

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)
Meeting Agenda
August 17, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
[Meeting Materials](#)

Conference Call Information*

Zoom Link: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/86998611539>

Meeting ID: 869 9861 1539

Passcode: 9780

Phone: +1 305 224 1968 US

Calendar Page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-august-2023>

*To enter the webinar, please open the webinar link first. After opening the webinar, either elect to join via computer audio or via phone call. If you select phone, **please ensure you enter the participant ID.**

**Common Acronyms can be found at the end of this agenda.

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** – Jeremy Daubert, AgWG Chair.

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the July AgWG call
- **Decision requested:** Consensus decision for **Pennsylvania Verification Pilot Project**
- **Decision requested:** Consensus decision **Virginia Tillage Survey Verification**

Data & Modeling

10:05 **Agricultural Land Use Categories (20 min)** – Peter Claggett, USGS, Katie Walker Chesapeake Conservancy, Mike Evans Chesapeake Conservancy

Chesapeake Conservancy and the CBP Land Data Team are revising the land use/land cover model to produce new data using imagery from 2021/22, which will be released in June 2024. They are soliciting the input of the AgWG on mapping processes and potential new classes, including new mapping efforts related to animal operations and the further separation of pasture and hay. In a two-part discussion, they will first present contextual information and topics for consideration in August, and look for more discussion and resolution in September.

Accounting & Reporting

10:25 **Pennsylvania Verification Pilot Project (30 min)** - Scott Heidel, PA DEP, and Joshua Glace, Larson Design Group (LDG)

The Non-Intrusive BMP Verification methodology and associated SOP will be presented in addition to the results of an independent review. The AgWG will be asked to approve the methodology so that BMPs verified using this method can be applied to 2023 Progress.

DECISION ITEM

10:55 **Virginia Tillage Survey Verification (30 min)** – Stuart Blankenship, and James Martin, VA DCR

Virginia completed a tillage survey of the cropland in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed during the Spring of 2022. The group will hear from TetraTech who conducted a review of the methodology at EPA's request. The Virginia team will present on the changes that resulted from the review findings and answer any questions from the work group regarding the methodology presented to the group last month. They will seek AgWG consensus to accept the Virginia methodology and to allow Virginia to submit the results of this survey for use in the Chesapeake Bay Model beginning with 2023 Progress.

DECISION ITEM

11:25 **Manure application eligibility and timing in CAST (30 min)** – Chris Brosch, DDA

Inconsistencies with the timing and eligibility file in the current version of CAST have led to unrealistic results for manure applications to agricultural crops in Delaware and Maryland. We will be examining these data and hear from these states with a proposed solution.

Wrap up

11:55 **New Business & Announcements (2 min)**

- **Cover crop BMP verification hybrid method**
 - Present AgWG approved [cover crop survey hybrid method](#) to WQGIT for update to verification protocols (August).
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

11:57 **Review of Action and Decision Items (3 min)**

- **Action:**
 - Discuss agricultural land use categories
 - Discuss timing and eligibility of manure applications in CAST.
 - Vote on PA verification pilot project
 - Vote on VA tillage survey project

12:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 21st: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom

****Common Acronyms**

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)

BMP- Best Management Practice

BMPVAHAT- [BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team](#)

CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)

CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office (houses EPA, federal partners, and various contractors and grantees working towards CBP goals)

CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed

CRC- [Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

DPF – Dairy Precision Feeding

EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency

EPEG – Expert Panel Exploratory Group

FWS – [United States] Fish and Wildlife Service

MUN – Milk Urea Nitrogen

NEIEN- National Environmental Information Exchange Network

NFWF- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)

PA DEP- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)

PSU- Penn State University

STAC- [Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee](#)

SWG – Small Watershed Grants Program

TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load

WILD - Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Grants Program

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

WTWG- [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)

UMD- University of Maryland

USDA-ARS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Agricultural Research Service*

USDA-NASS- United States Department of Agriculture-*National Agricultural Statistics Service* USDA-NRCS- United States Department of Agriculture-*Natural Resources Conservation Service*