

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)
Meeting Agenda
May 10, 2012
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Chesapeake Bay Program Office Fish Shack
Annapolis, Maryland
Conference Call Number- 866.299.3188, Code- 410.267.5731
Virtual Meeting Room- <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/agwg/>

09:30 **Welcome and Introductions** **Coale**

09:40 **AgWG Meeting Minutes** **Coale**
Frank Coale, AgWG Chair, will lead a discussion on the review and approval of the minutes from the March 8, 2012 workgroup meeting at the CBPO Fish Shack.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

09:45 **BMP Verification Process** **Coale**
The workgroup has been requested to develop an initial draft agricultural verification protocol for providing to the CBP partnership next month. To accomplish this task, Frank Coale will provide an overview of the desired approach to develop the protocol with the workgroup.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

09:50 **BMP Verification Principles** **Batiuk**
Rich Batiuk, EPA Associate Director for Science, will discuss the current timeline of the verification development process, the formation of the BMP Verification Steering Committee and the status of the draft BMP Verification Principles being developed by the group for the partnership.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

10:10 **NACD Non-Cost Shared Project Meeting** **Shenk**
Kelly Shenk, EPA Agricultural Policy Coordinator, will present the summary findings of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) sponsored meeting held on May 3, 2012 with the project's federal, state and local agency partners. In cooperation with the agency partners, the NACD project supported by the USDA-NRCS has been identifying verification opportunities for non-cost-shared agricultural practices. The draft NACD report entitled "Recommended Protocols on the Measurement of Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" is currently being finalized for release.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

10:25 Agricultural BMP Verification Comments: Agencies Coale

Frank Coale will moderate an open discussion from the perspective of the state agency representatives on their individual state efforts with partners to support accuracy of their implementation data through various methods of verification. The representatives will be asked to relate their existing and piloted efforts to account for conservation practices to the development of an agricultural BMP verification protocol. The discussion will encompass all forms of BMPs, cost shared as well as non-cost shared practices.

Order of Discussions: Virginia
 Maryland
 Delaware
 West Virginia
 Pennsylvania
 New York

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

11:40 Agricultural BMP Verification Comments: Partners Coale

Frank Coale will moderate an open discussion from the perspective of non-state agency representatives on their perspectives and/or efforts to support the accuracy of implementation data through various methods of verification. The partners will be asked to relate their perspectives and/or existing and piloted efforts to account for conservation practices to the development of an agricultural BMP verification protocol. The discussion will encompass all forms of BMPs, cost shared as well as non-cost shared practices.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

12:00 Luncheon Break

01:00 Agricultural Verification Concept Coale/Dubin

Frank Coale and Mark Dubin will present a draft concept for developing an agricultural verification protocol founded on the current draft BMP Verification Principles. Frank will lead an open discussion with the workgroup to review the concept, consider potential revisions, and formulate a draft agricultural verification protocol.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

02:45 Chesapeake Commons Dawes

R. John Dawes, Chesapeake Commons Administrator, will provide a brief overview of the Chesapeake Commons data platform that is currently

being developed with the support of the Heintz Center and the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. John will demonstrate how a non-governmental data system could potentially offer one solution to the states for collecting, tracking and reporting non-cost share BMP data while providing security of sensitive personal information.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

03:15 Review of AgWG Recommendations Coale/Dubin
The members will review and finalize the workgroup's recommendations for endorsement and implementation.

ACTION REQUESTED: Finalized Workgroup Recommendations

03:30 Adjourn

Project Updates:

If sufficient time is available, short updates will be provided on modifications to agricultural information on the ChesapeakeStat decision support tool.

Conference Call Materials:

Participants are requested to review the materials posted on the AgWG webpage for the meeting. Some documents may be posted just prior to the meeting, so please check back.

Agenda Schedule:

The meeting agenda is reflective of known information at the time of publication and may be subject to change due to other circumstances. Additional agenda items may be added if time is available.