

# **Agriculture Workgroup Interim Governance**

## **Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership**

February 25, 2014

The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) operates as a technical recommendation body of the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, and thus does not possess the ability to form policy decisions for the partnership. The workgroup can form recommendations which are forwarded to the WQGIT for official partnership decision using voting procedures.

In the current absence of partnership guidance for workgroups to implement in forming recommendations, the Chair of the AgWG will be implementing the following guidance in polling the workgroup membership for determining recommendations. When approved governance policies are developed and provided by the WQGIT to the affiliated workgroups, the new procedures will replace the present interim workgroup governance.

A consensus-based approach will be the primary recommendation-making mechanism utilized by the Agriculture Workgroup. If the Chair believes that a consensus cannot be reached, the following polling procedures are available to the Chair for implementation:

- Recommendations require a simple two-thirds majority poll, where the number of polled members in favor must be at least twice the number of members against.
- Abstaining polls, neutral polls, or workgroup members not present are not considered in the polling results.
- Representatives of jurisdictions, federal, state and county agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others recognized as members of the Agriculture Workgroup are allowed one poll access per participating member.
- A current listing of Agriculture Workgroup members is available on the workgroup's Chesapeake Bay Program webpage at [http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/agriculture\\_workgroup](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/agriculture_workgroup).
- Members present in person for the workgroup meeting will cast their poll directly, and paper confidential ballots may be utilized when requested by the Chair.
- Members not present in person for the workgroup meeting will be provided access to an electronic single-access confidential survey poll through the AdobeConnect virtual meeting room: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/agwg/>. All remote access participants should plan to log in to AdobeConnect for meetings where a vote is scheduled. The name that you log in with will not be associated with your poll response.
- Member polls will be collected and counted by the workgroup coordinator and CRC staff member and the results provided to the Chair for announcement.
- Recommendation determinations will be recorded in the workgroup's meeting notes and posted for workgroup and public access. The meeting notes will be reviewed by the workgroup at the next meeting for approval.