

Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

February 15th, 2018

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Face-to-Face Meeting

**Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)
U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21403**

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

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

Meeting materials: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/agriculture_workgroup

- 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 January 18th, 2018 AgWG Conference Call
- 10:10 **BMP Expert Panel Update** T. Sexton, R. Bryant
Chairs and coordinators of on-going AgWG BMP Expert Panels will provide updates on their work: Tim Sexton, VA DCR, will provide an update on the Cropland Irrigation Panel and Ray Bryant, ARS, will provide an update on the Agricultural Ditch Management Panel.
- 10:20 **Finalization of AgWG Governance Protocol** Workgroup Chairs
The Workgroup Chairs will brief the Workgroup on the revised version of the AgWG governance protocol based on comments received during the January 18th Conference Call.
- Decision: The AgWG will be asked to approve the revised AgWG Governance Protocol document.
- 10:30 **BMP Verification Standards** M. Dubin, J. Harcum
In response to CBP Partnership's interest in developing and implementing alternative approaches for the verification of agricultural BMPs, Mark Dubin, UMD, and Jon Harcum, Tetra Tech, will present the full draft recommendation report regarding the development of an alternate BMP verification evaluation standard for producer surveys, as part of the effort in seeking CBP partnership approval of alternative verification methods for use in the CBP Phase 6 modeling tools. The AgWG will have the coming month to review the draft document and submit comments and questions in preparation for a final report being presented for approval during the March 15th AgWG Conference Call.
- 10:50 **Agricultural Stormwater EPEG Recommendations** Loretta Collins
Following a month-long AgWG review period, Loretta Collins, UMD, will present the final recommendations developed by the Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) regarding agricultural stormwater management practices. Should the recommendation report be approved by the Workgroup in its current form, it will be presented to the Watershed Technical Workgroup for review at their March 1st meeting.

Decision: The AgWG will be asked to approve the recommendation report of the Agricultural Stormwater Expert Panel Establishment Group regarding agricultural stormwater management practices.

- 11:00 **Livestock and Poultry Mortality Management EPEG** Frank Schneider
Frank Schneider, PA State Conservation Commission, will present and discuss the draft recommendation report developed by the Livestock and Poultry Mortality Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) regarding livestock and poultry mortality management practices. The AgWG will have the coming month to review the document and submit comments and questions. The final report will be presented for approval during the March 15th AgWG Conference Call. Should the charge document be approved by the Workgroup, a call will be put forth for nominations to the Expert Panel regarding livestock and poultry mortality management practices.
- 11:20 **From the Field: Mercer Vu Farms** Rick Hissong
Rick Hissong, co-owner Mercer Vu Farms Inc., will discuss his experiences with BMP implementation and verification on dairy farms in both Franklin County, PA and Clarke County, VA. Mercer Vu was named Franklin County Area Development Corporation 2016 “Small Business of the Year” and received an honorable mention for Outstanding Achievement in Resource Stewardship from the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy in 2017.
- 12:15 **LUNCH**
- 1:00 **Boots on the Ground** Chesapeake Bay Commission
Marel King and Ann Swanson, Chesapeake Bay Commission, will introduce and expand on the topic of technical assistance available to farmers in the watershed to help reduce and manage agricultural pollution, based on the framework proved in the Commission’s recently released publication, [Boots on the Ground: Improving Technical Assistance for Farmers](#).
- 1:45 **Agricultural Research Project Proposals** Mark Dubin
Mark Dubin, UMD, will provide an overview of the development of proposed future CBP agricultural research projects to prepare for the next Phase 6 model updates in 2019, and to identify new opportunities to support Phase III WIP agricultural BMP implementation tracking, verification, and reporting. Partnership comments, suggestions, and support for the potential research projects are being requested for the draft proposals.
- 2:25 **At-large Election Results and Election of New Chairs** Workgroup Chairs
Nominations to serve 2-year terms as an At-Large member on the AgWG were due to Lindsey Gordon and Loretta Collins by January 19th, 2018. Results of the selection process will be announced, and the new At-Large members will be confirmed. The AgWG will also be asked to select and approve a new Workgroup Chair and Vice-Chair based on nominated candidates. The recommendations of the Workgroup will be submitted to the WQGIT for final partnership approval per the governance protocols.

Decision: The AgWG will be asked to approve the recommendation of a new Workgroup Chair and Vice-Chair and endorse the selected At-Large Governance Membership.

2:55 **Review of Action and Decision Items**

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

Lindsey Gordon

3:00 **Adjourn**

Next meeting: Thursday, March 15th, 2018: Conference Call

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