



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# **Agriculture Workgroup**

## January 2024 Meeting



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# **Vice Chair & At-Large Member Nominations**

2024-25 Term



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# Vacant Positions

- Terms ending January 2024:
  - 6 at-large members
  - Chair/Vice Chair
- Chair for 2024-25 term: Dr. Kathy Brasier
  - Thank you, Jeremy!

# Nominees

## At- Large Nominees (Term: 2024-2025)

Name	Affiliation	Membership Category	Nominated By
David Graybill	PA Farm Bureau	Agribusiness & Industry	PA DEP
Jeffrey Hill	York County Conservation District	Soil/Water Conservation	PA DEP
Ken Staver	University of Maryland	Academic/Extension	Self-nominated
Jenna Schueler	Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Conservation/Environmental NGO	Self-nominated
Leon Tillman	Natural Resources Conservation Services	USDA/Federal	Self-nominated
Zach Evans	Mountaire Farms, Inc. (Poultry)	Agribusiness & Industry	Self-nominated

## Vice Chair Nominees (Term: 2024-2025)

Name	Affiliation	Nominated By
Caitlin Grady	George Washington University (GWU)	Self-nominated

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# Introductions

- Zach Evans – Community Relations Manager, Mountaire Farms, Inc.
- Dr. Caitlin Grady – Assistant Professor, Engineering Management and Systems Engineering Department, George Washington University

# Confirmation

Do you approve David Graybill, PA Farm Bureau, as an AgWG at-large member for the 2024 - 2025 term? \*

☐ Yes, I approve.

☐ No, I do not.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you approve Jeffrey Hill, York County Conservation District, as an AgWG at-large member for the 2024 - 2025 term? \*

☐ Yes, I approve.

☐ No, I do not.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Nominations accepted through end of day today
- Poll will be sent to signatory/mid-term at-large members tomorrow
  - Responses due: **Friday, 1/26**
- Questions?
  
- All members: send any personnel updates as soon as possible

# **Pennsylvania & Virginia Pilot Projects**

Background/Context

# Background

- Pilot projects were evaluated by the BMPVAHAT
  - Recommended that AgWG is briefed on results
- BMPVAHAT = BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team
  - August 2020 – September 2022
  - Charged with exploring alternatives to BMP re-verification, reassessing established credit durations, **exploring lesser-used approaches to BMP verification**, and reviewing recommendations from ongoing BMP verification work



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# Background

- Today's presentations are nested under Task 3 of the BMPVAHAT: explore lesser-used approaches to BMP verification
  - BMPVAHAT was disbanded prior to project results being finalized
  - Suggestion 2D of BMPVAHAT [Final Report](#): brief AgWG on pilot project outcomes
- Cooperator report for USDA/PA Practice Keeper pilot published late 2023
  - Overview of project and results
- Updates on a Virginia's pilots – lessons learned



United States Department of Agriculture



# USDA-EPA Task Force on Crediting Chesapeake Bay Conservation Investments



# **New Business, Announcements & Updates**

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# **AMT Updates – Tom Butler**

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# Agriculture Workgroup Leadership Update

- Today is Jeremy's last meeting as AgWG Chair
  - February meeting will be Kathy's first as Chair
- Thank you to all members for your participation in the group!

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# CBPO Leadership Update



Martha Shimkin (EPA) -  
Director



Lee McDonnell (EPA) – Deputy  
Director (*Acting*)

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# In-Person Meeting Poll

- Similar to last year's poll
  - Proposing dates for a June-October in-person meeting
  - Seeking input on interest, availability
  - Ideas: free venues; activities?
- Please complete poll by **COB Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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# Agriculture Advisory Committee Update

- July 28, 2023 – State Ag. Secretaries and Commissions for Bay states sent letter to EPA Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz recommending the formation of an Ag. Advisory Committee
- September 26 – PSC discussed the recommendation
- October 19 – PSC chair informed Executive Council that the PSC will empower an Action Team to develop directive for the EC to consider
- December 8 – PSC action: **Establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Action Team to Pursue the Formation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee to Chesapeake Executive Council**



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# Agriculture Advisory Committee Update

- Action Team is responsible for recommending whether or not an Agriculture Advisory Committee should be established
  - Recommendation finalized by 2024 EC meeting
- Action Team will provide updates to PSC
  - We will keep AgWG informed
- Limited information at this time, as Action Team is newly formed

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# Agriculture Advisory Committee Update

- MD – Kevin Atticks (CHAIR)
- EPA – Lucinda Power
- CBC – Marel King
- VA – Stefanie Taillon
- PA -- Doug Wolfgang
- DC – temporary: Jeff Seltzer
- WV – Matt Monroe
- Stakeholders Advisory Committee – Matt Erhart
- STAC -- Tony Buda (USDA-ARS)

\* No rep from NY, DE yet

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# Beyond 2025 Update

- 2022 EC charge to PSC: recommend “a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025.”
- March 2023 – MB approved formation of Beyond 2025 Steering Committee
  - Members from bay jurisdictions, fed. agencies, GITs & advisory cmtes
  - Steering committee met June - October
- October/November 2023 – Small groups formed
  - **Clean Water**, Climate, Healthy Watersheds, People, Shallow Water Habitats

# Refresher - Scope of B25 CW Team



## TMDL

Planning Targets  
Accountability Framework  
Modeling Updates  
Progress Reporting and  
Milestones



## Water Quality Assessment

Shallow Waters focus vs.  
Chesapeake Bay “deep channel” for  
Water Quality Standards Attainment



## Nonpoint Source Management

Current and future restoration  
programs  
Connecting local efforts with  
Chesapeake Bay goals and  
outcomes



## Water Quality Monitoring

Local water quality monitoring  
inclusion in Chesapeake Bay  
watershed  
Trends analysis at local and non-  
tidal/tidal scales  
Maintaining and growing water  
quality monitoring and assessment  
data collection to continuously  
inform decision-making



## Water Quality Standards

Evaluation of current Water  
Quality Standards  
Toxics and emerging  
contaminants

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# Beyond 2025 – Next Steps

- Workgroup members are encouraged to attend WQGIT meetings for update presentations from Clean Water Small Group
  - 1/22 WQGIT meeting – presenting draft high-level recommendations for B25SC
- Clean Water Small Group Listening Session Webinar – 2/1 (tentative)
  - We will share details when they are finalized

# PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE TIMELINE

## **February 2024:**

2-day symposium

## **March-April 2024:**

Adopt small group recommendations

Draft Steering Committee product

## **May-June 2024:**

Solicit public feedback

## **July 2024:**

Revise and affirm Steering Committee recommendations

## **August-September 2024:**

Seek approval from Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee

## **October 2024:**

Present to and request approval from Executive Council

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# Questions?

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## Anything else?

- Send to Jackie Pickford  
(Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in  
“Recap” email



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# Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at [hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov)



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