



Chesapeake Bay Program  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# Agriculture Workgroup

Office Hours – May 1 and 6, 2025

# Agenda

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**1 Purpose of Office Hours**

**4 Discuss next steps**

**2 Review of April AgWG  
slides (framing, etc.)**

**3 Walkthrough of planning  
document**

**Ask questions throughout!**



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# Purpose of Office Hours



## Venue for providing clarification on planning doc and overall planning effort

- Less time than planned during March and April AgWG meetings to discuss
  - March: moved presentation to April to accommodate time-sensitive soil health discussion
  - April: time from planning discussion allocated to vote on remote sensing guidance
- The planning document was introduced at the April meeting, but the presentation was rushed and no time was left for discussion
  - Addition of office hours will create time for more thorough review of slides, presentation of the planning document, and Q&A

# **Review of April AgWG slides**

# What we've done so far

- We fill our agendas, but our workgroup is lacking clear direction
- Prudent to establish focus as Beyond 2025, Ag Advisory Committee take shape
- Took the following path to get to this point:

October	November	December	January	February
What is the purpose and role of the AgWG moving forward?				
Brainstorm areas of interest, future deliverables	CESR Report	Beyond 2025	Agriculture Advisory Cmte and other CBP entities	Prioritization of interests, focus areas, at in-person meeting
What would you like to see the AgWG accomplish in the next two years?	How should findings presented in the CESR report influence the direction of the AgWG?	How might Beyond 2025 influence the direction of the AgWG?	How do we engage with the AAC, STAC, other workgroups, to best support our purpose and goals?	

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## April meeting [what we *planned* to cover]

- Overview of document used to present AgWG's areas of interest synthesized from workgroup engagement (discussions, one-on-ones, Menti, etc.) as planned for March
  - Document has evolved since March meeting
  - Explain framing, contents
  - Field questions; open discussion
- Timeline/next steps

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# February meeting

- Summary with all of the ideas we've heard
- Three thematic areas:
  - Implementation & Lessons from the Field
    - Targeting implementation
    - New strategies for getting practices on the ground
  - Crediting & Verification
    - Alternative verification methods (remote sensing)
    - Address key verification challenges
    - Establish adequate crediting for implemented practices (definitions, duration)
    - Add to suite of BMPs receiving credit (EPEG/EP, NRCS practices)
  - Innovation & Emerging Opportunities
    - Pay-for-performance
    - Monitoring
    - Mass balance
    - Sustainable ag, co-benefits



# February meeting – thematic areas

## ● Three thematic areas:

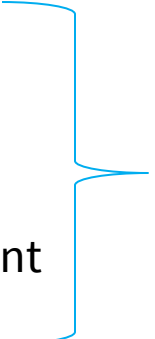
- **Implementation & Lessons from the Field** 
  - Targeting implementation
  - New strategies for getting practices on the ground
- **Crediting & Verification** 
  - Alternative verification methods
  - Address key verification challenges
  - Establish adequate crediting for implemented practices
  - Add to suite of BMPs receiving credit
- **Innovation & Emerging Opportunities** 
  - Pay-for-performance
  - Monitoring
  - Mass balance
  - Sustainable ag, co-benefits

Not  
A  
Big  
Change

# Framing our work – back to the beginning

- Sec. 117 of Clean Water Act: Chesapeake Bay Program is “the program directed by the Chesapeake Executive Council *in accordance with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement*”
  - CBP Governance document: Bay Program advances “Bay protection and restoration *through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement signed in 2014*”
  - CBP – and therefore its groups – exist to help achieve what is included in the Watershed Agreement: the 10 goals and 31 outcomes
- What is the purpose of a Bay Program workgroup?
  - Function not defined in CBP governance
  - GITs are “intended to focus and drive implementation to achieve very explicit progress and results within the scope of their goal area”
    - GITs may “create and commission workgroups for specific actions under the purview of their GIT as needed” (p. 14)

# Framing our work – outcomes

- AgWG scope and purpose are great, but tie to the Watershed Agreement only *implied*
  - For other workgroups, this tie is *explicit*: they are “outcome leads”
- The only workgroups under a GIT without an assigned Watershed Agreement outcome:
  - Invasive Catfish
  - Federal Facilities
  - Urban Stormwater
  - Milestones
  - Watershed Technical
  - Wastewater Treatment
  - **Agriculture**

6/7 from Water Quality GIT

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# So, you're saying the AgWG needs an outcome?

