to position agriculture in the state as a solution for clean water. Convened by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, *PA in Balance 2022* marked the latest in a series of these conferences aimed at providing a forum where motivated leaders in agriculture and the environment work collaboratively to identify new, innovative solutions that can help ensure thriving, productive agriculture while meeting water quality goals for Pennsylvania’s local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.
  - [Registration/Website.](#)
- **Conservation Drainage Network Annual Meeting. April 4 - 6, 2023.** Hybrid.
  - Theme: ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION. The 2023 meeting is being designed differently than the previous spring meetings. Specifically, it focuses on

substantially advancing implementation of conservation drainage. Not just how to better do conservation drainage, but how to get more of it done.

- [Meeting program](#) and [Website](#).
- **Registration:** Click [here](#).
- **Cover crop BMP verification hybrid method**
  - Present AgWG approved [cover crop survey hybrid method](#) to WTWG for update to verification protocols (date pending).
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund**
  - [Small Watershed Grants \(SWG\) Program](#), delivered in partnership with EPA and the CBP partnership, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.
  - [Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Grants \(WILD\) Program](#), delivered in partnership with FWS, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects that conserve, steward, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
  - Soliciting proposals until **Thursday, April 20, 2023**.
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email.

#### 11:50 Review of Action and Decision Items (10 min)

- **Decision requested in April:** Extend credit durations of RI-9 and RI-10 Forestry Practices to 15 years, as recommended by the Forestry Workgroup.
- **Action:** Fill out [this poll](#) to gauge group interest for an in-person meeting by COB 3/30/23.

#### 12:00 Adjourn

### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom**

#### \*\*Common Acronyms

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)

BMP- Best Management Practice

BMPVAHAT- [BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team](#)

CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)

CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office (houses EPA, federal partners, and various contractors and grantees working towards CBP goals)

CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed

CRC- [Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

DPF – Dairy Precision Feeding

EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency

EPEG – Expert Panel Exploratory Group

FWS – [United States] Fish and Wildlife Service

MUN – Milk Urea Nitrogen

NEIEN- National Environmental Information Exchange Network

NFWF- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)

PA DEP- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)

PSU- Penn State University

STAC- [Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee](#)

SWG – Small Watershed Grants Program

TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load

WILD - Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Grants Program

WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)

WTWG- [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)

UMD- University of Maryland

USDA-ARS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Agricultural Research Service*

USDA-NASS- United States Department of Agriculture-*National Agricultural Statistics Service* USDA-NRCS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

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