

# Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

June 20- June 21, 2018

## AgWG Face-to-Face Meeting Agenda

Farm and Home Center  
Multi-purpose Room  
1383 Arcadia Road  
Lancaster PA, 17601

Conference line: (202) 991-0477 Code: 1781450

Adobe Connect: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/agwg/>

Meeting materials: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/agriculture\\_workgroup](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/agriculture_workgroup)

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**Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM-5:00PM\***

**\*Morning Session before Field Tour will be available by  
conference line\***

- 10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** Workgroup Chairs
- Roll-call of the governance body
  - Roll-call of the meeting participants
  - Approval of meeting minutes from the May Conference Call
- 10:10 **Welcome from Lancaster County** Dennis Stuckey  
Dennis Stuckey, Vice-Chairman, Lancaster County Commissioner's Office, will welcome the Agriculture Workgroup to Lancaster County.
- 10:20 **Technical Service in the Public Sector** Jeff Hill  
Lancaster County Conservation District will speak about technical service for farm operations in Lancaster County and PA as a whole.
- 10:40 **Lancaster Clean Water Partners** Chris Thompson  
Lancaster County faces a perfect storm with respect to water quality challenges. This region constitutes the urban/rural interface of southcentral PA, a highly impacted landscape where historic and intensive agriculture, urban and suburban communities, and a high vulnerability to future development all converge. Consequently the county finds 50% of its local streams impaired and contributes PA's highest nutrient loadings to the Bay. There are many efforts and many partners working on the ground in Lancaster County. The Lancaster Clean Water Partners is a county-wide collaborative to coordinate and enhance those efforts making them more impactful.

11:00 **Pennsylvania's Local Water Quality Stories: Lancaster County** Emily Trentacoste  
Emily Trentacoste, Chesapeake Bay Program, will discuss how to identify opportunities for water quality improvement in Pennsylvania's watersheds using Lancaster County as an example.

11:20 **Riparian Forest Buffer Progress in PA** Teddi Stark  
Teddi Stark, Riparian Forest Buffer Coordinator, PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources, will discuss issues regarding riparian forest buffer implementation across PA, including innovative approaches and lessons learned.

11:30 **WORKING LUNCH**  
Please contact Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) by Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> with your lunch orders or plan to bring your own.

**Prioritization Preparation** Kristen Saacke Blunk  
Kristen Saacke Blunk, Headwaters, LLC, has agreed to function as facilitator of Thursday's Prioritization Workshop, temporarily stepping out of her role as At-Large member. She will discuss logistics for Thursday's workshop with the Workgroup.

12:00 **Field Tour**  
Participants will board charter bus for a field tour of agricultural areas in the Lancaster area with special focus on successes, challenges, and opportunities related to BMP implementation. Invited speakers will be incorporated throughout the morning and afternoon:

- Peter Hughes, Red Barn Consulting: Technical Service in the Private Sector
- Bill Chain, Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Riparian buffer discussion with the CBF  
Keystone 10M Trees Partnership goals and aspirations.
- Jeff Swineheart, Deputy Director of the [Lancaster Farmland Trust](#): Plain Sect adoption of agricultural BMPs at the municipal level.

**Stop 1: [Big Spring Run](#)** (BSR Restoration Site)

Jeff Hartranft, DEP, will lead a tour of farmland that has become part of an ongoing novel, multi-year valley bottom restoration experiment. Under the auspices of researchers at Franklin and Marshall College, [The Water Science Institute](#) (WSI) is engaged in researching the efficacy and efficiency of the BSR design for improving aquatic and riparian habitats, ecosystem services and functions, water quality, nutrient and sediment load reductions, and stormwater retention, among other objectives. WSI was formed in 2016 as an outgrowth of research that began in 2003 by Drs. Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter, Franklin and Marshall College, on the farm of Joseph and Linda Sweeney. A webinar on June 8<sup>th</sup> will discuss much of the background of this project. Contact Allie Wagner, CRC, to receive the link to this webinar.

**Stops 2/3:** Old Order Amish dairy farms in the Strasburg, PA vicinity: one with broad-level BMP implementation; one that is facing barriers to BMP implementation characteristic of agricultural operations in the area. In exchange for welcoming the Workgroup onto their farms, the farm operators request that that identifying information is limited. PLEASE- No photos of the family members. Any photos of the operation may only be used internally, should not include identifying information and should -NOT be published.

**5:00 Arrive at Farm and Home Center**

Those who need to check-in to respective hotels can do so.

**5:30 Happy Hour**

Workgroup participants are invited to participate in a Happy Hour social at Lancaster Brewing Company (302 N Plum St, Lancaster, PA 17602) followed by group dinner at 6:30.

## **Thursday, June 21st 9:00AM-3:00 PM**

**9:00 Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes**

Workgroup Chairs

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants

**9:10 BMP Expert Panel Update**

Expert Panel Chairs

Chairs and/or coordinators of on-going AgWG BMP Expert Panels will provide updates on their work.

**9:25 STAC Workshop Nominations**

Workgroup Chairs

Scott Phillips, USGS, briefly discussed the partnership-approved upcoming Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Workshop: Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings on the May 17th conference call. The workshop is in the preliminary planning stages and will occur between Fall 2018 and early Spring 2019. Representation from the AgWG on the Workshop Steering Committee was requested on the May 17th AgWG Conference Call.

Decision: The AgWG will be asked to approve 2-3 individuals to represent the Agriculture Workgroup on the Steering Committee of the upcoming STAC Workshop: Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings.

9:30-3:00

**Prioritization Workshop**

Workgroup Chairs, Facilitator

In order to foster AgWG productivity over the next two years, the AgWG leadership has requested a review of previous decisions and topics relevant to the Workgroup's [Scope and Purpose](#).

**The outcome of this June meeting will be a list of prioritized projects and topics on which to focus the Workgroups efforts in the near-term (2018-2019) and long-term.**

**9:30 Setting Intentions**

Discussion regarding the mission and goals of the AgWG and how these should guide and influence prioritization decisions.

**10:30 Focus Areas**

The Workgroup will work collaboratively to identify focus areas moving forward from the items indicated on the Prioritization Matrix. Detailed format TBA.

**12:30 LUNCH**

Please contact Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)) by Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> with your lunch orders or plan to bring your own.

**1:15 Reconvene**

Post-lunch, the Workgroup will reconvene to synthesize the morning's activity, with the goal of closing the day's meeting with clear path forward regarding short and long-term work plan goals and a clear action plan moving into upcoming AgWG meetings.

**2:50 Review of Action and Decision Items**

Allie Wagner

Allie will review the action and decision items from the meeting.

**3:00 Adjourn**

**Next meeting: July 19th, 10AM- 1PM Conference Call**

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