- Not exactly.
- The AgWG “has” an outcome: as we’ve discussed recently, *part of* the 2025 WIP outcome
- Many other workgroups lead their own outcome(s); the WQGIT leads “ours”
  - These workgroups are responsible for developing their own 2-year workplans, participating in the Strategy Review System (SRS) process, reporting to the Management Board, etc.
  - We can participate as the WQGIT goes through this process for the outcome we support, but this creates a disconnect between how we work and how the majority of other partnership groups work

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## What's the point?

- Leading the effort on an outcome defines a group's responsibility and aligns its work with core responsibility of the Bay Program
- We suggest advancing the ideas captured in Feb's thematic bins, *framed in a way that more closely aligns with what is currently the 2025 WIP outcome*

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# Anatomy of the document

- Cover page
  - Background
  - Purpose
  - Request
- “Pillars”
  - Implementation
  - Crediting and Verification
- “Objectives”
- “Actions”



**Questions?**

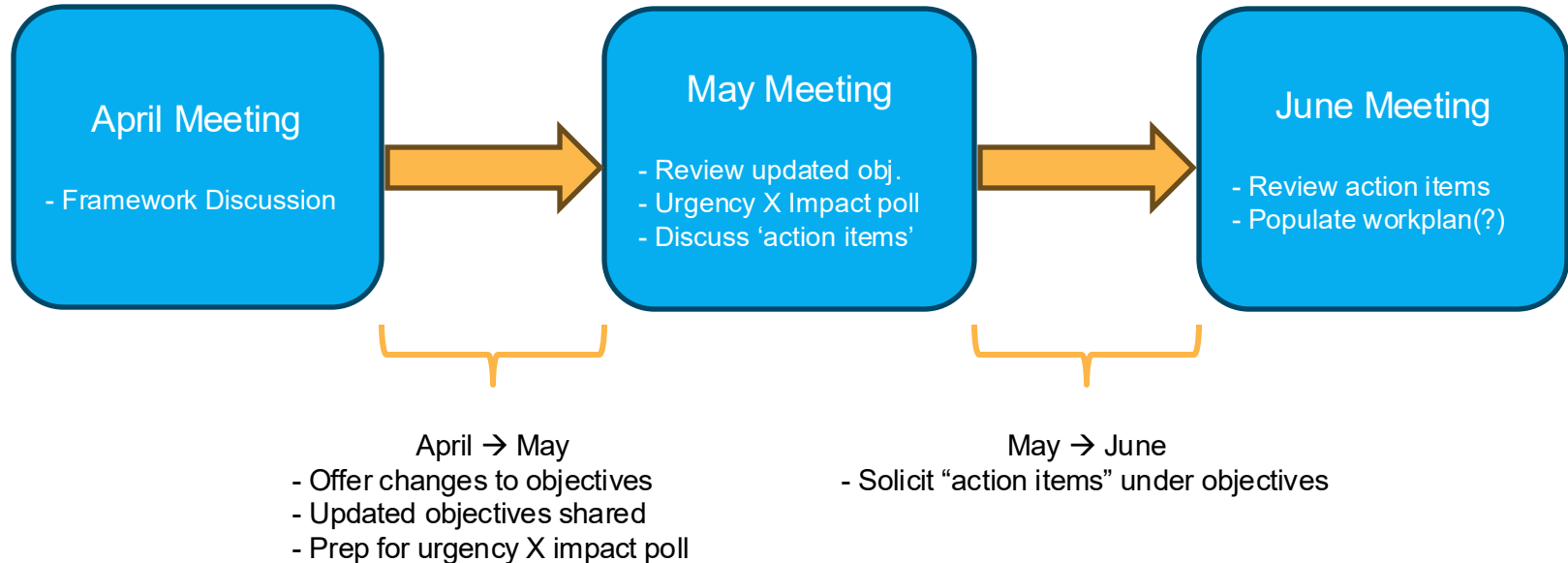


# Walkthrough of Planning Document



# Next Steps

# Timeline



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## Key questions

- In what areas can and should we provide value to the partnership?
- What goals should be associated with each focus area that you deem important?
  - How can we build/gather the knowledge and expertise needed to support these goals?
  - What discussions would you like to see us have or decisions would you like to see us make to advance toward achieving these goals?
- What is missing/what would you change? Did we accurately capture our discussions from the past several months?



**Questions?**



