

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)
Meeting Agenda
July 20, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
[Meeting Materials](#)

Conference Call Information*

Zoom Link: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/86998611539>

Meeting ID: 869 9861 1539

Passcode: 9780

Phone: +1 305 224 1968 US

Calendar Page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-july-2023>

*To enter the webinar, please open the webinar link first. After opening the webinar, either elect to join via computer audio or via phone call. If you select phone, **please ensure you enter the participant ID.**

**Common Acronyms can be found at the end of this agenda.

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation
Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** – Jeremy Daubert, AgWG Chair.

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the June AgWG call
- **Decision requested:** Consensus decision for RI credit duration.
- **Decision requested:** Consensus decision for Fertilizer recommendations.

Accounting & Reporting

10:05 **Forestry Resource Improvement Practices: Extension of Select Credit Durations (20 min)** – Vanessa Van Note, EPA.

Members will discuss concerns over extending the [credit duration](#) on Resource Improvement Practices 9: Forest Nutrient Exclusion Area on Watercourse and 10: Forest Buffer on Watercourse. For additional background see below:

The EPA has requested that *the forestry workgroup, provide empirical data which compares the survivability of forest buffers privately implemented as Resource Improvement (RI) BMPs 9 or 10, to forest buffer BMPs implemented under public agency*

standards with financial and/or technical assistance. We will examine the data provided and discuss the results before trying to make a group decision.

10:25 Pennsylvania Verification Pilot Project (30 min) - Scott Heidel, PA DEP, and Joshua Glace, Larson Design Group (LDG)

The Non-Intrusive BMP Verification methodology and associated SOP will be presented to start the clock for a vote for approval. The AgWG will be asked to approve the methodology at the August meeting so that BMPs verified using this method can be applied to 2023 Progress.

10:55 Virginia Tillage Survey Verification (30 min) – Stuart Blankenship, and James Martin, VA DCR

Virginia completed a tillage survey of the cropland in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed during the Spring of 2022. Mobile data collection technology was used to collect the data which resulted in 13,600 point locations of observations along with approximately 3,000 photos of the residue on the fields. A random sample of the photos was then used to complete the required 10% verification of the residue observations. This presentation will describe the collection and verification methodology for the survey in more detail with the goal of obtaining a decision from the Workgroup that will allow Virginia to submit the results of this survey for use in the Chesapeake Bay Model.

Data & Modeling

11:25 Agricultural Data Inputs (20 min) - Tom Butler, EPA.

Tom will provide an update on the Phase 7 Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) and their [July](#) meeting. He will also discuss the progress of recommendations which has been made in dealing with agricultural fertilizer in CAST Phase 6. The group will be asked to make a decision on accepting the recommendations.

AgWG Voting Item:

The group will be asked to approve the recommendations made in response to the PSC Decision 2. This was to convene a committee to develop short-term, interim resolutions to fertilizer data concerns before moving forward with CAST 2021/23 as well as long-term resolutions for Phase 7 model.

Wrap up

11:45 New Business & Announcements (5 min)

- **Cover crop BMP verification hybrid method**
 - Present AgWG approved [cover crop survey hybrid method](#) to WQGIT for update to verification protocols (August).
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

11:50 Review of Action and Decision Items (10 min)

- **Action:**

- Discuss partnership feedback on the extension of credit durations of RI-9 and RI-10 Forestry Practices to 15 years, as recommended by the Forestry Workgroup.
- Discuss PA verification pilot project
- Discuss VA tillage survey project

12:00 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 17th: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom

****Common Acronyms**

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)

BMP- Best Management Practice

BMPVAHAT- [BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team](#)

CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)

CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office (houses EPA, federal partners, and various contractors and grantees working towards CBP goals)

CBW-Chesapeake Bay Watershed

CRC- [Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

DPF – Dairy Precision Feeding

EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency

EPEG – Expert Panel Exploratory Group

FWS – [United States] Fish and Wildlife Service

MUN – Milk Urea Nitrogen

NEIEN- National Environmental Information Exchange Network

NFWF- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)

PA DEP- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)

PSU- Penn State University

STAC- [Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee](#)

SWG – Small Watershed Grants Program

TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load

WILD - Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Grants Program

WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)

WTWG- [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)

UMD- University of Maryland

USDA-ARS- United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service

USDA-NASS- United States Department of Agriculture-National Agricultural Statistics Service USDA-NRCS- United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service