

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday Sep 22nd, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Eastern Time
Location: [Link: Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 232 740 964 777 9
Password: kA6Ga3X4
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Meeting materials: [Calendar Link](#)



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

Agenda

Topic	Start time (duration)	<u>Item Title</u> <i>Item description</i>	Speaker(s) or presenter(s) Materials
	1:00	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u> <i>We will use Teams for roll call purposes, so please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the 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. Please see bottom of the agenda for details on new meeting security practices.</i>	Greg Sandi, MDE, WQGIT Vice-Chair
	(15 min)	<u>Announcements & Verbal Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinator Staffer Updates – Petra Baldwin, CRC<ul style="list-style-type: none">Workgroup Updates	Materials: Presentation
Milestones	1:15 (20 min)	<u>Approval of Near-Term Milestone Schedule</u> In Jan 2025 , the PSC agreed to use two-year milestones to maintain continuity and accountability toward meeting Phase III WIPs during the “interim period” before new targets are set. Expectations for these milestones were developed with input from the	Bo Williams, EPA

Milestones Workgroup, and the schedule was approved by the Milestones Workgroup at their [Aug 29th meeting](#). Bo will present the [schedule](#) for this near-term milestones period for 2026-2027 and EPA's [Expectations](#) for commitments and reporting progress. WQGIT is only asked to approve the schedule, but feedback on the Expectations Document is welcome as well.

There are two changes to the schedule from previous years: 1) Shifting submission of Milestone progress and commitments from Jan 1 to Feb 13 to allow for more time for jurisdictions to gather data from the full calendar year and 2) Changing the initial EPA evaluation to only cover the programmatic commitments to aid a simpler, quicker review process.

Materials:
[Presentation](#),
[Schedule](#),
[Draft](#)
[Expectations](#)
[Document](#)

Decision Requested: WQGIT recommendation of the Near-Term Milestone schedule to the Management Board for their consideration and approval.

Beyond 2025	1:35 (15 min)	<p><u>Revised Watershed Agreement: Update</u></p> <p>Following the Public Feedback period that closed on Sept 1, the Management Board's Review Team worked with outcome leads to submit a revised Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Outcome to the MB for their approval at their Sept 30-Oct 2 MB Retreat. We will share an overview of proposed changes to outcomes and targets under the Clean Water Goal based on what's available ahead of the MB Retreat.</p> <p>Informational.</p>	<p>WQGIT Leadership</p> <p>Materials: Presentation, Combined public feedback</p>
Phase 7 model development	1:50	<p><u>Phase 7 Round-Up</u></p> <p>The following topics have previously been discussed or presented at the WQGIT or optional office hours. The information has been vetted and approved through the workgroups or the AMT, therefore these items are not considered decisional for the WQGIT. The objective of these agenda items is to contextualize this cumulative information for the WQGIT as the modeling team continues development of the Phase 7 Watershed Model post-September.</p>	
<p>Pre-meeting action requested: WQGIT members should review posted materials for the below items. If there are critical concerns for any of the posted materials or cumulative</p>			

workgroup or AMT decisions, please reach out to the WQGIT Vice-Chair and Coordinator before September 22nd.

1:50 (20 min)	<u>Hay High and Pasture High - Land Use Loading Rate Ratios</u> In February 2025, the AMT agreed to make two new land uses, Managed Hay (now Hay High) and Managed Pasture (now Pasture High), designed to represent high application land uses. As new land uses, loading rate ratios are needed to estimate loads from the land uses. The loading rate ratios are relative loading behavior of Land Uses compared to the reference land use, in this case pasture. The AMT reached consensus at the Sep 12th meeting on the loading rate ratios for these two land uses, and their decision will be described to the WQGIT. <i>Note: the name of these new land uses was changed from Managed Hay and Managed Pasture to Hay High and Pasture High.</i>	Speaker TBD Materials: Presentation
<i>Informational, for feedback and discussion. See pre-meeting action request above.</i>		
2:10 (20 min)	<u>Land Use Aggregation to Phase 7 Land Use</u> Sarah McDonald, USGS will present on the full list of Land Use Aggregation for Phase 7. This was previously present to the WQGIT at the April 2025 meeting. Workgroups within the WQGIT have worked since then to finalize remaining decisions on specific land uses. If you would like a deeper dive, this was also presented at the Aug 18 Office Hours. You can view the recording here . <i>Informational, for feedback and discussion. See pre-meeting action request above.</i>	Sarah McDonald, USGS Materials: Presentation, P7 Land Use Aggregation Table
2:30 (10 min)	<u>Break</u>	
2:40 (20 min)	<u>Phase 7 CAST Land Use/Load Sources</u> Helen will present the full list of CAST Land Uses (Load Sources) for Phase 7, including loading rate ratios for each, and highlight changes from Phase 6. Loading rate ratios have been carried over from Phase 6, or established by the AMT or sector workgroups. This was also presented at the recorded Aug 18 Office Hours and Aug 2025 WQGIT meeting.	Helen Smith, Devereux Consulting Materials: Presentation ,

Informational, for feedback and discussion. See pre-meeting action request above.

