Agriculture Workgroup Prioritization Matrix

Workgroup Charge:

Provide expertise and leadership on development and implementation of policies, programs, and research

Reduce pollutant loads delivered from agricultural lands and animal operations to upstream waters and the Chesapeake Bay

Value

Improving water quality across our shared region while maintaining agriculture's viability and sustainability

Goal

Balance Science & Data Collection / Improved & Increased Implementation

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting and Reporting	Ensuring that Best Management Practices are accurately reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program for credit towards water quality goals.
Implementation	Making Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) a reality
Innovation	Staying abreast of and evaluating new/innovative agricultural conservation practices that mitigate nutrient loss
Data & Modeling	Ensuring that the agricultural sector is represented accurately
CBP Assignments	Addressing tasks and projects assigned by the Partnership

Red font indicates recent draft changes OR next steps to be addressed in the immediate future.

Accounting & Reporting	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
NRCS BMP Crosswalks	Full-accounting of BMP implementation across watershed via stream-lined reporting	Mark Dubin, Barry Frantz	Developing update for presentation to the AgWG. Planned for Q1, 2019.
Non-cost shared BMP Identification	Accounting for ag BMPs implemented outside of agency funding channels and reporting structures		
Resource Improvement Checklists	Crediting practices that improve water quality, but do not meet NRCS Standards & Specifications	By jurisdictional request	Identification of additional practices & develop appropriate checklists
USDA Data vs State Data	Gaps / Double counting of practices	Mark Dubin, Barry Frantz	Developing update for presentation to the AgWG. Planned for Q1, 2019.
Accounting for BMPs nearing max credit duration/ end of lifespan	Strategies to manage the verification of BMPs		Presentations by jurisdictions?
Privacy concerns related to BMP reporting	1619 and other data sharing agreements among partners		Presentation from USGS on USDA/USGS data-sharing agreement Feb 2019
Implementation	Rationale	Lead(s)	Next Steps
Barriers	Overcoming roadblocks to implementation needed to improve water quality		Special topic: BMP implementation on leased land in MD (Nov 2018)- seek info on initiatives regarding leased land issues in other bay states
Technical & Financial Resources	Approaches to address financial challenges to BMP implementation		Provide information on current finding sources and innovative programs; CBP EC Directive

			Optimization Tool Presentation from CBPO: Feb 2019
Co-Benefits	Recognition and promotion of co-benefits associated with conservation implementation		Presentations: Soil Health (Nov 2018) Water Re-Use Others?
Communication: Partner Efforts Across Watershed	Utilizing the Bay watershed-wide workgroup membership as a forum for idea exchange and collaboration.		June 2-day Meeting: Engaging Local Stakeholders in VA
Communication: State/District/Private	Using the AgWG as information exchange forum among state, district, and private entities		June 2-day Meeting: Engaging Local Stakeholders in VA
Innovation	**Rationale**	**Lead(s)**	**Next Steps**
Expert Panels	Identifying and quantifying the impact of effective ag BMPs on water quality	Various- in coordination with Loretta Collins & Jeremy Hanson	In-process: - Cropland Irrigation (Partnership Review; public meeting Feb 26) - Ag Ditch Management - Animal Mortality Management Future: - Nursery Capture & Reuse
NRCS Interim Standards	New NRCS practices recently adopted		Invite NRCS to update AgWG
State Practices & Resource Improvements	Provide a forum to identify, discuss and evaluate non-NRCS conservation practices		

Current Research	New practices on the horizon		Presentations from: NRCS Conservation Innovations Grant Program Land Grant Universities
Data & Modeling	**Rationale**	**Lead(s)**	**Next Steps**
Artificial Drainage	Understanding water conveyance and ramification on water quality goals	Clint Gill	• Outreach to Public Drainage Associations • Report back Q-2/3, 2019
Animal Data	Ensuring accurate representation of animal sectors in the watershed model	Mark Dubin Dairy: Jeremy Daubert, Tim Sexton, Frank Schneider, Dave Graybill Poultry: Paul Bredwell Swine: ?	Dairy: • post-meeting brainstorm call with interested members; schedule for winter/spring 2019 Poultry/swine: • Updates from leads, as appropriate.
Fertilizer Data	Improving county-level distribution on fertilizer sales data	Mark Dubin, Tim Sexton, Frank Schneider	Coordinate and plan stakeholder meeting for Q1, 2019
Nutrient Fertility Recommendations	Updating nutrient fertility recommendations based on new science and technology in the agronomic sector	Chris Brosch, Dave Graybill	Communicate with Land Grant Universities to gauge interest, needs, feasibility of updating nutrient recommendations;
CBP Assignments	**Rationale**	**Lead(s)**	**Next Steps**
Soil P Data	Better representation of soil P in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model- per Management Board Sept 21, 2017 recommendations	Frank Coale, Mark Dubin	Periodic reporting back to AgWG from Frank Coale and Mark Dubin regarding feedback from regional soil labs and associated agricultural partners.
Climate Change / BMP Resiliency	Ensuring that BMP effectiveness values are in sync with changing climate conditions	Chris Brosch	Collaborate with CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup AgWG re-visit topic in Spring/Summer 2019;

			Possible presentation from NRCS; June 2019 CBP modeling group presentation
Emerging Contaminants		Chris Brosch w/ John Cargill	Update from Scott Phillips on development of STAC Workshop: *Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings.* STAC Workshop scheduled for May 22-23, 2019.
Agricultural Technical Assistance Directive			Continued discussion early 2019; Report back to CBP Executive Council Annual Meeting late summer 2019