

## Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

### Meeting Agenda

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### Meeting Materials

#### Conference Call Information\*

Zoom Link: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/81478635498>

Meeting ID: 814 7863 5498

Passcode: 2024

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

**Calendar Page:** <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-march-2024>

#### Workgroup Areas of Focus

**Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation**

**Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments**

\*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.

#### **10:00 Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes – 10 minutes**

*Kathy Brasier, 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*
- Acknowledging Jackie Pickford for her time with and service to the AgWG.
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the February AgWG call.

### Implementation/Accounting & Reporting

#### **10:10 Supporting Agroforestry Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed – 60 minutes (presentation and Q&A)**

*Ruth Cassilly, UMD; Katie Brownson, USFS-CBPO*

Support for the implementation of agroforestry practices continues to increase in an effort to enhance agricultural climate resilience and mitigation. USDA has allocated \$60 million dollars for agroforestry implementation as part of the Climate-Smart Commodities grant effort and our Chesapeake Bay Forest Restoration Strategy advocates increasing agroforestry practices to provide multiple co-benefits for farms and the Chesapeake Bay. We will present an overview of agroforestry practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, including current status, benefits,

implementation challenges, and efforts to improve capacity and incentives for implementation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

## **Innovation/Accounting & Reporting**

### **11:10 Update: Remote Sensing Verification of Conservation Tillage BMPs in Pennsylvania – 10 minutes (presentation and Q&A)**

*Ashley Hullinger & Scott Heidel, PA DEP; Tom Howard, Resolve Hydro*

Ashley Hullinger and Scott Heidel, PA DEP, will provide an update on Pennsylvania's project focused on remote sensing verification of conservation tillage BMPs.

## **Data & Modeling**

### **11:20 Preliminary discussion: Use of Agricultural Industry Data in Phase 7 Modeling Tools – 25 minutes (presentation and Q&A)**

*Mark Dubin, UMD; Paul Bredwell, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association*

Mark and Paul will provide an introduction to available opportunities for using agricultural industry data in the Phase 7 suite of modeling tools.

## **Wrap-up**

### **11:45 New Business, Announcements & Updates – 15 minutes**

- **Agricultural Modeling Team**
  - Tom Butler, Coordinator of the AMT, will provide a brief update on the group's latest activities.
- **Staffing Updates & Housekeeping**
  - Thank you, Jackie!
  - Plan for AgWG staffing moving forward will be discussed.
- **PSC Updates**
  - Agriculture Advisory Committee
  - USDA-EPA Task Force on Crediting Chesapeake Bay Conservation Investments
- **In-Person Meeting Poll**
  - Overview of the results of the in-person meeting poll and brief summary of the next steps that will be taken toward holding a meeting in person.
- **Ag BMPs and Remote Sensing**
- **Joint Climate Resiliency, Urban Stormwater, and Modeling WG Meeting**
  - The AgWG has been invited to a [joint virtual meeting](#) with CBP's Climate Resiliency, Urban Stormwater, and Modeling Workgroups on **April 4th, 9:00-3:00**. The purpose of this meeting is to
    - 1) support information transfer and facilitate a collective understanding in the opening discussion of the 2027-2028 climate assessment using the Phase 7 Suite of models, and
    - 2) facilitate discussion and provide an opportunity for partners to offer feedback on priorities, remaining needs, and how best to coordinate efforts.

- Attendance is optional, but AgWG members who are interested in this topic are encouraged to join. This will be an informational meeting *only*; there are no decision items on the agenda.
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Request for Proposals**
  - **Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program**
    - More information can be found on [NFWF's SWG website](#).
    - Proposals due April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
  - **Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) Program**
    - More information can be found on [NFWF's WILD website](#)
    - Proposals due April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **Other Announcements?**
  - Send to Jackie Pickford ([Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov)) and Eric Hughes ([Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

12:00 **Review of Action and Decision Items; Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom

**\*\*Common Acronyms**

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

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

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

CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office

CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed

CTIC – Conservation Technology Information Center

CVN – Conservation Validation Network

EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency

FSA – Farm Service Agency

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

OpTIS – Operational Tillage Information System

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

PSU- Penn State University

SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts

SWG – Small Watershed Grant Program

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

WILD – Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense

UMD- University of Maryland

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

USGS – United States Geological Survey