

Agriculture Workgroup: Recommended Updates to Governance Protocol

Presented to Water Quality GIT

February 26, 2018

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

- Decision-Making (elaborated definition)
 - consensus-based (should consensus not be reached, decision moves in succession to each entity below)
 - Full Workgroup
 - AgWG Governance Membership
 - Signatory Membership
 - WQGIT with a description of the member positions

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

- Leadership (language added)
 - Chair and Vice-Chair:
 - Can be nominated from across all interested parties of the AgWG and the broader Chesapeake Bay Partnership.
 - Responsibilities:
 - facilitate and moderate monthly meetings of the AgWG
 - un-biased, neutral role within the AgWG, with a focus on consensus-building via active outreach among the entire cross-section of AgWG participants
 - Vice-Chair supports the role of Chair and leads in the Chair's absence
 - steps into the Chair role following the Chair's tenure (2 years), should professional demands allow.
 - Should refrain from having a voice in the decision-making process
 - Should a current governance member transition into the Chair or Vice-Chair role, someone should be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the transition

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

- Participation (language added)
 - In response to concerns regarding At-large Membership
 - If determined that neither a governance member nor his/her selected alternate is regularly participating in Workgroup meetings, the Workgroup may seek to replace said member(s)
 - **Signatory member:** responsibility of the specific jurisdiction to find another individual(s) to fulfill the signatory membership duties
 - **At-Large member:** Workgroup Coordinator communicates with member to determine his/her willingness re-commit to the responsibilities of the Workgroup. If determined unable to participate in regular Workgroup activities, the at-large member will be asked to formally resign from the governance membership role. The Workgroup will be notified of the pending vacancy. *Should the vacancy occur more than six months prior to the next normal at-large election cycle, the Workgroup will determine by consensus if seeking new nominations to fill the vacancy is warranted.*

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

- Length of Term: Leadership Positions (Language Added)
 - Maximum of 2 years
 - Vice-Chair may step into the Chair role following term, should professional demands allow.
 - Seek nominations for a new Vice-Chair
 - Should both positions be vacated simultaneously, nominations will be sought for both positions
 - In order to maintain the vibrancy and robustness of the Workgroup, maintaining the same person in the Chair position for consecutive terms is strongly discouraged

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

- Membership Selection Process (Language Added)
 - **At-Large Members:**
 - Selected by Signatory members from list of nominated candidates
 - Each Signatory member will receive one ballot (for a total of 8 ballots- each jurisdiction, EPA, and CBC)
 - Candidates will be ranked in sequential order
 - Rankings used as values to create an average score for each candidate across the signatory membership. Those candidates whom receive the lowest average (therefore highest ranking) scores will be chosen to fill the at-large vacancies. The selected candidates will be announced at the forthcoming Workgroup meeting.

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

- Membership Selection Process (Language Added)
 - **Chair/Vice Chair Members:**
 - Voting occurs during Face-to-Face meeting
 - All candidates will attend the AgWG meeting designated for elections to present their qualifications, interest and commitment-level to the Workgroup.
 - Following Chair candidate presentations, AgWG participants that are present in-person or over-the-phone will receive one ballot (paper or on-line, as appropriate) listing all Chair candidates.
 - Workgroup Coordinator and Staffer will tally the votes
 - In the event of a tie-vote in selection of the Chair, the selection between the two tied candidates will be decided by anonymous ballot among the Signatory membership.
 - Should the signatory vote also result in a tie, the out-going Workgroup Chair will serve as the tie-breaking vote.
 - Runners-up for the Chair position may request to be added to the Vice-Chair pool
 - Any remaining candidates for Vice-Chair that have not yet spoken will present themselves to the Workgroup and voting will proceed for Vice-Chair, as described above.

AgWG Governance Protocol Updates

Decision Requested: The WQGIT is asked to approve the revised AgWG Governance Protocols document.