

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday December 11th, 2023
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:45 PM Eastern Time
Location: **Link:**

<https://umces.webex.com/umces/j.php?MTID=mfd7823b90cb70f3956d087ca74ceb44d>

Meeting number: 2626 261 4765

Password: WQGIT2023

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388

Access code: 262 626 14765



Chesapeake Bay Program

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Meeting materials: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/water-quality-goal-implementation-team-git-3-meeting-december-2023>

Written announcements or reminders (CTRL + click to jump ahead within document)

Agenda

Topic	Start time (duration)	Item Title <i>Item description</i>	Speaker(s) or presenter(s)
	1:00	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u> <i>We will use Webex for roll call purposes, so please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the WebEx participants list. If not, please enter your correct name & affiliation in the chat box. If multiple participants are joining through the same location, please enter your names in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.</i>	Suzanne Trevena, EPA, WQGIT Chair
	(20 min)	<u>Announcements & Verbal Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WQGIT Coordinator Updates – Jeremy Hanson, CRC• January 31 Submersion Series• Dec. 8th PSC highlights	

- *Workgroup Updates (2 min or less, open to workgroup chairs or coordinators)*

WQGIT Governance	1:20 (10 min)	<p><u>Confirm WQGIT Leadership (Chair & Vice Chair) for 2024-2025 Term</u></p> <p><i>Suzanne Trevena (EPA) and Bryant Thomas (VA DEQ) are the nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. There will be some time for each to share their ideas and respond to questions. Following WQGIT approval, the Management Board will be asked to concur with the leadership appointments at a subsequent meeting (tentatively January).</i></p> <p><i>Decision requested: WQGIT members are asked to confirm Suzanne Trevena (EPA) as WQGIT Chair and Bryant Thomas (VA DEQ) as Vice-Chair</i></p> <p>Materials: Bios</p> <p>Decision Requested: WQGIT members will be asked to confirm Suzanne Trevena (EPA) as WQGIT Chair and Bryant Thomas (VA DEQ) as WQGIT Vice-Chair for the 2024-2025 term.</p>	Jeremy Hanson, CRC
Indicators	1:30 (30 min)	<p><u>Riparian Forest Buffer Indicator and Methods</u></p> <p><i>Sarah and Katie will review proposed updates to the riparian forest buffer indicator, as approved at the recent December 1st Joint FWG/LUWG meeting. The WQGIT will have an opportunity to ask questions.</i></p> <p><i>No decision requested at this time. The WQGIT will be asked to approve at a later meeting.</i></p> <p>Materials: Slides</p> <p>Informational only.</p>	Katie Brownson, USFS, FWG Coordinator; Sarah McDonald, USGS, LUWG Coordinator
	2:00 (10 min)	<p><u>Break</u></p> <p><i>[We may shift this break to start later (~2:30), depending on preferences of speakers for following agenda item]</i></p>	
Beyond 2025	2:10 (60 min)	<p><u>Beyond 2025 Steering Committee and Clean Water Small Group Updates and Discussion</u></p> <p><i>On Thursday, November 30, the Clean Water Team (or “small group”) held an information gathering and facilitated discussion session with multiple Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). The scope includes the following high level topic areas: Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Water Quality Assessment, Water Quality Monitoring, Nonpoint Source Management, and Water Quality Standards. The scope and categorization</i></p>	Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP; KC Filippino, HRPDC; Joe Wood, CBF; Lee McDonnell, EPA

of each high level topic was discussed, with framing questions that were provided by the Clean Water Team members during the initial meeting on November 8, and SME responses to those framing questions. The Clean Water Team members and the SMEs actively participated in the facilitated discussions, as the group began to consider how the information presented could lead to recommendations.

The co-leads (Jill, Lee, and Joe) will summarize themes/take-aways from the 11/30 meeting. The timeline and next steps will also be discussed and participants will be asked high-level questions via Mentimeter.

Please note: the approach and content of this item is still in flux and may change. We greatly appreciate the efforts and flexibility of the speakers, as well as the patience of WQGIT members/participants.

Materials: Slides; other TBD

Requests: Participants will be asked a series of high-level questions live via Mentimeter.

