

AGENDA
 August 18, 2022
 10:00 AM-11:00 PM
 Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call

Conference Call Information

Zoom Link: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/94729390103>

Meeting ID: 947 2939 0103

Passcode: 338673

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Calendar Page:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture_workgroup_conference_call_august_2022

*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.**

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

- 10:00 **Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes** Workgroup Chair
- Roll-call of the governance body
 - Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box*
 - Approval of [minutes](#) from the July AgWG call

CBP Assignments/Data & Modeling

- 10:05 **Moving Forward: Addressing Ag Inputs in Phase 7 (25 min)** Tom Butler
 Tom Butler, EPA, will review the approved charge for the Agricultural Modeling Team that will address agricultural inputs needs for Phase 7 Watershed Model development and what comes next as far as determining membership and timelines into the future.
- 10:30 **New Business & Announcements (15 min)**
- **Fertilizer Data Concerns**
 - Update on progress on fertilizer data sourcing
 - **PA Cover Crop Pilot Study**
 - Update on Cover Crop Enhancement Project described by Penn State for July AgWG call
 - **Accounting for Forage Acres**
 - Update on progress on July questions regarding representation of forage acres in CAST land uses
 - **State Ag Leadership Letter to EPA**

- Leaders DE, MD, PA, VA, WVA submitted a letter to EPA Region III describing concerns stemming from review of CAST-21. Letter posted [here](#).
- **Crediting NRCS Practices**
 - The WTWG requested more guidance on crediting certain NRCS practices the AgWG preciously endorsed for inclusion in the Phase 6 NEIEN appendix (see [Aug WTWG calendar page](#)). Discussion tentatively scheduled for September 15 AgWG meeting.
- **August 25, 2022, 3:00p ET – Impact of Cover Crops on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Dynamics Webinar**
 - Cover crops and reduced tillage practices affect nutrient and sediment losses from croplands and, as a result, impact water quality. NRCS and the University of Maryland’s Wye Research and Education Center (WyeREC) have partnered to improve accuracy in measuring these conservation outcomes through USDA’s Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). In this Conservation Outcomes webinar, Dr. Staver will discuss key findings from his research on cover crop systems that achieve multiple objectives, including reducing nutrient losses from croplands.
 - *Presenter:* Dr. Kenneth Staver, UMD
 - No registration required. Access webinar [here](#).
- **Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) Meeting to Discuss CAST-2021 – Monday, Aug 29th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM**
 - Agenda forthcoming.
- **[New study shows importance of streambank erosion and floodplain deposition on sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen sources and transport in the Chesapeake watershed | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#)**
 - The USGS just released an article on the amount of sediment and attached nutrients being trapped through floodplain accretion and lost through erosion of streambanks. Statistical models were developed to extrapolate these rates to all nontidal streams to better understand the importance of stream geomorphic change to sediment and nutrient transport through the watershed to the Bay.
 - Contact: Greg Noe (gnoe@usgs.gov)
- **Animal Mortality Expert Panel Technical Appendix**
 - Most recent draft technical appendix available [here](#)- CBPO working through revisions based on feedback. Date for next WTWG discussion TBD.
 - Contact Jeremy Hanson (hansonj@chesapeake.org) with questions/comments.
- **ASA, CSSA & SSSA International Annual Meeting: Nov 6-9**
 - Baltimore, Maryland
 - More information here: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>
 - July 12 – Abstract submission deadline
 - Oct 3 - Early registration deadline
 - October 14 – Standard registration deadline
- **Pre-proposals due for Achieving Conservation Through Technology, Information, Outreach, and Networking (ACTION) – August 31, 2022**
 - The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research and the Walton Family Foundation have an open call for pre-proposals for their program, Achieving Conservation Through Technology, Information, Outreach, and Networking (ACTION). They seek to fund projects that will compare strategies for building landowner willingness to adopt in-field, edge-of-field, and edge-of-stream conservation practices with follow-up implementation plans. The call closes on August 31st. Information can be found on their [website](#).

- The Conservation Drainage Network will hold its April 2023 national meeting on MD's Eastern Shore, likely in Easton. Look for more details to follow soon. Additional information about the organization's mission and objectives can be found on their [website](#).
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford (Pickford.Jacqueline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email

10:45 **Ag-Related Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Funding Project Idea (10 min)** Peter Claggett
Peter Claggett, USGS, will review a potential GIT funding project that the CBP's [Land Use Workgroup](#) that relates to improvements in mapping agricultural lands in the high-resolution land use/land cover dataset. He will give a brief overview of the project and ask the AgWG for feedback.

***Project Description:** Develop methods to improve the mapping of agricultural field boundaries and to differentiate pasture from hay based on spectral and other remotely sensed properties. Field boundaries are difficult to discern, particularly in the western portion of the watershed where fields and fallow land are adjacent and intertwined. This project would help improve the accuracy of the agricultural data informing the Bay TMDL and related partnership efforts to reduce nutrient pollution.*

10:55 **Review of Action and Decision Items (5 min)**

11:00 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 15: 10AM-12PM, Call-in Zoom

*Common Abbreviations

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)

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 and myriad contractors and grantees working towards CBP goals)

CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed

CRC- [Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

EPA- [United States] Environmental Protection Agency

NEIEN- National Environmental Information Exchange Network

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

PA DEP- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

STAC- Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee

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

WTWG- [Watershed Technical Workgroup](#)

UMCES- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

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*