[P7 CAST Land Uses and Loading Rate Ratios Table](#)

3:00 (40 min)	<p><u>Urban Nutrient Management</u></p> <p>David Wood, USWG Coordinator will share an update on the UNM Panel’s report and recommendations. The WQGIT heard a presentation at the Aug 2025 meeting with initial recommendations from the panel. The UNM Panel met again on Sept 11 to complete a draft of the report, which will be shared via email with WQGIT members for review when it is ready.</p> <p>Following a request from the USWG Chair, the decision process for these recommendations has been extended to November 2025, acknowledging the impractical decision turnaround discussed during our August 25 meeting, and after confirming that the modeling team’s workflow will not be critically impacted.</p> <p>David will provide an update on the planned schedule for review and decisions at WTWG, USWG, and the WQGIT.</p> <p><i>Informational, for feedback and discussion. See pre-meeting action request above.</i></p>	<p>David Wood, CSN</p> <p>Materials: Presentation, Draft UNM Panel Report (will be posted as soon as available)</p>
3:40 (15 min)	<p><u>Flex Time</u></p> <p>We are reserving additional time on the agenda to spend according to WQGIT members’ needs or interests. For example, this could be spent on emerging questions following the office hours held on Sept 15 and 18*. Or, we can utilize this time to resolve any of the above items.</p> <p>*Note: As of September 8th we are likely to cancel the office hours on the 18th unless something changes or a request is made to discuss one or more items. We will send a cancellation notice or update by COB September 12th.</p> <p><i>Our objective is to spend this agenda time where active discussion or action is most needed, and we can provide links or materials for other topics not covered.</i></p>	<p>WQGIT Leadership; other speakers TBD</p> <p>Materials: Updated Decision Planner</p>
3:55	Recap of Actions and Decisions	Petra Baldwin, CRC
4:00	ADJOURN	

Written announcements or reminders

- **Announcements or opportunities**

- The next CRC Roundtable, "[Shared Learning and Informed Decisions: CRC's Convening Capacity](#)," will be on **Wednesday, September 17 at 12-1pm**. This month, we celebrate five years since the first CRC Roundtable. Join the roundtable to hear lessons learned from convening the Chesapeake watershed community. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **CAST Webinars are back!** The next one, "[Modeling BMP Effectiveness at the Farm Scale](#)," will be on **Thursday, September 18 at 12-1pm**. Join for a special CAST webinar featuring guest presenter Marcie Dunn, who will share her experience using NRCS planning tools — Conservation Desktop and the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART) — to identify, prioritize, and evaluate on-farm conservation practices. The Farm Scale Pollutant Load Analysis Field Guide will also be introduced as an alternative approach that anyone can use with publicly available CAST data to estimate both water quality and carbon reduction benefits of BMPs. Register [here](#).
- **CBP released a [press release](#) on the Bay TMDL and Water Quality Standards and Attainment (WQSAM) indicator.** The press release also shared the latest information on the amount of pollutants and their long-and-short-term trends entering our waterways as observed through the non-tidal network monitoring system and River Input Monitoring stations throughout the watershed. Many more data points and indicators can be referenced in the [press release](#) and on [ChesapeakeProgress](#).
- **STAC recently published the report, "[A Path Forward in Considering Future Environmental Scenarios in Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts](#)," from the May 2024 STAC Workshop** to refine and expand existing climate modeling efforts for the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. [Read it here](#).
- **The [Chesapeake Urban Stormwater Professionals \(CUSP\)](#) program began **August 27, 2025**.** CUSP is Chesapeake Stormwater Network's free, virtual professional training program. The core of the program is a 14-webinar curriculum that will run through Fall 2025 and can be completed asynchronously. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **The Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation [CERF 2025 Conference](#) will be **November 9-13, 2025**** in Richmond, VA. [Registration](#) is now open, and a [tentative schedule](#) has been posted. Find more information on the [conference webpage](#).
- **The 2025 NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum will take place **November 12-14, 2025**** at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. If you'd like to stay informed on next steps for Forum developments, please fill out this [Google form](#). Registration and lodging information is anticipated by the end of August.
- **The [2026 Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) is accepting special session proposals through **November 21, 2025**.** The 2026 edition of the biennial symposium will be held June 1-3, 2026, in Annapolis, Maryland. The theme of the 2026 Symposium is Chesapeake Bay Research and Restoration: Next Generation Tools for a Dynamic Future. Learn more and submit a proposal [here](#).
- **The [Bay in the Balance 2025 Conference](#) will take place **December 8-10, 2025**** at the Wyndham Conference Center and Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. For more information on the event and to register, please visit the following [site](#).
- More conferences and opportunities across the watershed in the coming months are listed in the [July WQGIT Newsletter](#).

Virtual Meeting Settings

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 closed captioning, click on the “More Actions” button. Next, hover over the “Language and Speech” button, and click “show live captions”. If you have any other accessibility concerns, please contact Petra Baldwin (Baldwin.Petra@epa.gov).

Note on Teams meeting security:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be disabled at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, use the raised hand feature on Teams. We will then enable you to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be allowed for all participants.
- If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will end the meeting and send an email to all members and interested parties with a new meeting link. Please share this with colleagues attending the meeting who may not be on the distribution list, but do NOT share this link publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

Acronyms

AMT: [Agricultural Modeling Team](#)
BMP: Best Management Practice
CAST: [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#)
CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program
CRC: Chesapeake Research Consortium
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

MDE: Maryland Department of the Environment
MB: [Management Board](#)
PSC: [Principals' Staff Committee](#)
STAC: [Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee](#)
TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load
UNM: Urban Nutrient Management
USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

USWG: [Urban Stormwater Workgroup](#)
WQGIT: [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)
WTWG: [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)