

# Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

February 21, 2019  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Conference Call  
[Meeting Materials](#)

## **Conference Call Information:**

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/357351064>

Phone Number: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 357-351-064

Participant ID\*: Unique code available through Zoom link

**\*If possible, please open the webinar link first before dialing in.** After opening the webinar, join audio via telephone. You will be prompted to dial the phone number, meeting ID and participant ID. *Please ensure you enter the participant ID (as an optional step if you have access to your computer) to better connect participants to the webinar system.*

### 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 Jan 17th Conference Call

## **Workgroup Areas of Focus**

Accounting & Reporting

Implementation

Innovation

Data & Modeling

CBP Assignments

### 10:05 **A Cooperative Partnership: USDA & USGS (35 min)**

Dean Hively

Dean Hively, USGS, will give a presentation on the USGS's collaboration with the USDA to aggregate privacy-protected agricultural conservation practice to reportable scales for use by Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions in their annual BMP implementation tracking. In 2010, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and USDA formed a cooperative partnership to analyze the effects of agricultural conservation on sediment, nutrient, and pesticide transport to the Chesapeake Bay. The USDA provides conservation implementation records for Chesapeake Bay farms to the USGS, with strict limitations on the use of the data to maintain confidentiality of site-specific farm data. The USGS aggregates the data to maintain farmer privacy, and subsequently provides the aggregated datasets to the public to inform conservation decision making processes. As part of that process, the USGS collaborates with the USDA to increase the understanding and quality of the USDA datasets and informs the interpretation of data records

by Chesapeake Bay Program partners. The USGS and USDA-NRCS will be renewing the agreement in 2020 and want input from the AgWG on types of future analyses.

#### Accounting & Reporting

#### 10:40 Request for participation: STAC Workshop Update (15 min)

Scott Phillips

Scott Phillips, USGS, will provide an update on the development of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) workshop: *Integrating Science and Developing Approaches to Inform Management for Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural and Urban Settings*. The workshop steering committee is requesting that an agricultural representative from each of the jurisdictions attend the workshop, which will be held May 22-23.

#### CBP Assignments

#### 10:55 Request for Feedback: Data Dashboard (25 min)

Emily Trentacoste

Emily Trentacoste, EPA CBPO, will facilitate AgWG discussion and feedback on the beta version of the Watershed Implementation Plan Data Dashboard content and features for refinement and further development: what works, what doesn't, and what could be improved. The Data Dashboard (<http://gis.chesapeakebay.net/wip/dashboard/>) provides visualized data synthesis and analysis to support Bay partners (local planners, state agencies, watershed groups, etc.) in reaching implementation goals.

#### Implementation

#### 11:20 Updates on CAST Optimization Tool (25 min)

Daniel Kaufman

Daniel Kaufman, CRC, will provide an overview of the ongoing development of an optimization tool for scenarios run in the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST). The optimization tool will facilitate identification of more cost-effective approaches reaching nutrient and sediment load reduction goals for CBP partners at state and local levels. The major developmental steps anticipated for finalizing the tool will be discussed, including its first beta release in early 2019.

#### Implementation

#### 11:45 New Business & Announcements

- At-large nominations due Feb 22 (tomorrow); send nominations to Loretta Collins ([lcollins@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:lcollins@chesapeakebay.net)) cc: Allie Wagner ([wagner.alexandra@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.alexandra@epa.gov)).
- Register for the Cropland Irrigation meeting/webinar in Delaware on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Details and registration link can be found on the [CBP calendar](#), along with the full report.
- All feedback on the Cropland Irrigation BMP Expert Panel Report is requested by **COB March 12** to Jeremy Hanson ([jchanson@vt.edu](mailto:jchanson@vt.edu)).

#### 11:55 Review of Action and Decision Items

Allie Wagner

Allie will review action and decision items from the meeting.

#### 12:00 Adjourn Meeting

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 AM- 3PM, U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack), 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.**