

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)
Meeting Agenda
March 8, 2012
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
CBPO Conference Room 305A
Conference Call Number- 866.299.3188, Code- 410.267.5731
Virtual Meeting Room- http://chesapeake1.na4.acrobat.com/agwg_meeting_room/

09:00 **Welcome and Introductions** **Coale**

09:10 **AgWG Meeting Minutes** **Coale**
The review and approval of the minutes from the February 23, 2012 conference call.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

09:15 **ChesapeakeStat** **Vetter**
Doreen Vetter, EPA ChesapeakeStat Project Manager, will demonstrate a proposed further refinement of information included in the Current Efforts tab under the agriculture section. The example will illustrate how 2009-2010 county level implementation data could be incorporated as a tool for supporting decision making. The ChesapeakeStat team is interested in receiving feedback from the workgroup on the usability and usefulness of presenting this information.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

09:35 **Evaluation of Nutrient Management Practices** **Dubin/Smolen**
Mark Dubin, Workgroup Coordinator, and Mike Smolen, Tetra Tech, will provide a project update for evaluating agricultural nutrient management practices for representation in the Chesapeake Bay Program models.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

09:55 **Evaluation of Conservation Tillage Practices** **Dubin/Sievers**
Mark Dubin, Workgroup Coordinator, and Mark Sievers, Tetra Tech, will provide a project update for evaluating agricultural conservation tillage practices for representation in the Chesapeake Bay Program models.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

10:05 **Evaluation of Cover Crop Practices** **Dubin/Sievers**
Mark Dubin, Workgroup Coordinator, and Mark Sievers, Tetra Tech, will provide a project update for evaluating agricultural cover crop practices for representation in the Chesapeake Bay Program models.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

- 10:15** **Water Stewardship Verification Process** **Brosch/Korsak**
Chris Brosch and Ron Korsak, representing Water Stewardship, will share an outline for an assessment and verification procedure to track BMP implementation progress in the watershed. This process has been practiced on more than 150 farms across the watershed and has found good buy-in with producers.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

- 10:30** **Howard County Verification Project** **York/Ensor**
Dana York, President of Green Earth Connection LLC, and Robert Ensor, Manager of the Howard Soil Conservation District, will discuss the methods and preliminary findings of a county-wide project to assess and verify agricultural conservation practices on farms in Howard County, Maryland. The project was initiated to assess farms under county land preservation easements, but has since grown to include other farm operations that are participating in the program voluntarily.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

- 11:30** **USDA/USGS NEIEN Data Project** **Hively/Claggett**
Dean Hively, USDA-ARS, and Peter Claggett, USGS-CBPO, will provide an overview of the data sharing agreements established between several USDA agencies and USGS, and the current status of the resulting data exchange project. The agreements were established to directly integrate annual conservation practice implementation from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) into the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) reporting template for the Bay watershed.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

- 12:00** **Luncheon Break**

- 01:00** **NACD Recommended Measurement Protocols** **Duesterhaus**
Rich Duesterhaus, National Association of Conservation Districts, will present a report based on the findings of the USDA-NRCS supported verification protocol process for non-cost-shared agricultural practices. The draft report entitled “Recommended Protocols on the Measurement of Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed” is currently being finalized for release.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

01:45 Evaluation of Poultry Litter Management Glancey/Dubin
Dr. Jim Glancey, Subcommittee Chair and Mark Dubin, Workgroup Coordinator, will provide a project update for evaluating agricultural poultry production and litter management practices for representation in the Chesapeake Bay Program models.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation

02:00 BMP Verification Process Coale
The Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) endorsed a preliminary process to develop a partnership approved BMP verification standard on January 9, 2012. The proposal was subsequently endorsed by the Management Board on February 9th and by the Principals Staff Committee (PSC) on February 16th. With partnership support, the workgroup has been requested to initiate a process for developing a draft agricultural verification protocol. Frank will lead a workgroup discussion on the desired approach and guidance to develop the protocol.

ACTION REQUESTED: Workgroup Participation and Recommendations

03:15 Review of AgWG Recommendations Coale/Dubin
The members will review and finalize the workgroup's recommendations for endorsement and implementation.

ACTION REQUESTED: Finalized Workgroup Recommendations

03:30 Adjourn

Project Updates:

If sufficient time is available, short updates will be provided on modifications to agricultural information on the ChesapeakeStat decision support tool.

Conference Call Materials:

Participants are requested to review the materials posted on the AgWG webpage for the meeting. Some documents may be posted just prior to the meeting, so please check back.

Agenda Schedule:

The meeting agenda is reflective of known information at the time of publication and may be subject to change due to other circumstances. Additional agenda items may be added if time is available.