

Chesapeake Bay Program's Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) Call for Nominations: At-Large and Vice Chair

The Agriculture Workgroup is a sector specific, technical group that advises and reports to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) on all aspects of policies, programs, and research related to the reduction of pollutant loads delivered from agricultural activities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The full charge to the Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) can be viewed on our [website](#).

The AgWG is now accepting nominations for 6 at-large members and a vice chair for the 2024 – 2025 term. Please see below for the a) [vice chair position description](#) and the b) [at-large member position description](#). Feel free to share widely with your networks.

Please submit all nominations to Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov) and Eric Hughes (hughes.eric@epa.gov) by **COB Thursday, January 18th, 2024** with the following information:

1. Contact information (name, affiliation, email).
2. Short C.V., resume, or bio (addressing the nominee's background).

Nominations will be accepted from the full partnership and will be reviewed and selected by the signatory members and mid-term at-large members. **When nominating someone, please first confirm that they are interested in the position and agree to be nominated.**

For the nomination process, we will be following CBP AgWG's [governance protocols](#). Following the January 18 AgWG meeting, a poll will be sent to the current governance membership (signatory and mid-term at-large) to rank the nominees for confirmation at the February 15 AgWG meeting. All nominee information will be posted in advance of January meeting on the [calendar event page](#). The nominees will then be sent to the WQGIT for additional confirmation.

A) Vice Chair Position

Nominations for the positions of **vice chair** are invited for the Chesapeake Bay Program's Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG). The vice chair is not required to be a current signatory or at-large member of the AgWG but can be nominated from across all participants of the AgWG and the broader Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

- **Vice- Chair Responsibilities: Two-year term followed by stepping into the role of Chair for an additional two-year term.**
 - a) Collaborate with AgWG leadership (Chair, Coordinator, and Staffer) to plan and facilitate monthly AgWG meetings (2 hours/month).
 - b) Assist with fostering discussion on agenda topics to ensure active participation from workgroup members.
 - c) Support the Chair's role and lead meetings in the absence of the chair.
 - d) The vice chair would be expected to rise into the chair role following the end of the chair's tenure (February 2026).

- **Chair Responsibilities:** Two-year term. On average, the position is expected to require 4-6 hours per month, dependent on current AgWG activities.
 - a) Facilitate and moderate monthly meetings of the AgWG (standard 2-hour remote meetings each month, occasional in-person meetings ~1-2 times/year).
 - b) Coordinate with AgWG leadership in the development of meeting agendas and workload priorities.
 - c) Provide leadership in establishing and facilitating AgWG meeting and work priorities.
 - d) Facilitate consensus building within meetings and through active outreach to AgWG participants between meetings, as needed.
 - e) Interact with other sector workgroups, as well as the Modeling and Watershed Technical Workgroups on issues of cross-sector relevance.
 - f) Optional: Serve as a liaison to the WQGIT including participation on monthly, three-hour remote meetings.

On an as-needed basis:

- g) Provide occasional (as requested) presentations/reports to other Chesapeake Bay Program entities including the Citizens Advisory Council and the Science and Technical Advisory Council.
- h) Convene additional meetings in between regularly monthly calls as needed to ensure progress on special or time-sensitive initiatives.
- i) Support and foster expert panel development addressing BMP and other science-based evaluations.
- j) Serve on special initiatives of the AgWG such as verification development for the agriculture sector.

B) At-large Member Positions

Self-nominations for at-large members will be accepted. Re-nomination of members who hold the [current position](#) (Jeff Hill, Evin Fitzpatrick, Ken Staver, Jenna Schueler, David Graybill, Leon Tillman) will also be accepted. The AgWG governance protocols and the scope and purpose are posted on the [AgWG website](#). Additional details below.

Position: At-Large Member (6 open positions)

Length of Term: 2 years, starting March 2024

Time Commitment (estimated):

- Monthly Meetings - 2 hours/month (third Thursdays of each month from 10 AM – 12 PM).
- Prep Work - Average of ~2 hours/month assuming 1 hour of individual prep and 1 hour of follow-up work or discussions. Varies by member and active topics.

Position Description:

At-large members actively participate in the operations of the Workgroup. Members are responsible for using subject matter expertise and their home-agency authority to advance the effectiveness of the group and to accelerate the accomplishment of restoration activities.

Members are expected to:

- Use their positions and expertise to positively influence actions within their organization that either directly or indirectly impact the ability to meet AgWG goals and objectives.
- Engage with the AgWG leadership as necessary on important policy or management decisions throughout the year.

Additional Info:

At- large member positions are traditionally held to empower non-signatory partners in the decision-making process. Priority for at- large membership will be reserved for nongovernmental organizations, quasi-governmental organizations, Federal Agencies, academic institutions, and other local practitioners that have a role in water quality improvements.

The time commitment for members varies but is flexible, particularly for at- large members. It is recognized that at- large members are more likely to have a harder time consolidating their normal work responsibilities with AgWG activities than some partners or signatories. AgWG leadership is flexible to accommodate the perspectives and participation of all members to the extent feasible.

Please reach out to Jackie Pickford (pickford.jacqueline@epa.gov) with any questions or concerns.