



Staffer Updates

Petra Baldwin, CRC, WQGIT Coordinator
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Photo by Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

<https://flic.kr/p/2rJDD4d>

Agenda at a glance

- Welcome & Intro
- Business & Workgroup Updates
- 2026 Meeting Plans
- Phase 7 Timeline
- 2024 Tidal Water Quality Trends
- BREAK
- Hydrologic Period Discussion
- 2025 Progress Communication Discussion

**Business,
News &
Reminders**

VIMS and MD DNR released annual dead zone assessment

Chesapeake Progress being rebuilt

Bay in the Balance conference rescheduled for March 2-4, 2026

Reminder to check agenda for more announcements or reminders you may not want to miss!

EC, PSC and MB updates

Since our October WQGIT meeting:

October 28 & November 6
Principals Staff Committee
meetings

December 2 Executive Council

December 11 Management Board
meeting



Photo by Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

<https://flic.kr/p/2rJDUj9>

Phase 7 Decision Tracker Updates

- Posted version: December 3
- Two versions available
 - Tracker from July- September (final, for reference)
 - Tracker from October-February 2026 (draft, ongoing updates)
- Recent Decision: UNM Expert Panel Report
 - USWG (Via email by 11/12), WTWG (11/6), WQGIT (11/24)

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/projects/phase-7-model-development>

Workgroup updates

Full workgroup updates provided in later slides; please consult posted slides at your convenience

Workgroup Updates (source sectors)

open to Chairs or Coordinators to add more

Wastewater

Deadline for new data for P7 CSS layer: Jan 23. Reviewing Sewer Service Area in Jan.

Next meeting: January 22, 10am-12pm

Forestry

FWG is transitioning to a new staffer, Julia Fucci.

Next meeting: January 7, 9-11am

Agriculture

Dec meeting topics: mapping BMPs to Load Source Groups, feed space acres methodology, priority BMPs for remote sensing, and more. Agenda is posted.

Next Meeting: December 18, 10am-12pm

Urban Stormwater

UNM report was approved. Deadline for new data for P7 MS4 layer is Jan 23.

Dec meeting topics: compacted pervious LU decision, mapping BMPs to Load Source Groups, Beyond Bean Counting report.

Next meeting: December 16, 10am - 12pm

Workgroup Updates (others)

open to Chairs or Coordinators to add more

Watershed Technical

Dec 4th meeting on feed space , voting by email. Updates on QAPP reviews and verification calls. Accepting nominations for chair, vice chair, and at-large members by Jan 2nd.

Next meeting: January 8th, 2026, 10am-12pm

Toxics

Accepting nominations for co-chair and at-large members by Jan 5th.

Next meeting: January 14, 2026, 1-3pm. Will include 2 presentations on web mapper tools.

Federal Facilities

Canceled Dec meeting.

Next meeting: February 10, 2026, 10am – 12pm.

Land Use

New staffer, Julia Fucci. LUWG will be reviewing the time series data from 1985-2024 in March.

Next meeting: TBD. Healthy Landscapes joint meeting was canceled.

Milestones

Templates for the expectations and progress documents are [posted](#) to workgroup page.

Next meeting: TBD

Proposed 2026 GIT meeting schedule

Planned (through June)

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27 - 28*
- May 18**
- June 22

*Currently targeting April for hybrid meeting (location TBD, likely CBPO)

** Moved up 1 week for Memorial Day

Tentative (July – Dec)

- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 23? (Alternates: 9 or 16?)
- December 28? (Alternates: 14 or 21?)

As structure and governance instructions become clear we will assess the schedule necessary to do our work in the latter half of 2026

Workgroup updates – more details

Agriculture

- The AgWG canceled their November meeting. The December meeting was rescheduled back to its initial date and time (December 18th), given that the Bay in the Balance Conference was rescheduled to March.
- The December 18th meeting will feature program updates, a presentation on the preliminary mapping to BMPs and load source groups, an update on the methodology for the allocation of feed space acres for Phase 7, a discussion on priority BMPs for efficiency evaluation and remote sensing, and takeaways from the Chesapeake Ag Networking Forum.
- The AgWG is accepting nominations for Vice Chair and at-large members by December 30th.
- Next Meeting: December 18th 10am-12pm.

Forestry

- FWG is transitioning to a new staffer, Julia Fucci.
- Next Meeting: Healthy Landscapes Joint Meeting has been canceled. The FWG will meet again on January 7th.

Workgroup updates – more details

Urban Stormwater

- The Urban Nutrient Management Panel Report was approved! The [final report is posted](#) to the website under USWG, WQGIT and WTWG.
- The deadline for new data to be submitted for inclusion in the final version of the Phase 7 MS₄ Layer is still Friday, Jan 23rd.
- The November meeting was canceled.
- The Dec 16th meeting will include updates on the Phase 7 model development timeline, a decision on an adjustment to the Compacted Pervious Land Use class, a decision on the mapping of developed BMPs to Load Sources, and a presentation of the Beyond Bean Counting draft report.
- Next Meeting: December 16, 2025 from 10 am - 12 pm

Wastewater Treatment

- The deadline for new data to be submitted for inclusion in the final version of the Phase 7 CSS Layer is still Friday, Jan 23rd.
- The GIS Team is working on minor improvements to the sewer/septic model for Phase 7, which the workgroup will likely be asked to review the Sewer Service Area in late January and review the backcast in late-February/early-March.
- Oct, Nov and Dec meetings were canceled.
- Next Meeting: January 22, from 10am-12pm

Workgroup updates – more details

Watershed Technical

- The Watershed Technical Workgroup met on December 4th and heard a presentation on the method for allocating feed space acres for Phase 7. The group was also informed of the ongoing QAPP review and the meeting setup/next steps as they relate to the December 8-12 verification calls. The WTWG will vote on the feed space methodology via email by December 18th.
- The WTWG is accepting nominations for chair, vice chair, and at-large members by January 2nd.
- Next Meeting: January 8th, 2026, from 10am-12pm.

Toxic Contaminants

- A [call for co-chair and at-large member nominations](#) is out. Please submit nominations by January 5th.
- Nov and Dec meetings were canceled
- TCW's January meeting will include two presentations for web mappers in the watershed.
- Next meeting: January 14, 2026 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Workgroup updates – more details

Federal Facilities

- The FFWG canceled their December 9th meeting
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10th, from 10am-12pm.

Land Use

- The LUWG is transitioning to a new staffer, Julia Fucci.
- The LUWG will be engaged on the review of the time series data from 1985-2024 in March. Details via email are forthcoming.
- The healthy landscapes joint meeting has been canceled.

Milestones

- Templates for the expectations and progress documents are ready and [posted](#) to workgroup page. The EPA page will be updated soon.
- Next meeting: TBD