Follow-up ACTION: Recommendations that WQGIT/workgroup members have for the Clean Water Team to consider should be provided to the Co-leads by 12/15 (Jill Whitcomb, Lee McDonnell, and Joe Wood: jiwhitcomb@pa.gov, McDonnell.Lee@epa.gov, JWood@cbf.org).

Beyond 2025	3:10 (30 min)	<u>Flex time for open or continued discussion and/or additional Beyond 2025 Small Group updates</u> Given the fluid, evolving details and plans for our 12/11 discussion we are reserving this extra block of time to allow for one or a combination of the following, as time and participation allows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from other teams/small groups (Climate; Healthy Watersheds; Shallow Waters; People) • Perspectives/questions/suggestions from workgroup chairs/coordinators for Clean Water Team • Extended discussion from previous agenda item of particular issues raised • Other items that arise through prep/planning 	TBD
	3:40	<u>Recap of Actions and Decisions</u>	Sushanth Gupta, CRC
	3:45	ADJOURN	

Written announcements or reminders

- **Announcements or upcoming opportunities**

- [CRC Roundtable](#) on Wednesday, December 13th, from 12-1 pm titled “Blending Art and Science: Using Visuals to Unwrap Science.” Register and join to learn how art and science can move the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort forward.
- **NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities.** \$45 million in funding is available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities.
 - Closing Date: December 19, 2023
 - Award Period: Approximately three years
 - Funding award amount range: \$75,000 to \$3 million over the award period.
 - More Information about Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities<<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-habitat-restoration-and-resilience-grants-tribes-and-underserved-communities>> grants and informational webinars
 - View grant opportunity on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)<<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=350054>>
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust - Release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Program.** The goal of this research program is to answer several key restoration questions that are a barrier to watershed restoration project implementation.
 - **Information Session:** An online information session will be held January 5, 2024, from 12pm to 1pm EST. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZOrceyggzMjGtwSIMQPgyiWjTKqRj3q7Jx4>
 - **Deadline:** January 25, 2024, at 4pm EST
 - **How to apply:** The RFP and link to apply is online at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/restoration-research/>
- 5th National Climate Assessment has been published and is available online: <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>
 - US Global Change Research Program hosted a Dec. 4th [webinar on the Water chapter](#). See the list of [all the NCA5 webinars](#), including ones focused on oceans, coastal effects, blue carbon, ecosystems, adaptation, Tribal and Indigenous Peoples, specific regions of the country, and NEW chapters on economics and social systems & justice.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking comment on a revised draft of the nonpoint source (NPS) §319 grant guidelines. These revisions include new flexibilities and expectations to ensure the equitable delivery of §319 NPS program benefits for communities impacted by NPS water quality challenges. Among other updates and clarifications, the draft guidelines support the use of new science and information to advance climate resilience through NPS solutions. The revised draft of the “National NPS Grants Guidelines for States and Territories;” is the first since 2013. The revised guidelines are currently available for public comment until December 31, 2023, at: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/cwa-ss319-grant-guidance-update>.
- **Enrollment open now for The Nature Conservancy’s new agroforestry project: Expanding Agroforestry Production (EAP).**
 - The EAP program is focused on adding new fruit, nut, timber, and biodiversity trees and shrubs through alley cropping, silvopasture, and windbreak practices. For qualified farmers, this project will offer technical assistance,

Per-Tree Installation Costs Incentive (average \$30/tree), and Transition Incentive of \$450/acre paid out in three installments. You can find more about the payments here: [Fact sheet on the Incentive Payment Program](#).

- [Here are the FAQ's](#) about the EAP project.

Additional instructions or info:

- **This meeting will be recorded for internal purposes.** Current EPA policy does not allow for distribution of the recordings.
- Closed captioning will be available for this meeting. To turn on the closed captioning, select the “cc” button in the bottom left corner of the screen. To show a live transcript of the meeting, go to the bottom right-hand corner of the screen and select “captions”.
- If you have any other accessibility concerns, please contact Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov).

Acronyms

B25SC: Beyond 2025 Steering Committee

CAST: [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#)

CBF: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium

[PA] DEP: Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection

[VA] DEQ: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

FWG: [Forestry Workgroup](#)

HRPDC: Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

LUWG: [Land Use Workgroup](#)

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

USFS: United States Forest Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

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