Maryland
Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Maryland Agricultural Commission

Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*
mda.maryland.gov

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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Committee on Watershed Strategies (CoWS) Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2026 - 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: Join Google Meet Video Call
Or dial: (US) +1 352-474-2516 PIN: 788 362 972#
View all dial-in numbers: Google Meet International Phone Numbers

Committee on Watershed Strategies (COWS)
Focused on environmental, natural resource, and conservation initiatives throughout the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay, navigating pathways to promote conservation and hold organizations/processes accountable when they fall short. Works closely with the department's Resource Conservation team.

Commodity	Representative	Committee
Ag. Education	Dr. Missi Welsh	CALE
Agribusiness		
Aquaculture	Johnny Shockley	VAA
Biofuels	Raj Kathuria	VAA, CoWS
Committee on Young Farmers Consumer	Jenell Eck McHenry Kellie Hinkle	CYF VAA
Controlled Environmental Agriculture		
Dairy	Jenni Mallott	
Direct Farm Market	Amy Crone	Profitability, VAA*
Equine	Ann Merryman	Profitability, Leg. Affairs
Farm Bureau	Paula Linthicum	Leg. Affairs*
Field Crops	Chris Rhodes	Profitability, Leg. Affairs

Commodity	Representative	Committee
Food Processing Forestry Fruit Hemp Livestock New and Beginning Farmers Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Organic Farming	Nikita Bocharov Hunter Pusey Stefanie Reiser Eleanor Leak Kelly Lewis Emma Jagoz	CoWS, CALE Profitability, VAA CALE Profitability Profitability*, Leg., VAA
Poultry Related Services	Zach Evans Keith Parker	Leg. Affairs, CoWS Profitability
Socially Disadvantaged Farmers		

State Grange Richard Stonebraker CALE*

Commodity	Representative	Committee
Turf	Gordon Kretser	Profitability, CoWS*
University of Maryland – AGNR	Dr. Darren Jarboe	CALE
Urban and Small Farmers		
VAA/Agritourism	Janna Howley	VAA
Vegetable	Russell Shlagel	Profitability
Veteran Farmers	Peter Scott	
Veterinary	Dr. Marianne Bailey	Leg. Affairs
Viticulture	Rachel Lipman	VAA

Committee Members Present

Gordon Kretser Raj Kathuria

MDA Staff Present

Susan Kivioja

Due to lack of quorum (only two attendees) the meeting was not called to order. No business was conducted, minutes for November 2025 and February 2026 were not approved.